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MONDAY, JULY 31, 2023

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Zanesville turns 175

The community of Zanesville celebrated the 175th anniversary of its founding Saturday with a full day of activities. Above, Dennis Wiegmann of the Black Flags Base Ball Club of Drover Town, a team that plays by old-fashioned rules, takes a swing during a game at the town's ballfield. Above right, Robert Ferrick cooks brats at the food concession run by the Zanesville Community Church of God at the ballfield; proceeds went to Destiny Rescue, an organization that supports victims of sex trafficking. Below right, engines were on display during the car show at the Tower Life Church. (Photos by Dave Schultz)



City will discuss demo of building marred by fire

By DAVE SCHULTZ

The building at 123 S. Marion St., all but destroyed in a fire on July 6, will be the subject of a hearing during Tuesday's meeting of the Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety.

Mayor John Whicker said Sunday that the owner of the building, James Thompson, has been asked to present Tuesday as the Board of Works discusses the plans for the structure going forward.

Bluffton Building Commissioner Richard Triplett and Fire Chief Don Craig condemned the building shortly after the fire. The order gave Thompson 60 days to take the building down.

The problem is that Thompson did not have insurance on the structure, which could put the burden of demolishing it on the city — something the city wants to avoid if possible.

The typical procedure after a demolition order has been issued is to require the owner to tear it down. If that does not happen, the city handles the demolition and adds the costs to the property taxes as a lien.

The size of the structure, its close proximity to the Wells Carnegie Government Annex (the for-

(Continued on Page 2)

California wildfires spread, Phoenix heat wave blazes

By WALTER BERRY
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Phoenix sizzled through its 31st consecutive day of at least 110 degrees Fahrenheit and other parts of the country grappled Sunday with record temperatures after a week that saw significant portions of the U.S. population subject to extreme heat.

The National Weather Service said Phoenix was expected to climb to 112 F before the day was through.

July has been so steamy thus far that scientists calculate it will be the hottest month ever recorded and likely the warmest human civilization has seen. The World Meteorological Organization and the European Union's Coperni-

cus Climate Change Service on Thursday proclaimed July beyond record-smashing.

The historic heat began blasting the lower Southwest U.S. in late June, stretching from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona and into California's desert.

On Sunday, a massive wildfire burning out of control in California's Mojave National Preserve spread rapidly amid erratic winds, while firefighters reported progress against another major blaze to the south that prompted evacuations.

The York Fire that erupted Friday near the remote Caruthers Canyon area of the preserve sent up a huge plume of smoke visible nearly 100 miles away across the state line in Nevada.

Flames 20 feet high in some spots have charred more than 110 square miles of desert scrub, juniper and Joshua tree woodland, according to a Sunday update.

"The dry fuel acts as a ready ignition source, and when paired with those weather conditions it resulted in long-distance fire run and high flames, leading to extreme fire behavior," authorities said. No structures were threatened, but there was also no containment.

To the southwest, the Bonny Fire was holding steady at about 3.4 square miles in rugged hills of Riverside County. More than 1,300 people were ordered to evacuate their homes Saturday near the remote community of Aguanga, California.

Triple-digit heat was expected in parts of the central San Joaquin Valley through Monday, according to the National Weather Service.

And in Burbank, California, about 10 miles north of Los Angeles, the summer heat may have been responsible for some unusual behavior in the animal kingdom: Police in the city responded to a report of a bear sighting in a residential neighborhood and found the animal sitting in a Jacuzzi behind one of the homes.

As climate change brings hotter and longer heat waves, record temperatures across the U.S. have killed dozens of people, and the poorest Americans suffer the most. Air conditioning, once a luxury, is now a matter of survival.

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Muncie shooting leaves one dead, several injured

MUNCIE, Ind. (AP) — A "mass shooting" at a large party in Indiana early Sunday morning left one person dead, police said. A hospital said 19 people were being treated for injuries at its facility.

Muncie police responded to multiple reports of gunfire on the city's east side just after 1 a.m., The Star Press reported. Police said in a news release that there was no active threat to the community and that "multiple" victims were injured, including some critically.

"Due to the number of victims and nature of the incident, multiple agencies were contacted to assist," Muncie Deputy Police Chief

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Pakistan suicide bombing kills 44, wounds 200

By ANWARULLAH KHAN
and RIAZ KHAN
Associated Press

KHAR, Pakistan (AP) — A suicide bomber blew himself up at a political rally in a former stronghold of militants in northwest Pakistan bordering Afghanistan on Sunday, killing at least 44 people and wounding nearly 200 in an attack that a senior leader said was meant to weaken Pakistani Islamists.

The Bajur district near the Afghan border was a stronghold of the Pakistani Taliban — a close

ally of Afghanistan's Taliban government — before the Pakistani army drove the militants out of the area. Supporters of hardline Pakistani cleric and political party leader Maulana Fazlur Rehman, whose Jamiat Ulema Islam generally supports regional Islamists, were meeting in Bajur in a hall close to a market outside the district capital. Party officials said Rehman was not at the rally but organizers added tents because so many supporters showed up, and party volunteers with batons were helping control the crowd.

Officials were announcing the arrival of Abdul Rasheed, a leader of the Jamiat Ulema Islam party, when the bomb went off in one of Pakistan's bloodiest attacks in recent years.

Provincial police said in a statement that the attack was carried out by a suicide bomber who detonated his explosives vest close to the stage where several senior leaders of the party were sitting. It said initial investigations suggested the Islamic State group — which operates in Afghanistan and is an enemy of the Afghan Taliban

— could be behind the attack, and officers were still investigating.

"There was dust and smoke around, and I was under some injured people from where I could hardly stand up, only to see chaos and some scattered limbs," said Adam Khan, 45, who was knocked to the ground by the blast around 4 p.m. and hit by splinters in his leg and both hands.

The Pakistan Taliban, or TTP, said in a statement sent to The Associated Press that the bombing was aimed at setting Islamists

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Outside

Another hot sunny day,
cool and clear tonight

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 80	High 81	High 83
Low 56	Low 59	Low 63

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Wildfires and heat wave

(Continued from Page 1)

Last year, all 86 heat-related deaths indoors were in uncooled environments.

“To explain it fairly simply: Heat kills,” said Kristie Ebi, a University of Washington professor who researches heat and health. “Once the heat wave starts, mortality starts in about 24 hours.”

It’s the poorest and people of color, from Kansas City to Detroit to New York City and beyond, who are far more likely to face grueling heat without air conditioning, according to a Boston University analysis of 115 U.S.

metro areas.

Back in Phoenix, slight relief may be on the way as expected seasonal thunderstorms could drop temperatures Monday and Tuesday.

“It should be around 108 degrees, so we break that 110 streak,” meteorologist Tom Frieders said. “Increasing cloud cover will put temperatures in a downward trend.”

The relief could be short-lived, however. Highs are expected to creep back to 110 F Wednesday with temperatures reaching 115 F by the end of the week.

Phoenix has also sweated through a

record 16 consecutive nights when the lows temperature didn’t dip below 90 F, making it hard for people to cool off after sunset.

Meanwhile, Las Vegas continues to flirt with its hottest July ever. The city is closing in on its 2010 record for the average of the high and low each day for July, which stands at 96.2 F.

The extreme heat is also hitting the eastern U.S., as soaring temperatures moved from the Midwest into the Northeast and Mid-Atlantic, where some places recorded their warmest days so far this year.

Suicide bombing

(Continued from Page 1)

against each other. Zabiullah Mujahid, a spokesman for the Afghan Taliban, said on the social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, that “such crimes cannot be justified in any way.”

The Afghan Taliban’s seizure of power in Afghanistan in mid-August 2021 emboldened the TTP. They unilaterally ended a cease-fire agreement with the Pakistani government in November, and have stepped up attacks across the country.

The bombing came hours before the arrival of Chinese Vice Premier He Lifeng in Islamabad, where he was to participate in an event to mark a decade of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor, or CPEC, a sprawling package under which Beijing has invested billions of dollars in Pakistan.

In recent months, China has helped Pakistan avoid a default on sovereign payments. However, some Chinese nationals have also been targeted by militants in northwestern Pakistan and elsewhere.

Feroz Jamal, the provincial information minister, told The Associated Press that so far 44 people had been “martyred” and nearly 200 wounded in the bombing.

The bombing was one of the four

worst attacks in the northwest since 2014, when 147 people, mostly schoolchildren, were killed in a Taliban attack on an army-run school in Peshawar. In January, 74 people were killed in a bombing at a mosque in Peshawar. In February, more than 100 people, mostly policemen, died in a bombing at a mosque inside a high-security compound housing Peshawar police headquarters.

Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif and President Arif Alvi condemned the attack and asked officials to provide all possible assistance to the wounded and the bereaved families. Sharif later, in a phone call to Rehman, the head of the JUI, conveyed his condolences to him and assured him that those who orchestrated the attack would be punished.

The U.S. Embassy in Islamabad also condemned the attack. In a post on social media platform X, formerly known as Twitter, it expressed its condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims killed in the attack.

Maulana Ziaullah, the local chief of Rehman’s party, was among the dead. JUI leaders Rasheed and former lawmaker Maulana Jamaluddin were also on the stage but escaped unhurt.

Rasheed, the regional chief of the party, said the attack was an attempt to

remove JUI from the field before parliamentary elections in November, but he said such tactics would not work. The bombing drew nationwide condemnation, with the ruling and opposition parties extending condolences to the families of those who died in the attack.

Rehman is considered to be a pro-Taliban cleric and his political party is part of the coalition government in Islamabad. Meetings are being organized across the country to mobilize supporters for the upcoming elections.

“Many of our fellows lost their lives and many more wounded in this incident. I will ask the federal and provincial administrations to fully investigate this incident and provide due compensation and medical facilities to the affected ones,” Rasheed said.

Mohammad Wali, another attendant at the rally, said he was listening to a speaker address the crowd when the huge explosion temporarily deafened him.

“I was near the water dispenser to fetch a glass of water when the bomb exploded, throwing me to the ground,” he said. “We came to the meeting with enthusiasm but ended up at the hospital seeing crying, wounded people and sobbing relatives taking the bodies of their loved ones.”

Trump calls on GOP to rally around him

By JILL COLVIN
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — At a moment of growing legal peril, Donald Trump ramped up his calls for his GOP rivals to drop out of the 2024 presidential race as he threatened to go after Republican members of Congress who fail to focus on investigating Democratic President Joe Biden.

Trump also urged a halt to Ukrainian military aid until the White House cooperates with congressional investigations into Biden and his family.

“Every dollar spent attacking me by Republicans is a dollar given straight to the Biden campaign,” Trump said at a rally in Erie, Pennsylvania, on Saturday night.

The former president and GOP front-runner said it was time for Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis and others he dismissed as “clowns” to clear the field, accusing them of “wasting hundreds of millions of dollars that Republicans should be using to build a massive vote-gathering operation” to take on Biden in November.

The comments came two days after federal prosecutors unveiled new criminal charges against Trump as part of the case that accuses him of illegally hoarding classified documents at his Mar-a-Lago club and refusing to turn

them over to investigators. The superseding indictment unsealed Thursday alleges that Trump and two staffers sought to delete surveillance at the club in an effort to obstruct the Justice Department’s investigation.

The case is just one of Trump’s mounting legal challenges. His team is currently bracing for additional possible indictments, which could happen as soon as this coming week, related to his efforts to overturn the results of the 2020 election brought by prosecutors in both Washington and Georgia. Trump already faces criminal charges in New York over hush money payments made to women who accused him of sexual encounters during his 2016 presidential campaign.

Nevertheless, Trump remains the dominant early figure for the Republican nomination and has only seen his lead grow as the charges have mounted and as his rivals have struggled to respond. Their challenge was on display at a GOP gathering in Iowa Friday night, where they largely declined to go after Trump directly. The only one who did — accusing Trump of “running to stay out of prison” — was booted as he left the stage.

In the meantime, Trump has embraced his legal woes, turning them into the core message of his bid to

return to the White House as he accuses Biden of using the Justice Department to maim his chief political rival. The White House has said repeatedly that the president has had no involvement in the cases.

