

# The News - Banner

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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 20, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Grand Marshall Tara Cocanower was accompanied in the Street Fair opening parade by her Bluffton High School golf team, teaching peers, friends and family. Sitting with her in the horse-drawn carriage are her husband, Geoff, and nephew, Marshall Stoller. Pictured, the three wave to crowds along Market Street in downtown Bluffton. Pictured right is the parade's winning float from the Wells County Historical Society and Museum. **More Street Fair photos inside.** (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

## Street Fair floats through downtown Bluffton

**By DAVE SCHULTZ**  
The 2023 Bluffton Free Street Fair got off to a delightful start Tuesday night as the community got a good look at itself with the Opening Night Parade.

For good measure, a Jeep Parade followed the floats and bands of the Opening Night Parade, and when it was over, those in attendance hit the food vendors, viewed the displays in the Industrial Tent, and greeted friends and neighbors up and down the Midway.

Grand Marshal for the Opening Night Parade was Tara Cocanower, the Bluffton High School teacher who has been the Indiana Teacher of the Year. The theme for the Opening Night Parade was "Growing the Future," and the No. 1 float as decided by the judges was the entry of the Wells County Historical Society. That earned the group the first-place cash reward of \$250. Second place in the float com-

petition went to BBR Imports of Bluffton, which received prize of \$200. Other prize-winning floats belonged to the Musiclectics, third place and \$150; the Southern Wells Community Church, fourth place and \$100; and Markle Health and Rehabilitation, fifth place and \$50.

The parade featured bands from Bluffton, Southern Wells, and Norwell high schools. The Street Fair Band was in the parade twice, once in the early going and again in the parade's late stages when it was allowed in as the last entrant in the Jeep parade.

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## Southern Wells discusses dropping test scores and improvement plans

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Test scores at Southern Wells are lower than administrators would like, but they're putting in the groundwork to combat slumps. Jr./Sr. High School Principal Kim Conner and Elementary Principal Kristen Wall presented their annual school improvement plans during the school board's meeting Tuesday evening. Either administrator provided a plan to turn downward-trending data around. Conner, for example, showed scores from Advanced Placement Calculus, which, if scoring a three or higher on the AP test, can earn college credit. Among last year's class of 11 students, however, every student scored a one. The year before, two-thirds of the class scored a one. With this in mind, Conner said the teacher consulted the AP Calculus teacher at South Adams High School, who's had a higher percentage of students passing the test. Conner said the school would also look into professional development opportunities for the AP teachers.

Additionally, Conner is implementing attendance incentives and disciplinary plans to cut down on repeat offenders. Meanwhile, Wall explained she's picking up the third year of a three-year plan of her predecessor, Cari Whicker. Wall showed ILEARN statistics for the last three years, which show a downward trend both at Southern Wells and statewide. That said, Southern Wells previously scored higher than state averages but has dipped just below the state average in the last two years. Assistant Principal Jessica Killingback said she's begun implementing daily practice problems based on ILEARN questions among the third grade. She hopes this regular repetition helps the teacher identify items for review and students who need extra support, as well as makes the test format more familiar to the students. Superintendent Trent Lehman commended the administrators, teachers, and students, noting that the state testing requirements are often a "moving target."

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**Jeep parade**

Two of Tuesday night's best seats belonged to Madison Mason, left, and her friend, Dana Minnich, as they sat on top of the vehicle owned by Wes and Helen Minnich, in the more conventional seats, during the Jeep Parade that concluded the Bluffton Free Street Fair's Opening Night festivities. (Photo by Dave Schultz)

## Americans released by Iran arrive in the U.S. after deal

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans detained for years in Iran arrived home Tuesday, tearfully hugged their loved ones and declared "Freedom!" after being let go as part of a politically risky deal that saw President Joe Biden agree to the release of nearly \$6

billion in frozen Iranian assets. The prisoners landed at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, with clapping and cheers heard in the predawn hours. Siamak Namazi, the first off the jet, paused for a moment, closed his eyes and took a deep breath before leaving the plane.

Loved ones, some holding small American flags, enveloped them in hugs and exchanged greetings in English and Farsi, the main language of Iran. "The nightmare is finally over," Namazi's brother, Babak, said at the airport.

"We haven't had this moment in over eight years," he added, his arm around his brother and his formerly detained father, Baquer, who had been earlier released by Iran. "It's unbelievable." One of the other freed Americans, Emad Sharghi, received

from his sister, Neda, a U.S. flag and a stuffed animal that she had given to their father 30 years ago when he had bypass surgery, a family representative said. The former prisoners, who flew on the Gulfstream 5 that brought

(Continued on Page 2)

## House Republicans set Biden impeachment inquiry hearing

WASHINGTON (AP) — House Republicans plan to hold their first hearing next week in their impeachment inquiry into President Joe Biden. The hearing — scheduled for Sept. 28 — is expected to focus on "constitutional and legal ques-

tions" that surround the allegations of Biden's involvement in his son Hunter's overseas businesses, according to a spokesperson for the House Oversight Committee. Republicans — led by House Speaker Kevin McCarthy — have contended in recent weeks that

Biden's actions from his time as vice president show a "culture of corruption," and that his son used the "Biden brand" to advance his business with foreign clients. The spokesperson also said Rep. James Comer, R-Ky., chairman of Oversight, plans to issue

subpoenas for the personal and business bank records of Hunter Biden and the president's brother James Biden "as early as this week." McCarthy appointed Comer to lead the inquiry in coordination with Judiciary Committee Chairman Jim Jordan and Ways &

Means Chairman Jason Smith. The White House has called the effort by House Republicans in the midst of the presidential campaign "extreme politics at its worst." "Staging a political stunt hearing in the waning days before they

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Today	Thursday	Friday											
High 81	High 83	High 84											
Low 57	Low 58	Low 57											



**TONIGHT AND TOMORROW AT THE STREET FAIR**

**WEDNESDAY, Sept. 20**

(\$25 wristbands on Poor Jack Amusement rides, 5 p.m. to close)

6 p.m. — Antique and Classic Car Parade, Midway  
 6:15 p.m. — High School Band Parade, Midway.  
 7 to 8:30 p.m. — Community Worship Night, main stage on West Washington Street.  
 7:30 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Main and Washington streets.  
 9 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Market and Johnson streets.

**THURSDAY, Sept. 21**

(\$25 wristbands on Poor Jack Amusement rides, 5 p.m. to close)

6 p.m. — Industrial Parade, Midway  
 8 to 10 p.m. — Concert by the Four Horseman (Metallica tribute band), Ruoff Main Stage on West Washington Street.  
 7:30 to 8:15 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Parlor City Plaza stage  
 9 p.m. — Street Fair Band, Main and Market streets.

**Street Fair opening night**

(Continued from Page 1)

Representatives of community organizations, as usual, were a part of the parade, as were city and county officeholders. Several political candidates had a place in the parade as well.

There were sprinkles of rain on and off early in the evening, but no rain marred the actual parades. While

somewhat cooler temperatures prevailed Tuesday, the weather forecast for the rest of the week calls for highs in the 80s each day through the fair's conclusion on Saturday.

Wednesday's highlight will be the Antique and Classic Car Show at noon on the South Main Street portion of the Midway. The awards for the car show will be announced

at 5:30 p.m., and the vehicles will cruise through a parade starting about 6 p.m.

Another parade, of area high school marching bands, is also scheduled for early Wednesday evening.

Also on Wednesday will be a Community Worship Service at the West Washington Street stage.

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**Southern Wells**

(Continued from Page 1)

Other items were:  
 • Lehman notified the board the technology fees for this year would be lower than previous years. A detailed list of these charges is available on the school's website.

• A series of items provided by school maintenance were declared as "surplus," allowing the district to sell them. The funds, Lehman said, will go into the general maintenance fund.

• The board accepted the resignation of instructional aide Gina Pence.

• The following employment recommendations were approved: Tonia Harris, custodian; Eric Pence, junior high football assist-

tant coach; Kyle Penrod, junior varsity football assistant coach; Chris Duncan and Amanda Lane, softball assistant coaches; and Annette Loney, concession stand manager. The board also approved a stipend for Joel Roush to cover athletic director responsibilities and Principal Kim Conner to cover preschool director responsibilities.

• Martha Paxson was also approved as Sunshine sponsor, Taylor Benedict as prom sponsor, and Whitney Powell as freshman class sponsor.

• Donations were accepted from Chapel Grove Church for elementary student needs and Smith Garage & Trucking, Prible Ag Prod-

ucts, McNatt Friendship Circle, and McNatt Men for the senior trip.

• Approved field trip requests from the physics class to visit Cedar Point on May 6, 2024, and the cross country team to go to Terre Haute Nov. 11-12 for the Midwest Regional competition.

• Approved facility use requested from PIE for Moments with Mom on Oct. 11 in the elementary school cafeteria; a Cub Scout recruitment meeting on Sept. 27 in the elementary school cafeteria; Senior Sunrise Fellowship on the football field on Sept. 26; and the Youth for Christ banquet on Nov. 2 in the high school cafeteria.

• The board approved a series of fundraisers, including a list of fundraisers for the junior high student council; girls' basketball to sell pork chop dinner tickets Oct. 23-Nov. 10, host elementary intramurals in September and October, calendar days, and youth camp May 13-16; football to participate in Wells County Rural Town Clean-Up Day on Sept. 30; FCCLA Dine to Donate Oct. 4 and Nov. 8; PIE selling LaBraid Oct. 11-27; fifth grade to sell DARE t-shirts; Sunshine Club to sell caramel brownies; athletics to sell laundry soap and Wick's pies; and physics alumni game on Jan. 6.

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**Americans arrive in U.S.**

(Continued from Page 1)

WNBA star Brittney Griner home after her detention in Russia, later posed for a group photograph with their families, calling out: "Freedom!"

The successful negotiations for the Americans' freedom brought Biden profuse thanks from their families but heat from Republican presidential rivals and other opponents for the monetary arrangement with one of America's top adversaries.

"Today, five innocent Americans who were imprisoned in Iran are finally coming home," the Democratic president said in a statement released as the plane carrying the group from Tehran initially landed in Doha, Qatar, on Monday.

Iran's hard-line President Ebrahim Raisi, on hand for the United Nations General Assembly in New York, suggested the exchange could be "a step in the direction of a humanitarian action between us and America."

"It can definitely help in building trust," Raisi told journalists.

Iran aired footage of the two prisoners who returned to the Islamic Republic as part of the swap, while two will remain in the U.S. and a fifth will go to a third country. The two who returned hugged their families and criticized the U.S. for their sentences.

"The U.S government accused me of having the will to jeopardize U.S interests through disregarding the sanctions. I wonder how the U.S government can accuse someone of a crime by reading his mind?" Reza Sarhangpour Kafrani told Iranian state television.

Kafrani was indicted in 2021, charged with unlawfully exporting laboratory equipment to Iran and money laundering, though his case had not yet moved to trial.

Also released, according to Nour News, was Mehrdad Ansari, an Iranian

sentenced by the U.S. to 63 months in prison in 2021 for obtaining equipment that could be used in missiles, electronic warfare, nuclear weapons and other military gear.

Tensions are almost certain to remain high between the U.S. and Iran, which are locked in disputes over Tehran's nuclear program and other matters. Iran says the program is peaceful, but it now enriches uranium closer than ever to weapons-grade levels.

The prisoner release unfolded amid a major American military buildup in the Persian Gulf, with the possibility of U.S. troops boarding and guarding commercial ships in the Strait of Hormuz, through which 20 percent of all oil shipments pass.