At rallies, Trump has tried to frame the charges, which come with serious threats of jail time, as an attack not just on him, but those who support him.

“They’re not indicting me, they’re indicting you. I just happen to be standing in the way,” he said in Erie, adding, “Every time the radical left Democrats, Marxists, communists and fascists indict me, I consider it actually a great badge of honor.... Because I’m being indicted for you.”

But the investigations are also sucking up enormous resources that are being diverted from the nuts and bolts of the campaign. The Washington Post first reported Saturday that Trump’s political action committee, Save America, will report Monday that it spent more than \$40 million on legal fees during the first half of 2023 defending Trump and all of the current and former aides whose lawyers it is paying. The total is more than the campaign raised during the second quarter of the year.

“In order to combat these heinous actions by Joe

Biden’s cronies and to protect these innocent people from financial ruin and prevent their lives from being completely destroyed, the leadership PAC contributed to their legal fees to ensure they have representation against unlawful harassment,” said Trump’s spokesman Steven Cheung.

At the rally, in a former Democratic stronghold that Trump flipped in 2016, but Biden won narrowly in 2020, Trump also threatened Republicans in Congress who refuse to go along with efforts to impeach Biden. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., said this past week that Republican lawmakers may consider an impeachment inquiry into the president over unproven claims of financial misconduct.

Trump, who was impeached twice in office, said Saturday that, “The biggest complaint that I get is that the Republicans find out this information and then they do nothing about it.”

“Any Republican that doesn’t act on Democrat fraud should be immediately primaries and get out — out!” he told the crowd to loud applause. “They have to play tough and ... if they’re not willing to do it, we got a lot of good, tough Republicans around ... and they’re going to get my endorsement every single time.”

‘Barbie’ bonanza continues at box office

NEW YORK (AP) — A week later, “Barbenheimer” boom has not abated.

Seven days after Greta Gerwig’s “Barbie” and Christopher Nolan’s “Oppenheimer” conspired to set box office records, the two films held unusually strongly in theaters. “Barbie” took in a massive \$93 million in its second weekend, according to studio estimates Sunday. “Oppenheimer” stayed in second with a robust \$46.2 million. Sales for the two movies dipped 43 percent and 44 percent, respectively — well shy of the usual week-two drops.

“Barbenheimer” has proven to be not a one-weekend phenomenon but an ongoing box-office bonanza. The two movies combined have already surpassed \$1 billion in worldwide ticket sales. Paul Dergarabedian, senior media analyst for data firm Comscore, call it “a touchstone moment for movies, moviegoers and

movie theaters.”

“Having two movies from rival studios linked in this way and both boosting each other’s fortunes — both box-office wise and in terms of their profile — I don’t know if there’s a comp for this in the annals of box-office history,” said Dergarabedian. “There’s really no comparison for this.”

Following its year-best \$162 million opening, the pink-infused pop sensation of “Barbie” saw remarkably sustained business through the week and into the weekend. The film outpaced Nolan’s “The Dark Knight” to have the best first 11 days in theaters of any Warner Bros. release ever.

“Barbie” has rapidly accumulated \$351.4 million in U.S. and Canadian theaters, a rate that will soon make it the biggest box-office hit of the summer. Every day it’s played, “Barbie” has made at least \$20 million.

And the “Barbie” effect

isn’t just in North America. The film made \$122.2 million internationally over the weekend. Its global tally has reached \$775 million. It’s the kind of business that astounds even veteran studio executives.

“That’s a crazy number,” said Jeff Goldstein, distribution chief for Warner Bros. “There’s just a built-in audience that wants to be part of the zeitgeist of the moment. Wherever you go, people are wearing pink. Pink is taking over the world.”

Amid the frenzy, “Barbie” is already attracting a lot of repeat moviegoers. Goldstein estimates that 12 percent of sales are people going back with friends or family to see it again.

For a movie industry that has been trying to regain its pre-pandemic footing — and that now finds itself largely shuttered due to actors and screenwriters strikes — the sensations of “Barbie” and “Oppen-

heimer” have showed what’s possible when everything lines up just right.

“Post-pandemic, there’s no ceiling and there’s no floor,” Goldstein said. “The movies that miss really miss big time, and the movies that work really work big time.”

Universal Pictures’ “Oppenheimer,” meanwhile, is performing more like a superhero movie than a three-hour film about scientists talking.

Nolan’s drama starring Cillian Murphy as atomic bomb physicist J. Robert Oppenheimer has accrued \$174.1 million domestically thus far. With an additional \$72.4 million in international cinemas, “Oppenheimer” has already surpassed \$400 million globally.

Showings in IMAX have typically been sold out. “Oppenheimer” has made \$80 million worldwide on IMAX. The large-format exhibitor said Sunday that it will extend the film’s run .

Weather

Monday, July 31, 2023

(24-hour observations at 10:16 p.m. Sunday)

High: 80; Low: 60; Precipitation: None

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

Wells County forecast

Today: Sunny, with a high near 80. North wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 56. North wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 81. Calm wind becoming north around 5 mph in the morning.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 59. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

Wednesday Night: A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 63.

Thursday: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 85. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

Thursday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Chance of precipitation is 20 percent.

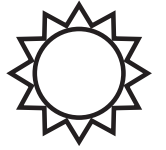
Friday: Partly sunny, with a high near 85.

Friday Night: Mostly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Saturday: Partly sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Sunday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.



Building demo

(Continued from Page 1)

mer site of the Wells County Public Library), and its location in downtown Bluffton makes the demolition much more difficult than a typical repair-or-demolish situation.

Whicker said he would meet with City Attorney Tony Crowell Monday to review options prior to Tuesday’s Board of Works meeting. That meeting will convene at 4:30 p.m.

daves@news-banner.com

Muncie shooting

(Continued from Page 1)

Melissa Criswell said in a statement sent to The Star Press.

Many police officers from the nearby town of Eaton were among those who provided assistance, according to a post on the department’s Facebook page. Eaton Police Chief Jay Turner called the incident a “mass shooting.”

Police did not say how many people were injured, but officials at Indiana University Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie told

The Associated Press that 19 victims were treated in their emergency department for injuries related to the shooting, and 13 remained at the hospital in stabilized condition Sunday morning. Criswell said some victims sustained critical injuries and were transferred by medical helicopter to other facilities.

Delaware County Coroner Gavin Greene identified the man who died as 30-year-old Joseph E. Bonner III, The Star Press reported.

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OBITUARIES

Carol Leitner, 88

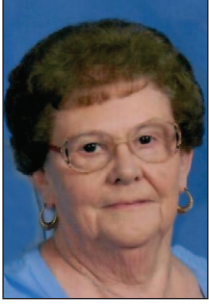
Carol Leitner, 88, of Bluffton passed away Friday, July 28, 2023 at Lutheran Life Villages at Pine Valley in Fort Wayne.

She was born Sept. 27, 1934 in Wells County, Ind. to Paul W. and Ethel Berniece (Murray) Musselman. Carol graduated from Chester Center High School in 1952 and was the valedictorian of her graduating class. She was a faithful member of St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton where she worked as the secretary for over 20 years.

Carol retired from Bi-County Services in 1999 after working in the group homes and helping clients in the workshop. She enjoyed reading, was always ready to go play BINGO and her favorite title was that of loving grandma and great-grandmother!

On Oct. 21, 1961, at St. Joseph Catholic Church, Carol and Joseph "Joe" John Leitner were married. They shared 53 years together before he preceded her in death Nov. 13, 2014.

Carol is survived by her children, Deborah Leitner of Fort Wayne, Lisa (Stephen) Bye of Harrisburg, Pa., Joseph Leitner of Bluffton, Valerie Leitner of Greenfield, Ind., Kimberly (Steven) Weachock of Columbia City, Ind., and Charles Leitner of Fort Wayne. She was a proud grand-



ma to 7 grandchildren: Matthew, Kaitlyn, Rachel, Andrew, Travis, Molly, and Makenna; and great-grandmother to 2 great-grandchildren, Marceline and Magnolia.

She is also survived by a sister, Judy Canady of Warren; sister-in-law, Becky Musselman of Bluffton; and brother-in-law, Merlin Lemke of Wis.; along with several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by her parents; husband, Joe; and two brothers, Paul Musselman and Dale Musselman.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be celebrated at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Bluffton. Burial will follow in the Garden of the Chimes in Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Calling Hours will be held from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with a rosary service at the conclusion of calling hours.

Memorials may be made in Carol's memory to Lutheran Life Villages at Pine Valley.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Leitner family at www.thom-arich.com.

Sharon A. Adkins, 77

Sharon A. Adkins, 77, of Montpelier, died at her home at 5:54 p.m. Friday, July 28, 2023.

She was born March 13, 1946, in Monticello, Ky.

Survivors include a son, Robbie (Jessica) Reynolds of Decatur; six grandchildren and several great-grandchildren; two sisters, Irene (Pat Martinez) Vanskyock of Hartford City and Polly Dishman of Montpelier; and a brother, James (Linda) Turner of Montpelier.

She was preceded in death by her father, Winsted Turner; her mother, Agnes (Pryor) Turner; a daughter, Laura

"Ann" Scholer; a son, Jeffrey "Allen" Reynolds; four brothers, J.D. Turner, Johnnie B. Turner, Bules Turner, and Oscar Turner; two sisters, Geneva Dishman and Juanita Adams; and a great-grandson.

Calling will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday, July 31, at the Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St. in Montpelier. A service to celebrate her life will follow at 1 p.m. Monday, July 31, at the funeral home. Interment will follow in the Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier.

Online condolences: www.glancyfuneralhomes.com

Survey: most employers aware of staff mental health struggles

By LESLIE BONILLA MUÑOZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Almost two-thirds of Hoosier employers knew they had employees struggling with mental health last year, according to a Wellness Council of Indiana survey released Thursday — but just a quarter trained management on how to spot the signs and take action.

The nonprofit, a subsidiary of the Indiana Chamber of Commerce, also found that less than half of employers had procedures in place for when they suspect staff members are misusing alcohol or other drugs, though the majority reported suffering consequences from that misuse.

"We want mental health to be as important as physical health, and you have to have both to show up to do — and be — your best everyday at work," Executive Director Jennifer Pferrer told reporters Thursday.

"Individuals are more likely to call in for a headache, or maybe they're just not feeling well," she said. "But for them to ... feel comfortable calling in because they need a mental health day — very, very few employees are willing to do that."

A total of 465 employers, representing 10 industries and operating throughout the state, participated in the survey — the third since 2019. Pferrer said the survey was prompted by Gov. Eric Holcomb's desire for an employer response to the opioid epidemic.

About 56 percent of the respondents representing their organizations were in human resources and upper management, though some owners, supervisors and safety workers took part.

Mixed results on mental health

About 64 percent of employer respondents said they were aware of one or more staff members "struggling with their mental health," up slightly from 58

percent in 2021.

And about 90 percent said they knew about it because the employees had communicated directly with them, also a slight increase — but for others, the response was personal.

An overwhelming 93 percent of respondents at least somewhat agreed that it "makes good business sense" to recognize and respond to mental health dilemmas, but fewer said they were prepared.

About 77 percent at least somewhat agreed that their organizations had "adequate" resources to support employee mental health, and 72 percent said they had a professional or other resource identified to address mental health.

About two-thirds of respondents said they felt comfortable talking to employees directly about mental health — with human resources professionals slightly more likely to agree — but just 26 percent said their organizations actually include mental health in management training.

Most companies that took this year's survey don't believe substance abuse is a problem for their organization.

Pferrer called training the "most helpful action employers can take," in a news release, adding, "Have someone or more than one person who can recognize the signs and provide sincere engagement to get the employees to the adequate resources they need."

Discrepancies in substance mis-use responses

The study highlighted a mismatch in how employers perceived drug problems.

Indiana's employers largely recognized the prevalence of substance use disorders and misuse throughout their communities — 89 percent at least slightly agreed — but few thought it was a problem for them, at just 8 percent.

"Employers are saying that this is a problem in their

community, but they're not realizing that the people in the community are members of their workforce," Pferrer said.

"We want employers to understand that substance use is happening within their workplace. It is impacting their employees, and if it's not their employees directly, it's their family," she continued.