When the Americans initially stopped in Doha after their release from Iran, three of them — Namazi, Sharghi and Morad Tahbaz — emerged. They hugged the U.S. ambassador to Qatar, Timmy Davis, and others. The three then threw their arms over one another's shoulders and walked off toward the airport.

In a statement issued on his behalf, Namazi said: "I would not be free today, if it wasn't for all of you who didn't allow the world to forget me."

"Thank you for being my voice when I could not speak for myself and for making sure I was heard when I mustered the strength to scream from behind the impenetrable walls of Evin Prison," he said.

The United States did not immediately identify the other two freed Americans. All were released in exchange for five Iranians in U.S. custody and for the deal over the frozen Iranian assets owed by South Korea. The Biden administration said the five freed Iranians pose no threat to U.S. national security.

Two of the imprisoned Americans' family members, Effie Namazi and

Vida Tahbaz, who had been under travel bans in Iran, also were on the plane.

The \$5.9 billion in cash released to Iran represents money South Korea owed Iran — but had not yet paid — for oil purchased before the U.S. imposed sanctions on such transactions in 2019.

The U.S. maintains that, once in Qatar, the money will be held in restricted accounts to be used only for humanitarian goods, such as medicine and food. Those transactions are currently allowed under American sanctions targeting the Islamic Republic over its advancing nuclear program.

Iranian government officials have largely concurred, though some hardliners have insisted, without evidence, that there would be no restrictions on how Tehran spends the money.

The deal has already opened Biden to fresh criticism from Republicans and others who say the administration is helping boost the Iranian economy at a time when Iran poses a growing threat to American troops and Mideast allies. That could have implications in his re-election campaign.

Former President Donald Trump, the early front-runner for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, called it an "absolutely ridiculous" deal on the Truth Social social media site. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell accused Biden of "rewarding and incentivizing Tehran's bad behavior."

Biden held what the White House described as an emotional phone call with the families of the freed Americans after their release.

In his statement, Biden demanded more information on what happened to Bob Levinson, an American who went missing years ago. The Biden administration also announced fresh sanctions on former Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and the Iranian Ministry of Intelligence.

**Weather**

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

(24-hour observations at 8:47 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 73; Low: 43; Precipitation: Trace of rain  
 Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.20 feet at 9:45 p.m. Tuesday

**Wells County forecast**

**Today:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 81. South wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 83. South wind around 5 mph.

**Thursday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 58. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 57.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 81.

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 55.

**Sunday:** A 20 percent chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

**Sunday Night:** A 20 percent chance of showers. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

**Monday:** A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny, with a high near 77.

**Impeachment**

(Continued from Page 1)

may shut down the government reveals their true priorities: To them, baseless personal attacks on President Biden are more important than preventing a government shutdown and the pain it would inflict on American families.," Ian Sams, a White House spokesman, said in a statement Tuesday.

McCarthy announced the impeachment inquiry last week after facing mounting pressure from his right flank to take action against Biden or risk being ousted from his leadership job. At the same time, the speaker is struggling to pass legislation needed to avoid a federal government shutdown at the end of the month.

The California lawmaker launched the inquiry without a House vote, and it's unclear if he would have enough support to approve it from his slim GOP majority. Some lawmakers have criticized the evidence so far as not reaching the Constitution's bar of "high crimes and misdemeanors."

An inquiry is a step closer to an impeachment of the president, a constitutional tool which until recently was rare in Congress.

But McCarthy and other Republicans have been facing months of direct challenges from Trump — who is now the Republican front-

runner to challenge Biden in next year's election — to move forward with proceedings against his opponent. The action also is seen as an effort to distract attention from the indicted former president's legal challenges and turn a negative spotlight on Biden.

The impeachment inquiry is expected to build upon the work that Comer and others have done since gaining the House majority in January. There are several investigative lanes but Comer has been tasked with following the money that went through Biden's son's and brother's various businesses accounts.

The chairman has claimed repeatedly that the Biden family engaged in an influence-peddling scheme, but has yet to directly tie any of that to the president himself.

Republicans have focused much attention on an unverified tip to the FBI that alleged a bribery scheme involving Biden when he was vice president. The bribery claim, which emerged in 2019 and was part of Trump's first impeachment, relates to the allegation that Biden pressured Ukraine to fire its top prosecutor in order to stop an investigation into Burisma, the oil-and-gas company where Hunter Biden was on the board.

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**CAR & CRAFT FEST**

**Fri. October 6 and Sat. October 7, 2023, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.**  
 Benefiting Forgotten Children Worldwide!

**2023 BLUFFTON Street Fair**  
 Sept 19-23  
 "Growing the Future"

**WEDNESDAY**  
 12-5:30 pm - Antique & Classic Car Show - Along S. Main  
 7-8:30 pm - Music-Community Worship Night Band - Stage

**THURSDAY**  
 8-10 pm - Free Concert - The Four Horsemen - Stage

**FRIDAY**  
 7-9 pm - FNX Wrestling - Stage

**SATURDAY**  
 11 am - Diaper Derby- Baby crawl Race - Stage  
 11:15 pm - OPTIMIST Tractor Pull - 3-7 Year old - W Washington  
 11:30 pm - Kids Big Wheel Race- 6-8 Year old - W Washington  
 6-8 pm - Street Fair Idol - Main Event - Stage  
 9 pm - CONCERT: Fooz Fighters - Stage

**Wednesday September 20th**  
 Rain Date: Friday September 22nd

**BLUFFTON STREET FAIR**

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OBITUARIES

**Dianne Schwarzkopf, 80**

Dianne E. Schwarzkopf, 80, of Spring Hill, Tenn., formerly of Montpelier, passed away on Saturday, Sept. 16, 2023. She was born on Dec. 11, 1942, in Hartford City.



Dianne graduated from Montpelier High School with the class of 1960. Dianne worked at 3M Company in Hartford City; enjoyed her work as a wedding coordinator and florist; and retired from the Wells County Probation Department in Bluffton after 23 years of service. She was a member of the Presbyterian Church, Psi Iota Xi Sorority and American Legion Auxiliary. She enjoyed gardening, crafts and traveling. Most of all, she enjoyed playing board/card games with her grandsons. She moved to Spring Hill in 2012 so she could be with her family and there she volunteered at Graceworks Ministries.

Loving survivors include her daughter, Stephanie Lynn Butcher, son-in-law, Bradley Butcher, and grandsons Blake and Tate Butcher; a brother, Rodney Black and his wife Ruth Anne; along with nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, Rex and Esther Mae Black.

Family and friends may gather from 1-3 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 23, 2023, at the Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier to participate in her celebration of life.

A funeral service will begin at 3 p.m. Interment will be at Brookside Cemetery immediately following the service.

Memorials can be made in her honor to the American Legion Auxiliary, Post 156 107 E. Windsor Street, Montpelier, IN 47359.

**Doris Jean Brovont, 73**

Doris Jean Brovont, 73, of Decatur, died Tuesday afternoon, Sept. 19, 2023, at her home, surrounded by her family.

Funeral Arrangements are pending at this time with the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.



**Reigning royalty**

2022 Street Fair Princess Summer Hamilton and Prince Jerrin Terry wave to the crowds during the opening parade on Monday. Their successors will be crowned during the annual Street Fair pageant at noon on Saturday, Sept. 23. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

**Free weekend events at Ouabache park**

Events this weekend at Ouabache State Park will include a Youth Free Fishing Derby on Saturday and a Free Admission to the Park day on Sunday.

Also on the agenda are:

Friday: Look for the roving Interpreters Bret Dausch and Rose Nevil for part activities.

Saturday: Free Fishing Day to Celebrate National Public Lands Day:

10 a.m.: Bison feeding, meeting at the Feeding Shed.

11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Fishing Derby with prizes for the most catches in each age group (with parent supervision). Meet at the Boat House to sign-up at 11:30 a.m. with the Derby to begin at 12 noon.

2 p.m.: Fish Craft, meeting at the Campview Shelter for fun fish craft to take home.

4 p.m.: Volunteer Hike, meeting at the Boat House for a hike around the lake to pick up trash and move limbs. Learn more about volunteer opportunities at Ouabache State Park.

Sunday: Free Admission Day!

10 a.m.: Fire Tower Climb, joining the naturalists at the town to learn more about the 90 foot structure.

5 p.m.: Ouabache Bingo, meeting at the Lakeside Shelter for theme Bingo and call out "Bison" to win prizes.

**Police Notebook**

INCIDENTS

City:

Friday, 4:16 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Subject reported credit cards opened in her name, address is in Marion. Advised to call Marion Police Department.

Friday, 6:02 p.m., 100 block of Capri Court. Report of theft.

Friday, 7:25 p.m., 20 block of Lakeside drive. Caller reported multiple juveniles on quad with no helmets. Officer spoke to parents about not driving on roads and wearing a helmet.

Friday, 7:45 p.m., Capri Meadows Apartments. Caller reported man speaking in strange terms Officer spoke with subject who advised he was okay and that he used to work for the UN. He also told the officer he was the greatest police officer in the world.

Friday, 9:48 p.m., Union and Washington streets. Caller reported group of juveniles "hoopin' and hollerin'" on Union Street. Officer spoke to juveniles and advised them to keep it down.

Friday, 9:56 p.m., 900 block of North Main Street. Caller reported smoke from burning going into windows of his residence.

Friday, 10:30 p.m., 800 block of Creek Drive. Welfare check requested for subject. Man advised he was okay.

Friday, 11:18 p.m., 1100 West Washington Street. Caller reported a group of juveniles, one possibly kicked a door.

Saturday, 1:06 a.m., 2900 Ind. 124. Report of a deceased deer off the roadway.

Saturday, 1:42 a.m., 900 block of East River Road. Caller reported she borrowed a car from a family member and found a loaded gun under the passenger seat. When she confronted the family member they became defensive and took the gun. The caller reportedly got in car and drove away.

Saturday, 2:03 a.m., 70 block of Capri Court. Caller reported neighbor being loud.

Saturday, 5:51 a.m., 800 block of Eastmoor Drive. Report of a woman acting strangely. Woman taken for evaluation by medics.

Saturday, 7:47 a.m., West Market Street and Morgan Road. Street department requested several vehicles removed.

Saturday, 9:34 a.m., 200 block of East Washington Street. Caller requested assistance with son who had been drinking.

Saturday, 10:25 a.m., 1000 block of Sycamore Lane. Report of a sign on the ground, likely struck by a vehicle.

Saturday, 12:42 p.m., North Morgan and West Perry streets. Report of a 22 year old struck by a vehicle after not stopping on his skateboard. Subject was checked out by EMS and refused medical care.

Saturday, 1:56 p.m., 400 block of West Wiley Avenue. Caller reported finding prescribed medication belonging to someone else under family members mattress.

Saturday, 3:49 p.m., Grace and Mercy. Caller

reported theft.

Saturday, 5:01 p.m., 400 block of West Wiley Avenue. Caller requested officer to standby while subject gathers property.

Saturday, 6:56 p.m., West Market and North Morgan streets. Report of juveniles riding bikes in industrial tent, they left before officers arrived.

Saturday, 8:30 p.m., 1300 block of West Cherry Street. Report of a juvenile shooting off bb gun. Advised not to shoot in city limits.

Saturday, 9:00 p.m., West Central Avenue and South Baldwin Street. Report of a man looking into windows of multiple houses.

Saturday, 10:18 p.m., 200 block of Capri Court. Caller reported subject cut him and went back to apartment. One person detained.

Sunday, 3:33 a.m., 900 block of South Johnson Street. Caller reported a domestic issue. Parties worked it out.