Despite the low share of respondents admitting substance misuse was a problem for their organizations, significant proportions reported negative consequences related to misuse.

About 56 percent said they'd experienced absenteeism as a result, and 38 percent logged decrease productivity, according to the study. Smaller shares reported worker shortages, higher health insurance costs, "accidents," thefts, negative public relations and increased workers' compensation.

About two-thirds of respondents were familiar with alcohol and other drug services in their counties, and a similar share said their organizations had identified professionals or other resources for employees needing help with alcohol or drug misuse.

But treatment can be expensive.

While 93 percent of employers said they provided staff members with health insurance, only 76 percent at least somewhat agreed that insurance included "adequate benefits" to meet treatment needs for alcohol and other drugs.

Wells Court Docket

Wells Superior Court Criminal Cases

Briah Diane Burnsworth, 29, Decatur, was sentenced to one year at the Indiana Department of Corrections with all but two days suspended. Burnsworth pleaded guilty to theft, a Level 6 Felony. She is also ordered to complete 363 days of probation, pay restitution fees in the amount of \$1,360.80, and court costs and filing fees in the amount of \$189.

Sarah R Crowder, 19, Bluffton, was sentenced to one year at the Indiana Department of Corrections with all but two days suspended. Crowder pleaded guilty to theft, a Class A Misdemeanor.

Robert Ryan Maxwell, 45, Bluffton, was sentenced to 122 in jail with 122 days of jail credit. Maxwell pleaded guilty to operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration equivalent to

.15 or more, a Class B Misdemeanor. The charges stem from a 911 call from Maxwell's wife, who stated he stole her vehicle. When the vehicle was located, it began to accelerate past 80 mph and eventually pulled over. Maxwell was identified as the driver. Maxwell was also ordered to pay \$345 to the state and \$189.50 in court costs and filing fees.

Wells Circuit Court Criminal Cases

Derek T Zerbe, 30, Decatur, pleaded guilty to possession of a narcotic drug between 10 and 28 grams, a Level 4 Felony. As part of the plea agreement, possession of marijuana, a Class B Misdemeanor, Possession of Paraphernalia, a Class B Misdemeanor, false informing, a Class D Misdemeanor, and possession of a controlled substance, a Class A Misdemeanor, were dismissed. Zerbe is scheduled to be sentenced for this case at 9 a.m. Sept. 6 in the Wells

Circuit Court.

Rodney Eugene Hedgecraft, 52, Anderson, pleaded guilty to failure to register as a sex or violent offender where the defendant has a prior conviction, a Level 5 Felony. Hedgecraft received treatment at Praxis and failed to update his address, resulting in his arrest. Hedgecraft was charged with sexual battery in the Madison Circuit Court in 2003 and is required to register as a violent offender for the rest of his life. According to public records, Hedgecraft has acquired multiple additional felonies for failing to register as a sex offender three separate times, battery, aggravated battery, violating a home detention order, operating a vehicle while intoxicated and endangering a person on multiple occasions. Hedgecraft is scheduled to be sentenced at 9 a.m. Sept. 6 in the Wells Circuit Court.



Pictured in the photo from left, FCS Director of Development and Duck Race Coordinator Ashleigh King, ProFed branch Manager Kristi Lockwood, and Leah Brown, Aiden Kuntz, and Jamie Johnson of ProFed. (Photo submitted)

ProFed Credit Union sponsors FCS' 18th annual Duck Race

Family Centered Services, Inc. wants to say, "Thank you!" to ProFed Credit Union for their \$1,000 sponsorship of the 18th annual Duck Race. The goal of this race is to assist in sustaining FCS's youth and family serving programs. As a nonprofit social service agency, local fundraising is crucial to FCS' ability to provide lifesaving and life changing services to children and families.

The event itself is free and set for Saturday, Aug. 12. The festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the race will start at 12:15 p.m. The event will take place at Pickett's Run Park in Bluffton and will include

the duck race, music, games, a foam party, bounce houses, food, and more.

Tickets are now on sale with the chance to win over 20 price packages, the grand prize being \$1,000. You must be 18 or older to purchase the tickets and they may be purchased from any FCS employee or board member.

Family Centered Services' mission is to strengthen the community by empowering families and youth through services that educate and inspire. For more information on FCS, visit fcs-inc.net or call 260-824-8574.

Indiana search teams recover body of man from Lake Michigan

GARY, Ind. (AP) — Search teams have recovered the body of an 18-year-old man who went missing Saturday in Lake Michigan off Indiana shore.

Emergency responders were sent to Miller Beach in Gary on Saturday afternoon, and dive teams from multiple agencies joined in the search for a missing man

presumed to be in the lake, the Indiana Department of Natural Resources said in a statement on Sunday.

Strong rip currents and waves up to six feet in height made the area dangerous for divers and slowed their efforts, the department said. Around 6 p.m., roughly three hours after responders began their

search, a beachgoer spotted the man's body three-quarters of a mile from where he was last seen. Searchers recovered the body and pronounced the man dead.

The name of the man was being withheld pending notification of his family, and conservation officers were investigating the death.

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A case study in how the U.S. House damages itself

If you even noticed the party-line vote in the U.S. House back in June to censure Democratic Rep. Adam Schiff, you may have forgotten it by now. Events do move quickly in Washington. And if you did pay attention, odds are good you either figured that Schiff got what he deserved (if you're a Republican) or that the whole thing was a travesty (if you're a Democrat).



Lee Hamilton

But my concern isn't the individuals or the arguments involved, it's how it happened. And on that front, I have to agree that it was a travesty—not for partisan reasons, but because of the damage I think the House did to itself that day.

Hoosier Opinions

To understand why, you have to understand how the House came to vote on the Schiff measure in the first place. Ordinarily, potential disciplinary matters involving the conduct of a US representative are handled by the House Ethics Committee, which is specifically set up with equal numbers of Republicans and Democrats so that there must be bipartisan support for moving forward with sanctioning one of their colleagues. This is important for any number of reasons, but especially when it comes to ethics or misconduct charges, which can be used as political weapons.

It's also vital because normally, it's up to the Ethics Committee to investigate members and their conduct when questions are raised. Ideally, the evenly divided nature of the committee ensures that those investigations will be careful and thorough, since at least half the members looking at the results will be inclined to skepticism.

In the Schiff case, however, none of that happened. Instead, the censure resolution was brought directly to the floor of the House, bypassing the Ethics Committee. This was a clear example of the GOP majority in the House flexing its muscles against the Democrat who'd chaired the House Intelligence Committee as it investigated then-President Donald Trump.

As it happens, Republicans weren't setting a precedent with that move. Less than two years ago, in November, 2021, the Democrats who were then in control of the House brought to the floor and passed a censure resolution against GOP Rep. Paul Gosar, the first censure in over a decade. Gosar had photoshopped and posted an anime video to social media that showed him appearing to kill a fellow member of the House, Democrat Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, and attacking President Joe Biden. The video outraged Democrats—who proceeded to bypass the Ethics Committee so they could bring Gosar's censure directly to a vote. The Republican minority objected vociferously. Referring to then-Speaker Nancy Pelosi, one GOP member said, "She's created precedents that are going to reverberate for decades to come," adding that Pelosi had "torn the fabric of this House apart."

I'm sure you can see where I'm going with this. Whatever the merits of each case, it's not hard to think of the Schiff censure as payback for the Gosar censure—or to be reminded of the destructive tit-for-tat cycles we more commonly associate with the Middle East, say, or Northern Ireland.

The Ethics Committee and its bipartisan processes exist for a reason: The institution of the House is stronger and more resilient when destructive partisan passions are constrained by procedure. If those procedures weren't there, what we've just witnessed would be commonplace: one party punishing the other every time control of Congress changes hands. It may be unsatisfying to wait for the Ethics Committee to do its work—there's a lot of frustration on Capitol Hill right now as it investigates GOP Rep. George Santos—but that's the only way members can be assured that partisanship is taking a back seat to fair process.

By giving free rein to their members' eagerness to score points against the other side, House leaders are setting the stage for further off-putting displays in the future. Though I'm not holding my breath, here's hoping that the next time such an issue arises, cooler heads prevail.

Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar with the IU School of Global and International Studies. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

Today in History

By The Associated Press
Today is Monday, July 31, the 212th day of 2023. There are 153 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 31, 1777, during the Revolutionary War, the Marquis de Lafayette, a 19-year-old French nobleman, was made a major-general in the American Continental Army.

On this date:
In 1715, a fleet of Spanish ships carrying gold, silver and jewelry sank during a hurricane off the east Florida coast; of some 2,500 crew members, more than 1,000 died.
In 1919, Germany's

Weimar Constitution was adopted by the republic's National Assembly.

In 1945, Pierre Laval, premier of the pro-Nazi Vichy government in France, surrendered to U.S. authorities in Austria; he was turned over to France, which later tried and executed him.

In 1953, Sen. Robert A. Taft of Ohio, known as "Mr. Republican," died in New York at age 63.

In 1957, the Distant Early Warning Line, a system of radar stations designed to detect Soviet bombers approaching North America, went into operation.

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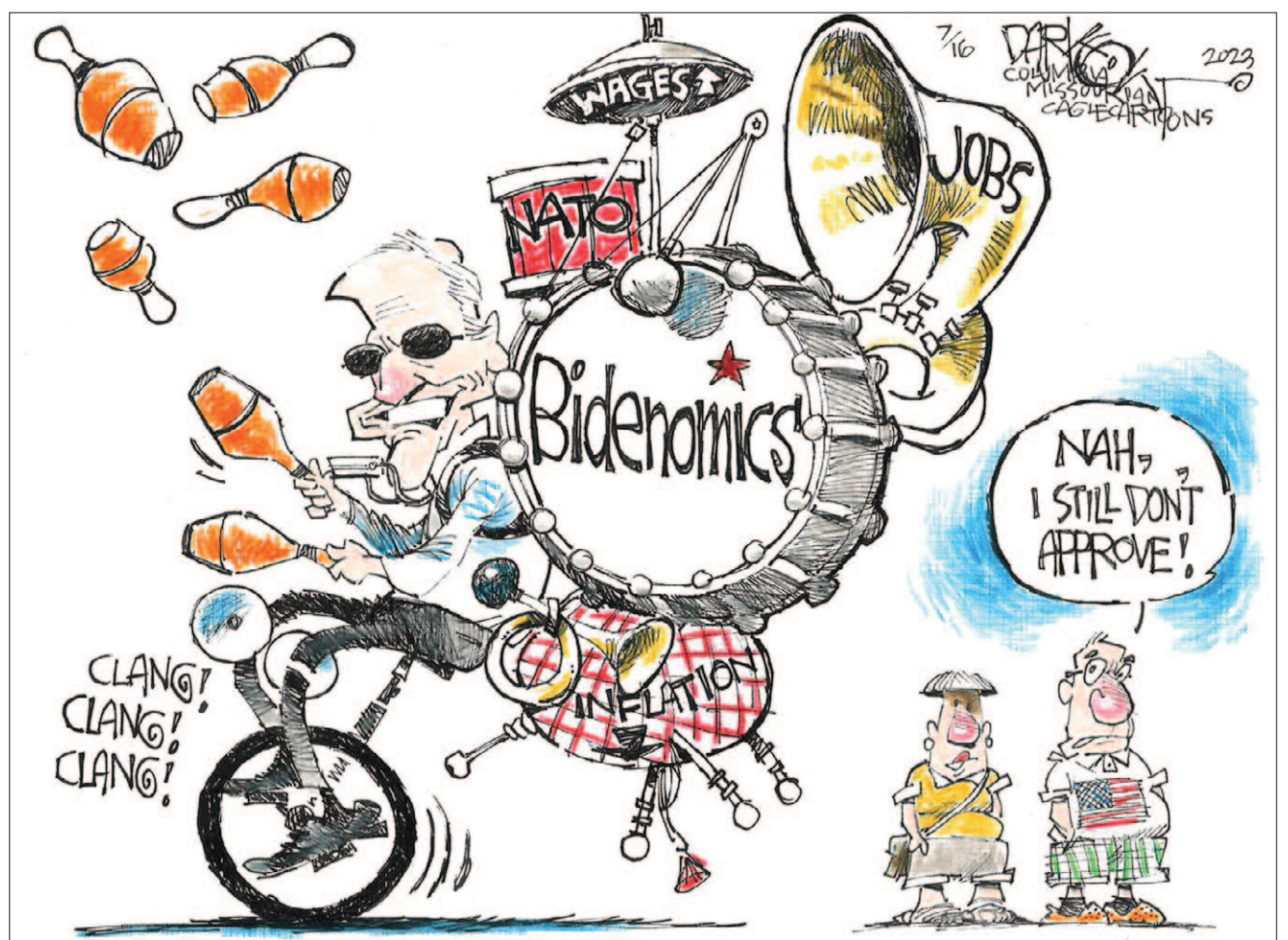
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'Bidenomics' and its Indiana and U.S. impact

In April 2022, Gov. Eric Holcomb announced \$189 million for 154 Next Level broadband expansion projects, this coming atop a \$100 million program in 2019. But on a helicopter flight coming back from Evansville in late June, there was yet another high-five moment. The governor had received word from U.S. Commerce Sec. Gina Raimondo that Indiana would be receiving \$868 million to extend high-speed internet to the proverbial "last mile."