Sunday, 9:00 a.m., Sun and Suds. Located an ID card, contacted owner.

Sunday, 12:38 p.m., 200 block of Elm Grove Road. Caller requested assistance with custody issue.

Sunday, 2:04 p.m., Praxis. Caller reported subject on property, subject reported they were just checking out building.

Sunday, 3:47 p.m., Walmart. Report of counterfeit bills.

Sunday, 4:39 p.m., North Main and East Market streets. Report of juveniles on bikes causing issues. Spoke to juveniles.

Monday, 12:07 a.m., 200 block of North Union Street. Caller reported having video footage of male ringing doorbell before running away.

Monday, 2:05 a.m., 800 block of Parkview Drive. Caller requested assistance with getting key to family member to pick her up. Officer delivered key.

Monday, 10:45 a.m., Pak A Sak South. Caller requested trespass warning be given to subject who left property.

Monday, 12:38 p.m., 200 block of Capri Court. Caller reported son would not return apartment keys.

Monday, 12:58 p.m., Kroger. Report of two subjects panhandling.

Monday, 3:56 p.m., 400 block of West Market Street. Caller reported vehicle in front of no parking sign. Subject was leaving upon arrival.

Monday, 4:43 p.m., 900 block of Reid Street. Caller reported subject stole his dirtbike.

Monday, 5:04 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Caller reported subject stole inflatable donuts and banana.

Monday, 5:54 p.m., 1100 block of West Central Avenue. Caller reported loud stereo noise.

Monday, 6:08 p.m., Scooters Coffee. Report that a subject is potentially living in enclosed dumpster area. Caller advised to dispose of property or leave it in case the person returns.

Monday, 6:28 p.m., McDonalds. Caller requested trespass warning for subject.

Monday, 7:58 p.m., Pak A Sak North. Bikers Against Predators met with a man who reportedly believed he was meeting a 12 year old for sexual activities. Teddy Hussung was arrested and allegedly works for the carnival.

Tuesday, 12:04 a.m., South Bennett and East South streets. Report of a blue cadillac playing music loudly. Driver advised he would turn it down.

Tuesday, 11:53 a.m., South Williams and West Washington streets. Report of an issue with juvenile.

Tuesday, 1:10 p.m., Hardees. Report of a two vehicles parking improperly.

County:

Friday, 2:56 p.m., East 1200 South and South 600 East, Geneva. Subjects requested officer to standby while animal shelter removes animal at owner request. No issues.

Saturday, 12:46 a.m., Ginger Fresh Market. Michael Roberson was given a citation for disregarding a stop sign.

Ossian:

Friday, 11:47 p.m., 200 block of South Melching Drive, Ossian. Mother requested welfare check for 8 and 12 year old children arguing at their fathers house. They advised they were just bickering. The officer asked where their dad was and they stated he was at the bar.

Saturday, 1:01 a.m., North Jefferson Street and Davis Road, Ossian. Officer pulled subject over for expired registration. A strong odor of raw marijuana emitted from the vehicle. Joseph Allen Ashe Jr. was arrested for possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.

Saturday, 9:01 a.m., 11000 North 100 West, Ossian. Welfare check requested for juvenile from out of state parent. No issues found.

Saturday, 12:34 p.m., Ind. 1 and Industrial Parkway, Ossian. Officer removed a chair from roadway.

Saturday, 4:21 p.m., 11000 North 100 West, Ossian. Officer requested to cite individuals who are not supposed to be on property.

ACCIDENTS

City:

Wednesday, 10:50 a.m., Ind. 1 and Jackson Street. Jared Kedanis was waiting to turn eastbound in his Freightliner M2 when Balil Mohammad pulled from the intersection and drove his Toyota Rav4 into Kedanis's vehicle. A passenger in the vehicle with Kedanis confirmed the events. Damages not exceeding \$5,000.

Friday, 11:57 a.m., 1111 South Adams Street. Gage Diffie reported he turned his Dodge Dakota too wide and grazed the rear driver's side corner of Julie Owings's Chevrolet Silverado. Owings was parked and in the vehicle at the time of the accident. Damages not exceeding \$2,500.

FIRES

Saturday, 8:29 p.m., 10000 North 600 East, Ossian. Report of smoke. Tall evergreen tree on fire, fire was put out approximately one and a half hours later.

ARRESTS

Richard D Leverton, 42, Ossian, domestic battery - simple assault, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$25,000.

Roy Jacob Brown, 21, Bluffton, domestic battery with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony. Bond set at \$15,000.

Alison Paige Frederick, 25, Zanesville, operating a vehicle while intoxicated - prior conviction, a Level 6 felony.

Joseph Allen Ashe Jr., 25, Bluffton, possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor.

Luz Y Rodriguez Hoyos, 45, Elkhart, resisting law enforcement, a Class A misdemeanor, and disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,500.

Colin Michael Heron, 20, Ossian, minor consume an alcoholic beverage, a Class A misdemeanor and operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

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**11:15 AM TRACTOR PULL**  
\*FOR KIDS 60 LBS & UNDER

**11:30 AM BIG WHEEL RACE**  
\*FOR AGES 6-8 YEARS

**EVENTS AT THE COURHOUSE PLAZA STAGE**

**12 PM PRINCE & PRINCESS JUDGING**  
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If you have questions, please contact Andrea Mann at (260) 433-3417/andrea.abcstudio@gmail.com. You can also visit the Bluffton Street Fair Association Facebook page.

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## An economist's thoughts about Trump's tax plan

This past week, the Trump campaign sketched out a tax plan for what they hope to be a second administration. To be clear, Mr. Trump failed to achieve any of the policy goals of his first administration, and conducted a second campaign without a policy platform. So, it is hard to take seriously any of Mr. Trump's policy. Still, it is always a good time to cogitate through the potential economic effects of tax proposals.



Michael Hicks

### Hoosier Opinions

Every tax discussion today, and for the coming decades, should begin by acknowledging our enormous federal debt. This discussion must admit that our huge debt is wholly bipartisan. Mr. Trump, and the GOP House and Senate, was a far bigger spender than Mr. Obama. Before COVID, the Trump administration grew more federal debt than any other president who did not face a recession. During COVID, he blew lid off the debt, in what was the single largest one-time increase in debt across in US history. Mr. Biden extended the spending spree; he didn't invent it.

Likewise, no member of Congress of either party is without blame. There are no honest actors. Even the handful of members who voted against big spending bills offer no serious pathway to reducing the debt. The perfidy of Congress is a good reason to critically evaluate these sorts of tax plans.

In considering any tax change, first question how it might eventually reduce the debt. That may be why Dr. Art Laffer spoke about the tax plan. Laffer became famous during the Reagan administration for arguing that reduction of high marginal tax rates would spur economic growth. His "Laffer Curve" provided a visual display of the ill effects of very high taxes on the U.S. economy and federal budget.

Dr. Laffer's arguments won the day, and President Reagan secured major tax cuts. I believe these lower tax rates helped boost economic growth in the United States through the 1980s. But to be clear, the evidence on that point is far from decisive. Many economists, studying the issue in good faith, remain unconvinced that it played an important role in boosting growth.

However, the critical prediction of the Laffer Curve isn't that cutting taxes would grow the economy. The real prediction is that tax cuts would increase economic growth so much that they would lead to an increase in tax revenues. On that point there is precisely zero disagreement. The evidence is overwhelmingly clear—the Reagan tax cuts failed to boost tax revenues.

It is important to note that when Dr. Laffer pushed his ideas into the political forefront, the top corporate tax rate was about 45 percent, and the top income tax bracket was 70 percent. They are today 21 percent and 37 percent respectively. If cutting those very high rates back in the 1980s didn't boost tax revenues, cutting these lower rates cannot. The math on this issue ineluctable.

In a further twist, Mr. Trump also proposes to levy a further 10 percent tariff on Chinese imports. It is worth noting that the last time he instituted tariffs, the Midwest saw large manufacturing job losses. Indiana was hit especially hard, and in the few months before COVID, Indiana slipped into recession-like conditions. Mr. Trump's tax plan is nothing but another campaign gimmick that'll be forgotten in a matter of days. However, it raises important questions for other candidates.

Corporate taxes are popular with citizens who fail to notice that corporations are mostly owned by individuals through their retirement savings. So, taxing corporate profits actually taxes the retirement funds of teachers, firefighters, auto workers and anyone who owns a defined contribution retirement plan. While it is certainly fine to tax these earnings, they will again be taxed when they flow to retirees. So, corporate tax and income tax affect each dollar of retirement earning twice.

About 8 in 10 households eventually own some sort of retirement fund that owns corporations. At any given time about 6 in 10 families hold some sort of stock or retirement fund. So, calls to reduce corporate taxation can be motivated by equity concerns over the treatment of different types of income. We are all capitalists now.

Other factors influence the efficacy of a proposed tax change. The reduction of corporate taxes would reduce the tax burden on the richest 60 percent of the population, with a heavy weight of benefit flowing to older Americans. There is no such thing as an optimal level of progressivity, but we've long sided with Adam Smith in his Wealth of Nations that; "It is not very unreasonable that the rich should contribute to the public expense, not only in proportion to their revenue, but something more than in that proportion."

A large tax cut aimed at the middle class and more-affluent households is cause for consideration. However, I think it is less the progressivity issue than it is of intergenerational equity. You see, a tax cut on older Americans today will affect taxpayers who already will receive far more generous Social Security benefits than will today's younger workers.

The very large federal deficit can only be remedied through some combination of benefit cuts and tax increases. Anyone who tells you something differently is either innumerate or lying to you (or both). So, a tax cut that is targeted at today's older population will redistribute wealth from those receiving much higher government benefits to those likely to receive less.

There are reasons for one generation to bear a disproportionate tax. For example, it was the parents of the Greatest Generation who bore the tax burdens during and after World War II, following their own war and the Great Depression. There's good reason they were called the Lost Generation. Yet, the tax and Savings Bond appeals of the 1940s very specifically focused on their duty to a younger generation. We would be a better country if we thought more about this sort of thing.

Tariffs likewise have a disproportionate affect on poorer households. A 10 percent tariff on China will make goods more expensive, both imported and domestically produced. Typically, young and poor households spend a higher share of their income on goods than do older, richer households. So, a tariff lands squarely on the shoulders of younger, poorer workers.

We probably shouldn't take campaign promises too seriously, especially when they come to taxes. Still, asking key questions about taxes is an important way to judge candidates. How serious are these candidates, what do they say they care about, and how carefully do they consider the effect of taxes on different constituents? Taxes are not the most important issue facing our nation today, but they offer a very clear, quantifiable gauge on candidate priorities.

Michael Hicks is the George and Frances Ball Distinguished Professor of Economics and the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research at Ball State University.



## Trying to disqualify Trump is lawlessness masquerading as legality

Mae West (1893-1980), a salty actress, once played a character who said that when facing a choice between two evils, she opted for the one she hadn't tried before. A 2024 presidential choice between today's incumbent and his immediate predecessor would preclude West's cheerful strategy: Both have been tried, and together have produced a whopping bipartisan majority eager to see the last of them. This partly explains the spreading flirtation with the idea that the 14th Amendment bars Donald Trump from seeking the presidency.

Many advocates of this idea are academics eager to infect presidential politics with the cancel culture of their campuses: Do not refute your adversaries, ban them. Less nakedly partisan people might think that using the 14th Amendment to remove Trump would thereby prompt President Biden to totter off into the sunset. But recourse to the amendment would be lawlessness masquerading as legality. And there already is a surfeit of illegality.