"What this announcement means for people across the country is that if you don't have access to quality, affordable high-speed Internet service now – you will, thanks to President Biden and his commitment to investing in America," Raimondo, a former colleague of Holcomb's when she was governor of Rhode Island, said. "Just like the Rural Electrification Act a century ago and the Interstate Highway System that followed it, this is our generation's opportunity for a transformational infrastructure investment."

Holcomb was ecstatic, calling this motherlode of federal funding a "game changer."

While 92% of Hoosier households use devices to connect to the World Wide Web, 14% of Indiana households do not have access. That \$868 million comes atop Gov. Holcomb's Next Level program that has spent \$575 million to connect 72,000+ homes and 83 counties," Holcomb posted following the announcement. "The new federal funding will empower the program to expand broadband in the coming years and give more Hoosiers the power of connectivity."

These were funds forged by Biden's American Rescue Plan (ARP) passed by Congress on party-line votes and signed into law in late 2021, which only Indiana Democrat Reps. Andre Carson and Frank Mrvan helped pass.

But this latest \$868 million is only a fraction of federal funds flowing into Indiana since Biden took office in 2021.

Last month, it was announced Indiana's Family Social Services Administration would receive \$29 million in funding for opioid crisis response and substance use disorder services.

There is the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law is expected to bring Indiana \$6.9 billion over five years in Federal highway formula funding for highways and bridges.

And then there is the American Rescue Plan, passed in 2021 as part of COVID-19 pandemic relief. Its Indiana impact include:

It funded the \$500 million first round of Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI), which has generated billions of dollars in additional investments.

The state's unemployment rate has fallen from 4.7% in January 2021 to 3.1% in December 2022 (it stood at 3.2% in June).

There have been a record 170,000 new small business applications in Indiana.

ARP provided direct pandemic recovery funds to all 625 Indiana towns, cities and counties — avoiding cuts and investing in public safety, housing, workforce development and other critical areas.

Over 280 school districts in Indiana were provided funding to support academic recovery and student mental health and reopen safely.

3,270 child care programs in Indiana received support to help keep their doors open, impacting up to 157,000 children.

Working family tax relief through the expanded child tax credit totaled 822,000 for Indiana families with 1.4 million children.

There were 1,188 Indiana restaurants that received vital relief through the American Rescue Plan's Restaurant Revitalization Fund.

Then there are national trends. June numbers show inflation has been cut by more than two-thirds from its peak — down to 3% year-over-year from 9.1%.

Biden's Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act is "driving a boom in large-scale infrastructure," wrote Ellen Zentner, chief U.S. economist for Morgan Stanley.

Biden signed the CHIPS and Science Act, co-authored by U.S. Sen. Todd Young (but without the support of most of the Indiana GOP congressional delegation) in August 2022. The Semiconductor Industry Association cites four Indiana projects since Biden signed the CHIPS Act, including Skywater in West Lafayette (\$1.8 billion in investments and 750 jobs), Trusted Semiconductor Solutions in Oden (\$34 million invested and 40 jobs), NHanced Semiconductors of Oden (\$236 million invested with 413 jobs); and Everspin Technologies (also of Oden, which is located about five miles from the Crane Naval Surface Warfare Center) which is expected to generate 35 jobs.

The Nasdaq-100 finished the first half of 2023 with a gain of 39.4%, compared to the S&P 500's gain of 16.9%. According to CNBC, the Dow closed at 35,438.07 on Wednesday, its 12th consecutive daily gain, but a tad below its historic high of 36,799.65 on Jan. 4, 2022..

So far, all of this economic news isn't translating into solid political support for Biden, who led former President Trump 49%-44% in a hypothetical general election Quinnipiac Poll matchup last week. The Real Clear Politics polling composite on Biden's overall job approval stood at 41.8%. On the RCP direction of the country, just 23.8% say the U.S. is on the right track, compared to 67.2% saying it's on the wrong track.

Clearly, the White House and Biden reelection campaign have a messaging dilemma. This prompted Axios to observe on July 14: "If you spend your life looking at economic data, these look like the best of times: Inflation is a mere 3%. Unemployment is hovering near 50-year lows. But that's not how the bulk of Americans see it. Americans' views of the economy are colored by their politics as much as the actual state of the economy."

Bringing home the bacon ... doesn't it mean what it used to.

The columnist is publisher of Howey Politics Indiana at www.howeypolitics.com. Find him on Facebook and Twitter @hwypol.



Brian Howey

Politicking

Irony at the Mexican border

The Department of Justice has announced it is suing Texas Republican Governor Gregg Abbott for using floating barriers in the Rio Grande river to stop migrants who are breaking U.S. law by illegally crossing the Southern border.

For this the word "irony" was created. Defined it means, "the use of words to convey a meaning that is the opposite of its literal meaning."

Gov. Abbott is doing the job the Biden administration refuses to do and that is to enforce laws against unlawful border crossings that have been enacted by Republican and Democratic administrations.

Gov. Abbott's response to the lawsuit was a terse, "I'll see you in court, Mr. President."

There are 29 established ports of entry along the Texas border. Any migrant with a credible asylum claim can be legally processed at any one of them. In total, there are 110 Border Patrol checkpoints along the border, a border which the United Nations declared last year is the "deadliest land crossing in the world."

Laughably, the Department of Justice claims in its lawsuit filing that Gov. Abbott has ordered the



Cal Thomas

"unlawful construction of a floating barrier in the Rio Grande River" and says the barrier might impede the federal government's "official duties."

One might reasonably believe that the most important of the government's "official duties" would be to enforce the law, if only to deter the importation of the deadly drug fentanyl. According to the National Institute on Drug Abuse, there were "106,699 drug-involved overdose deaths reported in the U.S. in 2021. ... Synthetic opioids other than methadone (primarily fentanyl) were the main driver of drug overdose deaths with a nearly 7.5-fold increase from 2015 to 2021."

The first obligation of any president is to protect the lives of American citizens, whether from threats by a foreign power, or threats from the power that comes from people and drugs pouring across the border. In refusing to do this, the president has violated his oath of office in which he solemnly swore to "faithfully execute" his duties. Doesn't faithfully execute mean upholding the laws of the land? If he were a Republican and Congress had a Democratic majority in the House, one can reasonably predict articles

of impeachment would have already been drawn up. Donald Trump was impeached for what some consider strictly political reasons. For Democrats and their media enablers and protectors, the rules appear to be different when their policies and beliefs are threatened.

In his 1995 State of the Union address, President Bill Clinton spoke strongly against illegal border crossings and bragged his administration had "deported twice as many criminal aliens as ever before, by cracking down on illegal hiring, by barring welfare benefits to illegal aliens." He added, "We are a nation of immigrants, but we are also a nation of laws." He pledged to do even more to stem the tide.

In 2005, President Barack Obama said: "We simply cannot allow people to pour into the United States undetected, undocumented, unchecked, and circumventing the line of people who are waiting patiently, diligently, and lawfully to become immigrants in this country."

What's changed? Apparently, only politics. If the courts don't rule in Gov. Abbott's favor, then laws don't mean what they say. It also means presidents can ignore laws without consequences. In that case we no longer have a constitutional republic, but a dictatorship and tyranny.

tcaditors@tribpub.com

What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens, and adults.

Registration is preferred at most events. To sign up, go to www.wellscolibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 260-824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

Bad Art: Try It Night

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, July 31, 6:30-8 p.m.

Adults and teens. Receive an art prompt and create a masterpiece with leftover supplies. Creativity and imagination will be key. All supplies provided. Registration required.

Summer Reading Pool Parties

Tuesday, Aug. 1, 10 a.m. to noon, or Sunday, Aug. 6, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Complete your Summer Reading and get a ticket to attend a pool party at the Wells Community Pool. The Sunday time is a reschedule from the July pool party that couldn't be held.

Adult Summer Reading Party

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Wednesday, Aug. 2, 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Adults. Complete your reading log and you'll get a ticket to attend the Adult Summer Reading Party. Registration appreciated.

Book Discussion: "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café"

At the Main Library (Bluffton), Thursday, Aug. 3, 6:30 p.m.

Adults. Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month at the library before the discussion each month. The group will be meeting a week early in August and discussing the book "Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café" by Fannie Flagg. Registration appreciated.

Teen Summer Reading Party

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Friday, Aug. 4, 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 6-12. For all the teens who have completed the Summer Reading Program (by reading 500 pages or more), come enjoy an after-hours party just for you! We will have a night of pizza, snacks, and games ranging from the Nintendo Switch to our giant yard games. Maybe even some hide-and-seek or Capture the Flag? We want to make sure that we will have enough food and supplies, so registration is required by Tuesday, Aug 1. Teens need to be picked up no later than 7:45.

Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Aug. 7, 3 to 4:30 p.m.

Adults. Enjoy a lively game of bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with Jason! Registration required.

Teen Gaming Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Aug. 7, 6 to 7 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different games each month. Bring your own device or play the library's console on the big projector screen. Gaming club is also open to trading card games and board games. No registration needed.

Computer and iPad Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday,

Aug. 8, 1 to 3 p.m.

Adults. Start with Computer Club and then go or stay for iPad Club. Each month has a different tech focus and there is plenty of time for questions. All skill levels are welcome. Computer Club this month will focus on zip files and iPad Club will be talking about Google Maps. Registration appreciated.

Cook, Talk, Taste

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, Aug. 8, 6 to 7 p.m.

Adults. Enjoy the tastiest club at the library. Each month will feature a different theme and hostess. Registration appreciated.

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, Aug. 14, 1:30 p.m.

Adults. Held the second Monday of each month. For August, participants can read any book with "heat," "hot," or "summer" in the title and bring it with them to discuss. Registration appreciated.

Fort Wayne Museum of Art and Black Pine Animal Sanctuary Passes

The library has two new passes that can be checked out with your library card to add entry into various museums. A Family Pass to the Fort Wayne Museum of Art provides entry for up to two adults, as well as children under the age of 18 that are at the same address or entry for up to two adult grandparents at the same address and their grandchildren. An individual pass to the Fort Wayne Museum of Art can also be checked out and provides free admission for an adult. There is also a family pass and an individual pass that can be checked out for the Black Pine Animal Sanctuary. The family pass entitles two adults and two children/grandchildren that are ages 18 and younger



free admission to a regularly scheduled guided tour offered May through October. The individual pass entitles free admission to a regularly scheduled guided tour from May through October.

Tail Waggin Tutors and Therapy Dogs International

At the Main Library (Bluffton) For children. Does your child need practice reading? Read to Oria on the first and third Wednesdays of the month from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Read to our newest therapy dog, Reddington, on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month, also from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m.. No registration needed.

Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.

Access the library online at www.wellscolibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.