The 14th Amendment, passed by Congress 14 months after Appomattox and ratified by the states 25 months later, is among the nation's most majestic accomplishments. Properly understood (by Randy E. Barnett and Evan D. Bernick in "The Original Meaning of the 14th Amendment: Its Letter and Spirit") and properly construed by courts (which it has never fully been), its Section 1 envelops the rights ("privileges or immunities") of civil equality in national citizenship with "due process" and "equal protection" guarantees.

But people who would wield the amendment to extinguish Trump's electoral career are trying to solve a political problem by cleverness, citing the amendment's Section 3. It says that no person may "hold any office, civil or military, under the United States" who, having taken an oath as "an officer of the United States" to "support the Constitution," has subsequently "engaged in insurrection or rebellion against the same, or given aid or comfort to the enemies thereof."

Leave aside (as a court will be unable to do) the fraught questions about what causal connections there were between Trump's rhetoric before and on Jan. 6, 2021, and the actions then of his acolytes: They, after all, had agency. And never mind how to calibrate "aid or comfort." Just concentrate on "insurrection."

The Confederacy — the attempted secessions of 11 states; rebel cannon firing on federal installations; armies on the march against U.S. forces — was unambiguously an insurrection. A riotous rabble — whatever its motivations and delusional aspirations — on a January afternoon? Rather less so. They were criminal

and disgusting, but closer to vandals than to the Army of Northern Virginia.

Arguments about the continuing force and sweep of Section 3 are interesting; unleavened by prudence, they are dangerous. There could be no surer way to further embitter and calcify Trump's supporters than to stretch constitutional language to eliminate an electoral choice. And, in the process, to preempt judicial determinations about the nature and legal status of Trump's Jan. 6 behavior.

People can find other outlets for their justifiable concerns about legalities. For example:

Peter Navarro, former Trump adviser, has been properly convicted of contempt of Congress for defying a congressional subpoena. If unpunished, such behavior could largely nullify Congress's powers of investigation and oversight. Progressives pleased by this were, however, not noticeably offended when (the Wall Street Journal remembers) Barack Obama's Justice Department refused to prosecute Lois Lerner, who used her IRS position to impede conservative advocacy organizations, and for her noncooperation was held in contempt by the Republican-controlled House.

Today, progressives' silence conveys complacency about Julie Su's imminent illegality. She is wielding power as Biden's labor secretary, even though the Democratic-controlled Senate has not confirmed her (at least 51 senators seem opposed). The Vacancies Act limits to 210 days the time someone can serve unconfirmed in an advice-and-consent position in a federal department. Su's legality expires Oct. 7. Her supporters say a Labor Department succession statute stipulates no time limit on her ability to serve as acting secretary, so she can continue. But this would be an unconstitutional abridgment of the Senate's power to advise and consent.

People advocating a 14th Amendment solution to the problem of Trump are spreading the acids of cynicism and suspicion that are corroding trust in institutions. And some states' election officials — watch Colorado — are apt to seize this occasion for grandstanding, trying to keep Trump's name off their ballots. This will thicken his armor of martyrdom.

Besides, this nation was founded on a good idea: the pursuit of happiness. In 2024, for many Americans, happiness will come from casting a vote against Trump.

georgewill@washpost.com.



George Will

## Sex and the city: Political edition

The Republican Party, the party that for years has styled itself as the party of "family values" and "traditional marriage" has lost all credibility on these issues.

Not only do polls show a huge majority of Republicans supporting the thrice-married, serial adulterer Donald Trump, but now three Republican women have joined the political orgy.

In 2011, I was in Rapid City, South Dakota, speaking at a gathering of conservatives. Gov. Kristi Noem headlined the event. She walked out on stage holding her husband's hand and spoke openly about her Christian faith and commitment to conservative economic and social issues. In an interview with me she reinforced those beliefs.

According to The Daily Mail and New York Post, it was all a sham, because at the time, and for several years before, she and former Trump aide Corey Lewandowski had been carrying on an extramarital affair. Various sources are quoted, though not by name, as saying Noem made use of private planes to get to speaking engagements, many outside South Dakota, which reportedly involved frequent liaisons with Lewandowski. It is also claimed she ordered her staff not to share her schedule with her husband.

Asked about this, Noem's press secretary, Ian Fury, emailed me: "the article falsely claims that the governor did not deny the allegation. I denied it on her behalf, and I have



Cal Thomas

asked the Daily Mail to correct that lie."

When I asked about the claims alleging her infidelity, I received no reply.

Next up we have Rep. Lauren Boebert (R-CO.), age 36, and the mother of four young sons. A security video shows her attending a performance in Denver of the musical "Beetlejuice" with her "date," 46-year-old Quinn

Gallagher, a Democrat who owns a bar in Aspen. The video shows Gallagher fondling Boebert's breasts. She grabs his hand to keep it there before reaching over and rubbing his crotch. Boebert blames her behavior on an ongoing divorce from her husband. The video also shows Boebert vaping. She denied it, but the video doesn't lie. Ushers escorted Boebert and Gallagher out of the theater, but before she left, Boebert, a sitting member of Congress, flipped the ushers the middle finger.

Then there is Rep. Nancy Mace (R-SC), who told a prayer breakfast in July she had to deny her "fiance" sex that morning or she would have been late for the event. After some criticism, Mace said she was a "sinner not a saint." This is self-justification, not repentance.

In the spirit of diversity, equity and inclusion a runner-up award goes to Susanna Gibson, who is running as a Democrat for the Virginia House of Delegates. In a unique fundraising effort, Gibson livestreamed a video of her and her husband on

Chaturbate, asking viewers to pay them money to watch them have sex. Maybe this is not such a problem, seeing as Democrats are more free-wielding, supporting issues like abortion, same-sex marriage, transgender rights, etc., and not conservative family values.