Area Things to See and Do

ALL FOR ONE PRODUCTIONS, FORT WAYNE

www.allforonefw.org

ALLEN COUNTY WAR MEMORIAL COLISEUM

Beyond Van Gogh: The Immersive Experience, through Aug. 10 (www.vangoghfortwayne.com); Motionless in White and in This Moment: The Dark Horizon Tour, Aug. 16. www.memorialcoliseum.com

ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE

"Ripcord," Aug. 4-19. www.arenadinnertheatre.org

CLYDE THEATRE, FORT WAYNE

"Thunderstruck: A Tribute to AC/DC," Aug. 11; Attreyu and Memphis May Fire, Sept. 16. ClydeTheatre.com or at 1-800-514-3849.

EMBASSY THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Alicia Pyle and the Locals, Aug. 2; Larry McCray, Aug. 3; "Why Worry" and "Bumping Into Broadway" with organist Clark Wilson, Aug. 6; Todd Harold Band, Aug. 9; Sunset Musica, Aug. 16; Chris Worth, Aug. 23; Karolus Miller: "At the End of the Day," Aug. 25. <http://fwembassytheatre.org/events>

FIRE AND LIGHT PRODUCTIONS

No shows until November. Tickets at fireandlightproductions.com.

1ST PRESBYTERIAN THEATRE, FORT WAYNE

"Bedroom Farce," Aug. 20-26. firstpresfortwayne.org/theater/

BOTANICAL CONSERVATORY

"An Herban Garden Exhibit," through Nov. 12. www.botanicalconservatory.org

FOELLINGER OUTDOOR THEATER, FORT WAYNE

Diana Krall, Aug. 1; Train, and Better Than Ezra, Aug. 9. Info: (260) 427-6715 or FortWayneParks.org

FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER

"I Love You, You're Perfect, Now Change," Sept. 9-17. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at www.fwcivic.org.

FORT WAYNE MUSEUM OF ART

Open Tuesday through Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays, noon to 5 p.m. Sunday). www.fwmoa.org

FURTH CENTER, ANGOLA

trine.edu/furth

HONEWELL CENTER & EAGLES THEATRE, WABASH

Honeywell Center: The "Happy Together Tour," Aug. 8; Cooper Alan, Aug. 25; Leonid and Friends, "A Tribute to Chicago," Sept. 8. <https://www.boxofficeticketsales.com/honeywell-center>

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NPACVW.org

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Productions at Williams Theatre on the Purdue-FW campus. www.pfw.edu/visual-performing-arts.

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

SWEETWATER SOUND, FORT WAYNE

Performance Center We the Kingdom, Aug. 27; "Yacht Rock Radio," Sept. 1. Tickets: 800-514-3849 or eTix

WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW

"Wait Until Dark," through Aug. 5; "Always ... Patsy Cline," Aug. 10-19. Tickets 866-923-2618 or wagonwheelcenter.org

ABCINEMA, DECATUR

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

BAKER STREET CENTER, FORT WAYNE

"Brass Metropolis," a tribute to Chicago, Sept. 16. www.bakerstreetcentre.com www.bakerstreetcentre.com

FW'S PARKVIEW FIELD

ticketmaster.com

LEARNER THEATRE, ELKHART

Kimball Organ concert/Celia Weiss: Aug. 30. TheLerner.com

About 7 in 10 American adults tell pollsters they believe in angels

By HOLLY MEYER Associated Press

Compared with the devil, angels carry more credence in America.

Angels even get more credence than, well, hell. More than astrology, reincarnation, and the belief that physical things can have spiritual energies.

In fact, about 7 in 10 U.S. adults say they believe in angels, according to a new poll by The Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research.

"People are yearning for something greater than themselves — beyond their own understanding," said Jack Grogger, a chaplain for the Los Angeles Angels and a longtime Southern California fire captain who has aided many people in their gravest moments.

That search for something bigger, he said, can take on many forms, from following a religion to crafting a self-driven purpose to believing in, of course, angels.

angels are a lot safer to worship," said Grogger, who also pastors a nondenominational church in Orange, California, and is a chaplain for the NHL's Anaheim Ducks.

People turn to angels for comfort, he said. They are familiar, regularly showing up in pop culture as well as in the Bible. Comparably, worshipping Jesus is far more involved; when Grogger preaches about angels it is with the context that they are part of God's kingdom.

American's belief in angels (69 percent) is about on par with belief in heaven and the power of prayer, but bested by belief in God or a higher power (79 percent). Fewer U.S. adults believe in the devil or Satan (56 percent), astrology (34 percent), reincarnation (34 percent), and that physical things can have spiritual energies, such as plants, rivers or crystals (42 percent).

The widespread acceptance of angels shown in the AP-NORC poll makes sense to Susan Garrett, an angel

expert and New Testament professor at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Kentucky. It tracks with historical surveys, she said, adding that the U.S. remains a faith-filled country even as more Americans reject organized religion.

But if the devil is in the details, so are people's understandings of angels.

"They're very malleable," Garrett said of angels. "You can have any one of a number of quite different worldviews in terms of your understanding of how the cosmos is arranged, whether there's spirit beings, whether there's life after death, whether there's a God ... and still find a place for angels in that worldview."

Talk of angels, Garrett said, is often also about something else, like the ways God interacts with the world and other hard-to-articulate ideas.

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!

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Colts RB Jonathan Taylor requests trade after meeting with owner

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer

WESTFIELD, Ind. (AP) — Indianapolis Colts running back Jonathan Taylor has requested a trade, a person familiar with the situation told The Associated Press on Saturday night.

Taylor, the 2021 NFL rushing champ, has been seeking a contract extension before his rookie contract expires at the end of this season and he's been one of several running backs to publicly air their grievances throughout the offseason.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the request hadn't been made public. NFL Network first reported Taylor's request to be traded.

It came shortly after Taylor left team owner Jim Irsay's motorhome after a meeting that lasted nearly an hour as the Colts conducted a night practice.

"It was just a good conversation and, you know, hopeful going forward," Irsay told reporters after practice. "We're looking forward to a great season, hoping that Jonathan's a big part of that and I think we had a good

conversation."

Taylor has not spoken with reporters since being placed on the physically unable to perform list Tuesday. General manager Chris Ballard said then the Colts wanted to wait for a new deal until they could see how a healthy Taylor fit the new offense installed by first-year coach Shane Steichen.

Taylor topped the 2,000-yard mark twice in college at Wisconsin and rushed for 2,980 yards and 29 TDs in his first two NFL seasons. He was a unanimous All-Pro selection in 2021, when he led the league with 2,171 total yards and tied for the league lead in total touchdowns with 20.

Last year, he rushed for 861 yards despite missing six games with an ankle injury that required offseason surgery. Indy also struggled, finishing the season 4-11-1.

Irsay posted on the X platform, formerly known as Twitter, on Wednesday suggesting some player agents were acting in bad faith by complaining about how much running backs earned with a franchise tag designation after the collective bargaining agreement was negotiated in good faith. The \$10.1 million price tag is the lowest of any position other than kickers or punt-

ers.

On Saturday, in front of a capacity crowd at Grand Park in Westfield a staff member took Taylor to the nearby motorhome. Irsay did not divulge details of the meeting afterward, but did talk about two other former Colts star runners — Marshall Faulk, who was traded after Peyton Manning's rookie season in 1998, and Edgerin James, who left as a free agent between the 2005 and 2006 seasons.

"I'm responsible for everyone on the team and to look at the cap money as you go forward," Irsay said. "It's a great responsibility and you try to be as fair as you possibly can be with the whole football team. So again, I'm hopeful."

Now the Colts may be looking to move Taylor before he even gets a chance to team up rookie quarterback Anthony Richardson, the No. 4 overall pick in April.

"We need to make sure he (Taylor) is healthy, and we expect he should have an outstanding year," Irsay said. "(Linebacker) E.J. Speed had the same surgery and is doing well, but it's early in the process and we want to make sure Jonathan is 100%."



Jonathan Taylor

Chris Buescher wins at Richmond, secures his spot in NASCAR playoffs

By HANK KURZ Jr.

AP Sports Writer

RICHMOND, Va. (AP) — Chris Buescher pulled away on a restart with three laps to go to win at Richmond Raceway on Sunday and snag one of the final spots in NASCAR's playoff field.

Buescher led 88 laps and was ahead by nearly six seconds when a caution came out with under 10 laps to go. That erased his lead over Virginia native Denny Hamlin, who was booed by his hometown crowd in pre-race.

But Hamlin got a poor final restart and Buescher easily pulled away for his first Cup Series win of the season, third of his career.

"I knew that last restart was going to be tough, but I knew we had the speed in this thing," Buescher said. He and RFK Racing teammate

Brad Keselowski led a combined 190 of the 400 laps in their Fords. Keselowski, now a part owner of the team, led 102 laps on the 0.75-mile oval.

Buescher started 26th and had to drive the field for the win that locked him into the 16-driver playoff field with four races remaining in the regular season. Buescher became the 13th race winner this year and there are three playoff spots up for grabs over the next month.

It was the 139th Cup win for primary team owner Jack Roush, second since Keselowski joined the ownership group.

Ford now has 723rd wins in NASCAR's top Cup Series.

"Everybody at RFK Racing who has worked so hard to get us to this point," said Buescher.

Hamlin, winner last week at Pocono, finished second in a Toyota for Joe Gibbs Racing. Kyle Busch was third in a Chevrolet for Richard Childress Racing, followed by the Fords of Joey Logano from Team Penske and Ryan Preece of Stewart-Haas Racing.

"One win is good, but you get three

or four or five and then you feel a lot better," said Keselowski. "It sure beats not having any at all, but we want to keep going. It's nice to have one car locked in the playoffs. We need to get both cars locked in the playoffs. We have a good points gap, but we want wins and this is where we need to be."

Keselowski, despite being winless this season, is still mathematically in contention for the playoffs.

The race was slowed just three times by caution flags, with the final yellow sending the leaders to pit road for four tires with eight laps to go. When the green flag was shown again, Buescher used the inside line to pull away for his third career victory.

Hamlin's bid for the victory ended on the second lap of the final sprint when he drove in too deep in the first turn and slid up the track. He finished 0.549-seconds behind Buescher.

"I got a bad restart," Hamlin said. "I had to recover too much ground from what I lost on the frontstretch. Almost got to the outside, and then in turn four, almost got to the outside again,

(Continued on Page 7)

Lee Hodges gets his first PGA tour victory with win at the 3M Open by seven strokes

By DAVE CAMPBELL

AP Sports Writer

BLAINE, Minn. (AP) — Lee Hodges rarely gets rattled, except perhaps during Alabama football games when he's rooting for his beloved Crimson Tide.

After using that unflappable demeanor to keep control of the 3M Open, Hodges finally let loose.

Hodges shot a 67 in the final round on Sunday for a wire-to-wire title at the 3M Open and his first tour victory, setting tournament records with a 260 and a seven-stroke win.

"The process I went through, I'll take this week forever," Hodges said. "I'll just try to keep replicating this week every time I show up to a tournament."

Hodges, who started the day with

a five-stroke lead on J.T. Poston, was up by three entering the par-5 last hole on his 65th career start. After Poston's go-for-broke approach yielded a triple bogey, Hodges tapped in a short putt for his third birdie of the round.

"I had to try and give it a shot and see if there was some way I could make 3 there at the end and put some pressure on Lee," Poston said.

The 28-year-old Alabama native hugged and hoisted his wife, Savannah, in celebration after she hustled out to the green to greet him. Then Jay Seawell, Hodges' college coach at Alabama, surprised him with a special appearance and a milkshake in hand. Not bad for a guy from the small town of Ardmore.

"I'm super proud to be from there and represent those people," Hodges

said. "Man, I'm sure there is a party going on in north Alabama right now."

Poston shot a 69 to drop into a three-way tie for second place with Martin Laird and Kevin Streelman. Dylan Wu shot a 64 to match Keith Mitchell for fifth at 16 under.

Tony Finau, the defending champion and highest-ranked player at 10th in the FedEx Cup standings participating in this field, shot a 70 to land in a three-way tie for seventh.

Hodges shot a 63 on Thursday, a 64 on Friday and a 66 on Saturday to take a commanding lead into the final round at the TPC Twin Cities course in Blaine on a former sod farm in suburban Minneapolis. He had two eagles and two bogeys on Sunday, following an aggressive approach he

(Continued on Page 7)

Rangers acquire Max Scherzer from Mets in a blockbuster move by surprise AL West leaders

By BERNIE WILSON and SCHUYLER DIXON

AP Sports Writers

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The surprising Texas Rangers are going all-in with Max Scherzer just when they need a big boost the most.

The AL West leaders acquired the three-time Cy Young Award winner from the New York Mets in a blockbuster trade announced Sunday, right about the time Texas placed ace Nathan Eovaldi on the 15-day injured list with a strained right forearm.

News of the agreement broke Saturday night while the Rangers were losing for the sixth time in eight games, trimming their lead over second-place Houston

to one game.

Texas didn't stop there, either. The team also landed left-handed starter Jordan Montgomery, right-handed reliever Chris Stratton and international bonus pool money from the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday for left-hander John King, minor league infielder Tommy Saggese and minor league right-hander T.K. Roby.

Texas manager Bruce Bochy said Scherzer will make his Rangers debut Thursday when he starts at home against the Chicago White Sox.

"It's great. We're pumped about it. We're getting an experienced guy with a tremendous resume," Bochy said before the Rang-

ers tried to avoid a sweep in San Diego.

Bochy said the message to his players before Tuesday's trade deadline is: "Hey, we mean business. We're here to win. And it's always a great message when a team does something like this."

Rangers general manager Chris Young, a former big league pitcher, was excited as well.

"Obviously, Max's pedigree is a future Hall of Fame pitcher and the winner that he is a perfect fit for what we need right now," Young said. "You can never have enough starting pitching and to add someone of Max's caliber is a great addition to our club. We landed the player we feel like is going

to help us get where we want to go this year."

Texas has emerged from six consecutive losing seasons to lead the AL West all but one day in Bochy's first season in charge. Bochy won three World Series championships from 2010-14 as manager of the San Francisco Giants.

While hoping his absence won't go beyond 15 days, Eovaldi, an All-Star this season who won a World Series title with the Boston Red Sox in 2018, was happy to hear of the acquisition of Scherzer.

"Adding him not only to this rotation for this year but also for next year, is a huge pickup," Eovaldi said. "He brings that experience."

(Continued on Page 7)

Matz, Cards end Cubs' streak at 8 with shutout win

STEVE OVERBEY

Associated Press

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Steven Matz and two relievers combined on a five-hitter, and the St. Louis Cardinals snapped the Chicago Cubs' eight-game winning streak with a 3-0 victory Sunday.



Tyler O'Neill, Andrew Knizner and Paul Goldschmidt drove in runs in the first two innings for the Cardinals before the pitchers took it from there.

Matz (2-7) allowed four hits in six innings with two strikeouts and no walks. He has not

allowed an earned run over his last two starts, covering 12 innings.

"It's a big confidence thing," Matz said. "I'm feeling good, executing pitches."

Giovanny Gallegos tossed two hitless innings. JoJo Romero threw a scoreless ninth to pick up his first save in his 56th career appearance.

Matz has given up just one run over his last three starts covering 17 innings. He appears to have found a groove after struggling the first half of the season.

"He's showing what he's capable of doing," Cardinals manager Oliver Marmol said. "The intent and conviction are there."

Matz was 0-6 with a 5.72 ERA before being demoted to the bullpen after giving up six earned runs in four innings of a 10-3 loss at Cincinnati on May 24. He made 10 bullpen appearances and was put back into the starting rotation on July 9.

He believes the bullpen stint helped him turn around his season.

"I just kind of simplified things in the bullpen and had a little success out there and recognized that I could go right after guys," Matz said. "You don't have to try to be too perfect all the time. I saw the results and I think I just built off that."

St. Louis salvaged the final game of the four-game set and had lost its previous six home games to the Cubs.

Chicago starter Kyle Hendricks (4-5) allowed three runs on eight hits over seven innings. He entered the contest with a 13-3 career mark against St. Louis.

"I thought I made some pretty good pitches," Hendricks said. "Sometimes you've just got to tip your cap."

Chicago had been on its longest winning streak since an 11-game run July 31-Aug. 12, 2016.

"Overall, we're playing really good baseball," Hendricks said.

O'Neill brought in Lars Nootbaar with a single in the first. Nootbaar began the inning with a double.

St. Louis infielder Nolan Gorman was scratched right before the contest with lower back tightness. He is listed as day-to-day.

TRADE TO TORONTO

The Cardinals dealt right-handed reliever Jordan Hicks to Toronto for minor league right-handers Adam Kloffenstein and Sem Robberse. A five-year veteran who had spent his entire career with the Cardinals, Hicks is 1-6 with a 3.67 ERA and eight saves in 11 chances. The hard-throwing Hicks has struck out 59 batters in 41 2/3 innings while walking 24.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Cardinals: INF Tommy Edman went 1 for 5 in a rehab stint with Triple-A Memphis on Saturday. Edman, who has been out since July 7 with right wrist inflammation, could rejoin the team as early as Tuesday.

UP NEXT

Minnesota RHP Pablo Lopez (5-6, 4.13) will start in the first of a three-game series in St. Louis on Tuesday. The Cardinals have yet to name a starter.

Cubs RHP Marcus Stroman (10-7, 3.51) will face Cincinnati LHP Andrew Abbott (6-2, 1.90) in the first of a four-game series on Monday in Chicago. Stroman has allowed two runs or fewer in five of six career starts against the Reds.

Pitchers Stratton & Montgomery head to Texas in trade

SAN DIEGO (AP) — The AL West-leading Texas Rangers continued to load up on pitching by acquiring left-hander Jordan Montgomery and reliever Chris Stratton from the St. Louis Cardinals on Sunday.

The deal came a few hours after the Rangers announced the acquisition of three-time Cy Young Award winner Max Scherzer from the New York Mets. Also on Sunday, the Rangers placed ace Nathan Eovaldi on the 15-day injured list with a right forearm strain, retroactive to July 27.

The Rangers sent left-hander John King, minor league infielder Tommy Saggese and Double-A right-hander T.K. Roby to the Cardinals. To make room on the 40-man roster, the Rangers designated right-hander Joe Barlow for assignment.

Montgomery is 6-9 with a 3.42 ERA in 21 starts for last-place St. Louis, with 108 strikeouts against 35 walks. He can become a free agent after this season.

Stratton is 1-1 with a 4.36 ERA and one save in 42 relief appearances, with 59 strikeouts and 17 walks.

High School Calendar

MONDAY, JULY 31

No events scheduled

TUESDAY, AUGUST 1

GIRLS GOLF: Norwell, Bluffton at Bellmont Invitational, 8 a.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2

GIRLS GOLF: Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at South Adams Invitational, 9 a.m.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 3

No events scheduled

FRIDAY, AUGUST 4

GIRLS GOLF: Norwell at New Haven, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUGUST 5

No events scheduled

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

WNBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	19	6	.760	—
Connecticut	18	7	.720	1
Atlanta	14	11	.560	5
Washington	12	13	.480	7
Chicago	10	15	.400	9
Indiana	6	19	.240	13
WESTERN CONFERENCE				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Las Vegas	23	2	.920	—
Dallas	14	11	.560	9
Minnesota	13	13	.500	10½
Los Angeles	9	16	.360	14
Phoenix	6	18	.250	16½
Seattle	6	19	.240	17

Saturday's Games

No games scheduled.

Sunday's Games

Minnesota 87, Connecticut 83
Atlanta 80, Washington 73
Seattle 85, Indiana 62
Chicago 104, Phoenix 85
New York 87, Los Angeles 79
Las Vegas 104, Dallas 91

Monday's Games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's Games

Minnesota at Connecticut, 7 p.m.
Phoenix at Indiana, 7 p.m.
Atlanta at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.
New York at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Dallas at Seattle, 10:30 p.m.

BASEBALL

American League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	64	41	.610	—
Tampa Bay	64	44	.593	1½
Toronto	59	47	.557	5½
Boston	56	49	.533	8
New York	55	50	.524	9
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	54	53	.505	—
Cleveland	53	53	.500	½
Detroit	47	59	.443	6½
Chicago	43	64	.402	11
Kansas City	32	75	.299	22
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Texas	60	46	.566	—
Houston	59	47	.557	½
Los Angeles	55	51	.519	5
Seattle	54	51	.514	5½
Oakland	30	77	.280	30½

Saturday's Games

Toronto 6, L.A. Angels 1
Detroit 5, Miami 0
Chicago White Sox 7, Cleveland 2
San Francisco 3, Boston 2
Houston 17, Tampa Bay 4
Kansas City 10, Minnesota 7
N.Y. Yankees 8, Baltimore 3
Arizona 4, Seattle 3
Oakland 11, Colorado 3
San Diego 4, Texas 0

Sunday's Games

L.A. Angels 3, Toronto 2, 10 innings
Cleveland 5, Chicago White Sox 0
Kansas City 2, Minnesota 1

Miami 8, Detroit 6
Tampa Bay 8, Houston 2
Colorado 2, Oakland 0
Seattle 4, Arizona 0
San Diego 5, Texas 3
San Francisco 4, Boston 3, 11 innings

Monday's Games

Baltimore 9, N.Y. Yankees 3
Tampa Bay (Glasnow 4-3) at N.Y. Yankees (German 5-7), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Gibson 9-6) at Toronto (Bassitt 10-5), 7:07 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

L.A. Angels (Canning 6-4) at Atlanta (Morton 10-8), 7:20 p.m.
Cleveland (Syndergaard 1-4) at Houston (France 6-3), 8:10 p.m.
Boston (Pivetta 7-5) at Seattle (Kirby 9-8), 9:40 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Detroit at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Tampa Bay at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Chicago White Sox at Texas, 8:05 p.m.

Thursday's Games

Cleveland at Houston, 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Boston at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.
Oakland at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

National League

East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Atlanta	67	36	.650	—
Miami	57	49	.538	11½
Philadelphia	56	49	.533	12
New York	50	55	.476	18
Washington	44	62	.415	24½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cincinnati	58	49	.542	—
Milwaukee	57	49	.538	½
Chicago	53	52	.505	4
Pittsburgh	47	58	.448	10
St. Louis	47	60	.439	11
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	59	45	.567	—
San Francisco	58	48	.547	½
Arizona	56	50	.528	4
San Diego	52	54	.491	8
Colorado	41	64	.390	18½

Saturday's Games

Detroit 5, Miami 0
Chicago Cubs 5, St. Louis 1
San Francisco 3, Boston 2
Atlanta 11, Milwaukee 5
Pittsburgh 7, Philadelphia 6
Washington 11, N.Y. Mets 6
Arizona 4, Seattle 3
Oakland 11, Colorado 3
San Diego 4, Texas 0
L.A. Dodgers 3, Cincinnati 2

Sunday's Games

Atlanta 8, Milwaukee 6
N.Y. Mets 5, Washington 2
St. Louis 3, Chicago Cubs 0
Miami 8, Detroit 6
Pittsburgh 6, Philadelphia 4, 10 innings

Monday's Games

Colorado 2, Oakland 0
Cincinnati 9, L.A. Dodgers 0
Seattle 4, Arizona 0
San Diego 5, Texas 3
San Francisco 4, Boston 3, 11 innings

Monday's Games

Philadelphia (Walker 11-4) at Miami (Cabrera 5-6), 6:40 p.m.
Milwaukee (Burnes 9-6) at Washington (Irvin 3-5), 7:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels (Canning 6-4) at Atlanta (Morton 10-8), 7:20 p.m.

Tuesday's Games

Philadelphia at Miami, 6:40 p.m.
Detroit at Pittsburgh, 7:05 p.m.
Milwaukee at Washington, 7:05 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.
Minnesota at St. Louis, 7:45 p.m.
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 8:05 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

N.Y. Mets at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
San Diego at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
Arizona at San Francisco, 9:45 p.m.
Oakland at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

Midwest League

East Division

x-First Half Winner

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Dayton	17	13	.567	—
Fort Wayne	17	13	.567	—
x-Great Lakes	15	15	.500	2
Lake County	15	15	.500	2
West Michigan	14	16	.467	3
Lansing (Oakland)	13	17	.433	4

West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Cedar Rapids	18	12	.600	—
Wisconsin	16	14	.533	2
Beloit	15	15	.500	3
Peoria	15	15	.500	3
South Bend	13	17	.433	5
Quad Cities	12	18	.400	6

Saturday's Games

Wisconsin 4, Cedar Rapids 3, 10 innings, 1st game
Cedar Rapids 11, Wisconsin 3, 2nd game
Lake County 12, Beloit 3
Dayton 5, Great Lakes 2
West Michigan 8, Fort Wayne 5
Lansing 7, Quad Cities 4
Peoria 7, South Bend 2
Sunday's Games

Monday's Games

Dayton 4, Great Lakes 2
Lansing 7, Quad Cities 1
West Michigan 6, Fort Wayne 5
Peoria 5, South Bend 4, 10 innings
Wisconsin 4, Cedar Rapids 0
Beloit 7, Lake County 5

Tuesday's Games

Lake County at West Michigan, 6:35 p.m.
Beloit at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.
Wisconsin at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.
Great Lakes at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.
Lansing at Cedar Rapids, 7:35 p.m.
Quad Cities at Peoria, 7:35 p.m.

Wednesday's Games

Lansing at Cedar Rapids, 1:05 p.m.
Lake County at West Michigan, 6:35 p.m.
Beloit at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.
Wisconsin at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.
Great Lakes at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.

Quad Cities at Peoria, 7:35 p.m.

SOCCER

Women's World Cup Glance

GROUP A					
	GP	W	D	L	GF GA Pts
Switzerland	3	1	2	0	2 0 5
Norway	3	1	1	6	1 4
New Zealand	3	1	1	1	1 4
Philippines	3	1	0	2	1 8 3

Thursday, July 20

New Zealand 1, Norway 0

Friday, July 21

Philippines 0, Switzerland 2

Tuesday, July 25

New Zealand 0, Philippines 1
Switzerland 0, Norway 0

Sunday, July 30

Switzerland 0, New Zealand 0
Norway 6, Philippines 0

GROUP B

	GP	W	D	L	GF GA Pts
Nigeria	2	1	1	0	3 2 4
Canada	2	1	1	0	2 1 4
Australia	2	1	0	1	3 3 3
Ireland	2	0	2	1	3 0

Thursday, July 20

Australia 1, Ireland 0

Friday, July 21

Nigeria 0, Canada 0

Wednesday, July 26

Canada 2, Ireland 1

Thursday, July 27

Australia 2, Nigeria 3

Monday, July 31

Canada vs. Australia, 1000 GMT
Ireland vs. Nigeria, 1000 GMT

GROUP C

	GP	W	D	L	GF GA Pts
Spain	2	2	0	0	8 0 6
Japan	2	2	0	0	7 0 6
Costa Rica	2	0	2	0	5 0
Zambia	2	0	2	0	10 0

Friday, July 21

Spain 3, Costa Rica 0

Saturday, July 22

Zambia 0, Japan 5

Wednesday, July 26

Japan 2, Costa Rica 0
Spain 5, Zambia 0

Monday, July 31

Japan vs. Spain, 0700 GMT
Costa Rica vs. Zambia, 0700 GMT

GROUP D

	GP	W	D	L	GF GA Pts
England	2	2	0	0	2 0 6
Denmark	2	1	0	1	1 3
China	2	1	0	1	1 3
Haiti	2	0	2	0	2 0

Saturday, July 22

England 1, Haiti 0
Denmark 1, China 0

Friday, July 28

England 1, Denmark 0
China 1, Haiti 0

Tuesday, Aug. 1

China vs. England, 1100 GMT
Haiti vs. Denmark, 1100 GMT

GROUP E

	GP	W	D	L	GF GA Pts
United States	2	1	1	0	4 1 4
Netherlands	2	1	1	0	2 1 4
Portugal	2	1	0	1	2 1 3
Vietnam	2	0	2	0	5 0

Saturday, July 22

United States 3, Vietnam 0

Sunday, July 23

Netherlands 1, Portugal 0

Thursday, July 27

Portugal vs. United States, 0700 GMT

Tuesday, Aug. 1

France 0, Jamaica 0
Jamaica 2, 1 1 0 1 0 4
Brazil 2, 1 0 1 5 2 3
Panama 2, 0 0 2 0 5 0

GROUP F

	GP	W	D	L	GF GA Pts
France	2	1	1	0	2 1 4
Jamaica	2	1	1	0	1 0 4
Brazil	2	1	0	1	5 2 3
Panama	2	0	2	0	5 0

Sunday, July 23

France 0, Jamaica 0

Monday, July 24

Brazil 4, Panama 0

Saturday, July 29

France 2, Brazil 1
Panama 0, Jamaica 1

Wednesday, Aug. 2

Panama vs. France, 1000 GMT
Jamaica vs. Brazil, 1000 GMT

GROUP G

	GP	W	D	L	GF GA Pts
Sweden	2	2	0	0	7 1 6
Italy	2	1	0	1	5 3
South Africa	2	0	1	1	4 1
Argentina	2	0	1	1	2 3 1

Sunday, July 23

Sweden 2, South Africa 1

Monday, July 24

Italy 1, Argentina 0

Friday, July 28

Argentina 2, South Africa 2
South Africa vs. Italy, 0700 GMT

Saturday, July 29

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

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90C01-2306-EU-000028
STATE OF INDIANA)
WELLS COUNTY)

IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT
ESTATE NO. 90C01-2306-
EU-000028

NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that **BOBBI ZEHNER** was on the 17th day of JULY, 2023, appointed as Personal Representative of the **ESTATE OF MARGARET A. BALLER**, deceased, who died on the 10th day of April, 2023.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the Office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 17th day of July, 2023.
Beth Davis
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court
nb 7/24, 7/31
hspaxlp

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Public Notices

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

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the City of Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, that the Common Council of said City will, at the Council Chambers, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, meet on the 15th day of August, 2023 at 7:30 o'clock P.M., to consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2023 budget.

Park & Rec Cum Cap Fund	\$224,268.00
APPROPRIATE TO:	
P&R Cap Imp Budget	\$224,268.00
443.020 Lancaster Park	\$250,000.00
Park & Rec Fund	
APPROPRIATE TO:	
P&R Cap Budget	\$250,000.00
443.020 Lancaster Park	

Taxpayers appearing at said meeting shall have the right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be automatically referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.
Tamara D. Runyon, IAMC, CMC, CPFA, CMO
City Clerk Treasurer
nb 7/31
hspaxlp

Help Wanted

THE CITY OF Bluffton has an opening for 911 Emergency Services Dispatcher. Applicants must show proof of a high school diploma/GED and may be asked to work flexible shifts. Applications and a job description may be obtained in the Clerk Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St. between 8 am and 4:30 pm Mon-Fri or at www.blufftonindiana.net. The 911 Director will contact you with information about the next test.

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Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist
Swiss Village | 1350 W. Main St. | Berne, IN 46711
or email: careers@swissvillage.org
EOE

Public Sale Calendar

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, 260-724-7402.

AUGUST 11 - 8 a.m. EST - Secured creditors and various consignors, owners. 815 Adams Streed, Decatur. Live and online Truck & Equipment Auction Featuring 750+ Lots! Off Lease International, Freightliner, Kenworth, Peterbilt & Volvo Daycabs & Sleepers, Tag, Bumper Pull Equipment Trailers, Semi-Trailers: Low Boys, Drop Decks, Flatbeds, Reefer, Container Trailers, Moffett Trailers, Utility Trucks including: Bucket Trucks, Digger Derricks & Drywall Crane, Dump Trucks, Flatbed Trucks, Stake beds, Cab & Chassis, Utility BODY & Box Trucks & Service Trucks, Large group of 3/4 Ton Pick Up & Utility Trucks, SUV's, Forklifts, Skid Steers, UTV's, Shop & Construction Equipment, 200+ Various Skid Steer Attachments, 40' & 20' Container loads of Brand New Items & Much More! Preview: Aug. 10, 10-5 p.m. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, Kjauction.com, 260-724-7402.

AUGUST 13-17 - (Online Only Auction) - Carl and Cassandra Isch, seller. Situated in private setting just minutes from town. Outstanding 5,700 SF Northern Wells, executive home on 3+/- acres. Open-concept home features 5 bedrooms, 3 1/2 baths, large living room, dining room, gourmet kitchen, full basement w/rec. room, second kitchen, theater room. Property is further improved w/pond and 50'x40' pole barn. Open houses: Aug. 3 and 10 from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., 2703 E. 250 N., Bluffton. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

AUGUST 13-AUGUST 20 - (Online Only Auction). Outstanding glassware collection in 50 pieces of Fenton, Jadeite glass, Uranium glass, Joe Rice and Saint Clair paperweights, Kosta Boda art glass, antique furniture, Lionel Train collection, vintage medical and doctors equipment, antique clocks, sterling silver, primitives and much more. Open houses: Aug. 10 and 17 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

AUGUST 20-AUGUST 27 - (Online Only Auction) - Mildred and Ann Dee Ferguson, sellers. Lifetime collection of country primitives and collectibles including brass school bells, oil lamps, arrow heads, antique furniture, extensive collection of precious stones and gems, antique slanted display case, crocks, appliances and much more. *This is a large auction with many unique items! Open houses: Aug. 17 and 24 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 314 W. 1200 N., Ossian, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

AUGUST 27-SEPTEMBER 1 - (Online Only Auction) - Mildred and Ann Dee Ferguson, sellers. Spacious 5 bedroom, 2 full baths, split level located in Northern Wells County. 7.22+/- acres with over 40 varieties of trees on the property, 30'x40' pole barn, updated septic system. "Explore the potential." Open houses: Aug. 17 and 24 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Aug. 29 from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m., 314 W. 1200 N., Ossian, IN. Pat Carter, sale manager, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

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One item per ad

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Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

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8	2	1	9	8	7	6	4	5
5	4	6	9	2	1	9	7	8
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Medal of Honor recipient sees warship bearing name christened

By DAVID SHARP
Associated Press

BATH, Maine (AP) — Marine 1st Lt. Harvey “Barney” Barnum jumped to the ground when he came under fire during an ambush in Vietnam that killed his radio operator and commander.

Collecting himself, Barnum realized he was now the highest-ranking officer of a rifle company he’d just joined. He called in artillery and, amid gunfire, dragged the commander to safety, where he died in Barnum’s arms. Then he proceeded to mount a counterattack, oversee evacuation of the wounded and lead the unit’s eventual break out to rejoin the battalion.

The Medal of Honor recipient, now 83, watched

Saturday as his wife smashed a bottle of sparkling wine against the bow to christen the future U.S. Navy destroyer that’ll bear the name Harvey C. Barnum Jr.

He said he was speechless when he learned that a warship would bear his name. “As anybody that knows Barney Barnum knows, I’ve never been speechless,” he joked before the event.

The ceremony on Saturday at Navy shipbuilder Bath Iron Works was a tribute to the Vietnam War hero who during his first firefight was foisted into leadership of Marines who didn’t yet know his name because he’d just joined them a few days earlier.

Dignitaries included

Maine’s governor and senators, as well as Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, who praised Barnum’s humility and generosity, in addition to being a war hero who inspired fellow Marines.

Gen. Eric Smith, the acting Marine Corps commandant whose nomination to lead the Marine Corps is being blocked by a Republican senator, called Barnum “an icon, a legend, a Marine.”

In an interview, Barnum said the combat was harrowing on that day, Dec. 18, 1965, during Operation Harvest Moon. His unit was outnumbered, caught off guard and separated from the larger battalion outside the village of Ky Phu in Quang Tin Province.

The ship’s namesake said he was scared like everybody else but he tried not to show it. The other Marines were looking to him, an artillery spotter, after their commander died, he said.

To launch a counter-attack, he brandished a .45-caliber handgun and told the others to follow him. They did.

“It’s a tough business. But when it gets tough, the tough get going and that’s what Marines do,” he said. “We came together as a team. And, you know, there’s no fury unleashed that’s greater than that of a bunch of Marines that know that their buddies have been shot.”

Barnum later became the first Medal of Honor recipi-

ent in the Vietnam conflict to return for another tour. He retired from the Marine Corps as a colonel after nearly three decades of service and served the secretary of defense as principal director of drug enforcement policy, deputy assistant secretary of the Navy for reserve affairs, and acting assistant secretary of the Navy for manpower and reserve affairs.

Barnum, of Reston, Virginia, was born in Cheshire, Connecticut, and studied at Saint Anselm College, a Benedictine college in Goffstown, New Hampshire. The school’s abbot, Mark Cooper, delivered the invocation on Saturday.

The event was a family affair for Barnum, who now

lives in Virginia.

His wife, Martha Hill, served as the ship’s sponsor. At the event Saturday, she was in a wheelchair; Barnum has been her care provider since she had a stroke about five years ago. Her daughter; two granddaughters, one of whom sang “God Bless America;” and an 11-year-old great-granddaughter were also participants at the event. Other family and friends were present.

Displacing 9,500 tons, the Arleigh Burke-class destroyer is built to simultaneously wage war against submarines, aircraft and missiles, and other warships. The newest versions are being equipped for ballistic missile defense.

China says U.S. military aid to Taiwan will not deter its will to unify the island

By HUIZHONG WU
Associated Press

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — China accused the United States of turning Taiwan into an “ammunition depot” after the White House announced a \$345 million military aid package for Taipei, and the self-ruled island said Sunday it tracked six Chinese navy ships in waters off its shores.

China’s Taiwan Affairs Office issued a statement late Saturday opposing the military aid to Taiwan, which China claims as its own territory.

“No matter how much of the ordinary people’s taxpayer money the ... Taiwanese separatist forces spend, no matter how many U.S. weapons, it will not shake our resolve to solve the Taiwan problem. Or shake our firm will to realize the reunification of our motherland,” said Chen Binhua, a spokesperson for the Taiwan Affairs Office.

“Their actions are turning Taiwan into a powder keg and ammunition depot, aggravating the threat of war in the Taiwan Strait,” the statement said.

China’s People’s Liberation Army has increased its military maneuvers in

recent years aimed at Taiwan, sending fighter jets and warships to circle the island.

On Sunday, Taiwan’s Ministry of National Defense said it tracked six Chinese navy ships near the island.

Taiwan’s ruling administration, led by the Democratic Progressive Party, has stepped up its weapons purchases from the U.S. as part of a deterrence strategy against a Chinese invasion.

China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949, and Taiwan has never been governed by China’s ruling Communist Party.

Unlike previous military purchases, the latest batch of aid is part of a presidential authority approved by the U.S. Congress last year to draw weapons from current U.S. military stockpiles — so Taiwan will not have to wait for military production and sales.

While Taiwan has purchased \$19 billion worth of weaponry, much of it has yet to be delivered to Taiwan. Washington will send man-portable air defense systems, intelligence and surveillance capabilities, firearms and missiles to Taiwan.

Judge blocks Arkansas law allowing librarians to be criminally charged over ‘harmful’ materials

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP) — Arkansas is temporarily blocked from enforcing a law that would have allowed criminal charges against librarians and booksellers for providing “harmful” materials to minors, a federal judge ruled Saturday.

U.S. District Judge Timothy L. Brooks issued a preliminary injunction against the law, which also would have created a new process to challenge library materials and request that they be relocated to areas not accessible by kids. The measure, signed by Republican Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders earlier this year, was set to take effect Aug. 1.

A coalition that included the Central Arkansas Library System in Little Rock had challenged the law, saying fear of prosecution under the measure could prompt libraries and booksellers to no longer carry titles that could be challenged.

The judge also rejected a motion by the defendants, which include prosecuting attorneys for the state, seeking to dismiss the case.

The ACLU of Arkansas, which represents some of the plaintiffs, applauded the court’s ruling, saying that the absence of a preliminary

injunction would have jeopardized First Amendment rights.

“The question we had to ask was — do Arkansans still legally have access to reading materials? Luckily, the judicial system has once again defended our highly valued liberties,” Holly Dickson, the executive director of the ACLU in Arkansas, said in a statement.

The lawsuit comes as lawmakers in an increasing number of conservative states are pushing for measures making it easier to ban or restrict access to books. The number of attempts to ban or restrict books across the U.S. last year was the highest in the 20 years the American Library Association has been tracking such efforts.

Laws restricting access to certain materials or making it easier to challenge them have been enacted in several other states, including Iowa, Indiana and Texas.

Arkansas Attorney General Tim Griffin said in an email Saturday that his office would be “reviewing the judge’s opinion and will continue to vigorously defend the law.”

The executive director of Central Arkansas Library System, Nate Coulter, said the judge’s 49-page decision recognized the law as cen-

sorship, a violation of the Constitution and wrongly maligning librarians.

“As folks in southwest Arkansas say, this order is stout as horseradish!” he said in an email.

“I’m relieved that for now the dark cloud that was hanging over CALS’ librarians has lifted,” he added.

Cheryl Davis, general counsel for the Authors Guild, said the organization is “thrilled” about the decision. She said enforcing this law “is likely to limit the free speech rights of older minors, who are capable of reading and processing more complex reading materials than young children can.”

The Arkansas lawsuit names the state’s 28 local prosecutors as defendants, along with Crawford County in west Arkansas. A separate lawsuit is challenging the Crawford County library’s decision to move children’s books that included LGBTQ+ themes to a separate portion of the library.

The plaintiffs challenging Arkansas’ restrictions also include the Fayetteville and Eureka Springs Carnegie public libraries, the American Booksellers Association and the Association of American Publishers.

Blinken: U.S. economic support for Niger at risk as military takeover threatens stability

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Political instability in Niger resulting from a military takeover that deposed the president this week threatens the economic support provided by Washington to the African nation, U.S. Secretary of State Anthony Blinken said Saturday.

Members of the Niger military announced on Wednesday they had deposed democratically elected President Mohamed Bazoum and on Friday named Gen. Abdourahmane Tchiani as the country’s new leader, adding Niger to a growing list of military regimes in West Africa’s Sahel region.

Blinken, who is in Australia as part of a Pacific tour, said the continued security and economic arrangements that Niger has with the U.S. hinged on the release of Bazoum and “the immediate restoration of the democratic order in Niger.”

“Our economic and security partnership with Niger — which is significant, hundreds of millions of dollars

— depends on the continuation of the democratic governance and constitutional order that has been disrupted by the actions in the last few days,” Blinken said. “So that assistance, that support, is in clear jeopardy as a result of these actions, which is another reason why they need to be immediately reversed.”

Blinken stopped short of calling the military actions in Niger a coup, a designation that could result in the African country losing millions of dollars of military aid and assistance.

Speaking in Brisbane, Blinken said he had spoken with President Bazoum on Saturday but did not provide details. He cited the support of the African Union, the Economic Community of West African States and other regional entities in trying to bring an end to the unrest.

“The very significant assistance that we have in place that’s making a material difference in the lives of the people of Niger is clearly in jeopardy and we’ve communicated that

as clearly as we possibly can to those responsible for disrupting the constitutional order and Niger’s democracy,” Blinken said.

Blinken said the U.S. Embassy in Niger had accounted for the safety of all staff members and their families, while issuing a security alert advising U.S. citizens in the country to limit unnecessary movements and avoid areas impacted by the coup.

The military group that conducted the coup, calling itself the National Council for the Safeguarding of the Country, said its members remained committed to engaging with the international and national community.

“This is as a result of the continuing degradation of the security situation, the bad economic and social governance,” air force Col. Major Amadou Abdramane said in the video released by the coup leaders Wednesday. He said aerial and land borders were closed and a curfew was in place until the situation stabilized.

Two supermoons in August mean double stargazing fun

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — The cosmos is offering up a double feature in August: a pair of supermoons culminating in a rare blue moon.

Catch the first show Tuesday evening as the full moon rises in the southeast, appearing slightly brighter and bigger than normal. That’s because it will be closer than usual, just 222,159 miles away, thus the supermoon label.

The moon will be even closer the night of Aug. 30 — a scant 222,043 miles distant. Because it’s the second full moon in the same month, it will be what’s called a blue moon.

“Warm summer nights are the ideal time to watch the full moon rise in the eastern sky within minutes of sunset. And it happens twice in August,” said retired NASA astrophysicist Fred Espenak, dubbed Mr. Eclipse for his eclipse-chasing expertise.

The last time two full supermoons graced the sky in the same month was in 2018. It won’t happen again until 2037, according to

Italian astronomer Gianluca Masi, founder of the Virtual Telescope Project.

Masi will provide a live webcast of Tuesday evening’s supermoon, as it rises over the Coliseum in Rome.

“My plans are to capture the beauty of this ... hopefully bringing the emotion of the show to our viewers,” Masi said in an email.

“The supermoon offers us a great opportunity to look up and discover the sky,” he added.

This year’s first supermoon was in July. The fourth and last will be in September. The two in August will be closer than either of those.

Provided clear skies, binoculars or backyard telescopes can enhance the experience, Espenak said, revealing such features as lunar maria — the dark plains formed by ancient volcanic lava flows — and rays emanating from lunar craters.

According to the Old Farmer’s Almanac, the August full moon is traditionally known as the sturgeon moon. That’s because of the abundance of that fish in the Great Lakes in August, hundreds of years ago.

Flag carried by Japanese soldier during WWII returns from U.S.

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — Toshihiro Mutsuda was only 5 years old when he last saw his father, who was drafted by Japan’s Imperial Army in 1943 and killed in action. For him, his father was a bespectacled man in an old family photo standing by a signed good-luck flag that he carried to war.

On Saturday, when the flag was returned to him from a U.S. war museum where it had been on display for 29 years, Mutsuda, now 83, said: “It’s a miracle.”

The flag, known as “Yosegaki Hinomaru,” or Good Luck Flag, carries the soldier’s name, Shigeyoshi Mutsuda, and the signatures of his relatives, friends and neigh-

bors wishing him luck. It was given to him before he was drafted by the Army. His family was later told he died in Saipan, but his remains were never returned.

The flag was donated in 1994 and displayed at the museum aboard the USS Lexington, a WWII aircraft carrier, in Corpus Christi, Texas. Its meaning was not known until it was identified by the family earlier this year, said museum director Steve Banta, who brought the flag to Tokyo.

Banta said he learned the story behind the flag earlier this year when he was contacted by the Obon Society, a non-profit organization that has returned about 500 similar flags as non-biological remains, to the descendants of Japanese ser-

vicemembers killed in the war.

The search for the flag’s original owner started in April when a museum visitor took a photo and asked an expert about the description that it had belonged to a “kamikaze” suicide pilot. When Shigeyoshi Mutsuda’s grandson saw the photo, he sought help from the Obon Society, group co-founder Keiko Ziak said.

“When we learned all of this, and that the family would like to have the flag, we knew immediately that the flag did not belong to us,” Banta said at the handover ceremony. “We knew that the right thing to do would be to send the flag home, to be in Japan and to the family.”

The soldier’s eldest son, Toshihiro Mutsuda, was speechless for

a few seconds when Banta, wearing white gloves, gently placed the neatly folded flag into his hands. Two of his younger siblings, both in their 80s, looked on silently. The three children, all wearing cotton gloves so they wouldn’t damage the decades-old flag, carefully unfolded it to show to the audience.

“After receiving the flag today, I earnestly felt that the war like that should never be fought again and that I do not wish anyone else to go through this sadness (of separation),” Toshihiro Mutsuda said.

The soldier’s daughter, Misako Matsukuchi, touched the flag with both hands and prayed. “After nearly 80 years, the spirit of our father returned to us. I hope he can finally rest in peace,” Matsukuchi said.

Toshihiro Mutsuda said his memory of his father was foggy. However, he clearly remembers his mother, Masae Mutsuda, who died five years ago at age 102, used to make the long-distance bus trip almost every year from the farming town in Gifu, central Japan, to Tokyo’s Yasukuni Shrine, where the 2.5 million war dead are enshrined, to pay tribute to her husband’s spirit.

The shrine is controversial, as it includes convicted war criminals. Victims of Japanese aggression during the first half of the 20th century, especially China and the Koreans, see Yasukuni as a symbol of Japanese militarism. However, for the Mutsuda family, it’s a place to remember the loss of a father and husband.