Back to the Republicans. Some who support Donald Trump for president (again) have written to me with the false moral claim that King David of Israel committed adultery with Bathsheba and God used him anyway. The difference is that David, according to the Scriptures in which Christians say they believe, repented and wrote one of the great Psalms that says to God: "Against You, You only, have I sinned, and done this evil in Your sight." (Psalm 51:4).

David also paid a terrible price in the death of the son he had with Bathsheba, whose husband, Uriah, he sent to the front lines in order to have him killed in an attempt to cover up her pregnancy.

No one has heard anything approaching David's repentance from Trump, Mace or Boebert. It is not judging to hold them accountable to the standard they claim to profess.

Republicans who support these elected representatives and Donald Trump, excusing their behavior, have made a Faustian bargain. They are ignoring the moral code they claim to endorse in order to secure temporal political power. This is idolatry of the worst sort and reduces the party's claim to support family values to the level of a bad joke.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com



# Monkey calls: The transition from exciting to normal

*Note: The following is based on my April 12, 2015 journal entry from our Wabash River to the Gulf of Mexico (source-to-sea) kayak trip.*

After another chilly night and morning camping downstream from Lagro, Indiana, on the bank of the Wabash River, the unique sound of a Pileated Woodpecker hammering nearby serenaded us as we ate our dehydrated breakfast of eggs, sausage, and hash browns. Later, as it flew away, I was reminded what large birds they are.

My first sighting of a Pileated Woodpecker happened one fall a few years ago while John and I were strolling through a youth camp on Birch Lake in Michi-

gan. The caretaker had locked the buildings for the season. The sun was shining, the air was crisp and clean, and the leaves on the trees were changing from their summer green to autumn yellow and orange. Leaves that had lost their battle of holding tightly to the branches crunched under the weight of our hiking shoes. As we passed the dining hall, we imagined the voices of eager children running to save their spot at their favorite table. The empty flagpole is surely the center of flag-raising and lowering ceremonies each summer day. We peeked in the nurse's station windows. How many children does the nurse nurture each week? Do the campers count down the days each summer until they finally pick out a bunk? I know when I was a child, I crossed off the days

on the calendar several weeks before church camp each July.

The monkey-sounding call broke the silence. Since we were sure monkeys don't typically inhabit Michigan, we listened more closely. An ominous shadow moved across the browning grass speckled with colorful leaves. Shielding our eyes from the sun, we gazed up to locate the creator of the floating black shadow. A large black bird with white under its wings landed in a nearby tree. It had a red crown and long beak. Then a hollow, hammering sound, classifying the bird as a woodpecker, echoed. Later, studying a bird book, we identified the bird as a Pileated Woodpecker. The range indicated this species is found in Indiana, although we had never seen or heard one. Now, if I hear a monkey in our woods, I'll

know what it is.

Although the antics and noises created by wildlife can be quite noisy as they march through their daily routines, nature provides a sense of peace. I love that nature continues its routine around us despite our presence.

I hope the sights and sounds of nature never occur without my noticing them—like so many aspects of life. What parts of life at home have moved to the background without my realizing the transition? What activities used to create excitement and wonder but are now common place?

Many times something we anticipate becomes a burden. Shaving, a new house, a relationship, driving. The newness wears off and is replaced by a habit. Performed without thinking... Most of what children do is new to them—not their normal yet. They approach life with wild abandon—so much of what they see is still exciting.

**Here's the Thing:** How quick-

ly does wild abandon become domesticated? When did the child-like gleam fade from my eyes? Once it's gone, can it be retrieved? When (and why) did I lose my sense of wonder? What would my life look like if I resisted allowing common daily adventures to become normal? Interesting questions I can't answer because the transition from exciting to normal happens without my realizing. Next time I hear a monkey call, instead of continuing on my way, I will stop and scan the sky

Follow us at *Separate Boats on Instagram, Facebook, or on our webpage: [www.separateboats.com](http://www.separateboats.com)* [jlabnet@gmail.com](mailto:jlabnet@gmail.com)

*Editor's Note: This is one of a series of articles written by a group of retired and current teachers — LaNae Abnet, Ken Ballinger, Billy Kreigh, Kathy Schwartz, and Anna Spalding. Their intent is to spur discussions at the dinner table and elsewhere. You may also voice your thoughts and reactions via The News-Banner's letters to editor.*



LaNae Abnet



## Pharaohs donates to Street Fair Association

Above, a check for \$1,500 was presented to the Street Fair Board towards the Fair Flags. The money was raised between Pharaohs Car Club and Walmart at the Run For The Fair car show in early September. Below are photos from the event. (Photos contributed)



## New inclusion, diversity nonprofit started in Wells County

Bertrand Russell is quoted as stating, "Change is indubitable, whereas progress is a matter of controversy." Over the past couple of years, Wells County has had some controversy of its own, especially in matters of diversity and inclusion. From this, a group of concerned citizens initiated discussions about the pressing need for greater support and safe spaces for marginalized communities within the region. What began as mere conversations has since evolved into tangible action.

At the forefront of this movement were Haley Ashman and Kayla Holland, who established the Diversity and Inclusion Coalition, now known as Dive In. Starting as a social media page, Dive In has grown into a monthly gathering where community members unite to exchange knowledge, offer support, and advocate for equality.

Another individual, Carla Sue Castro, assisted local students to establish diversity and inclusion clubs at the Bluffton middle and high schools. As of this fall, these clubs will be meeting in the community to allow students from Norwell and Southern Wells school districts to join. The Above (middle school) and Beyond (high school) clubs focus on education, support, community service and advocacy.

Encouraged by their progress, Haley, Kayla, and Carla Sue joined forces with another like-minded individual, Dylan McIntosh, to form an organization: Elevate Wells

County. Elevate is an acronym standing for "Empowering, Lifting, and Encouraging Voices for Advancement, Tolerance, and Equity." In the past two months, Elevate has incorporated, been granted 501(c)3 status, and received tax-exempt status.

Elevate Wells County's mission is to "promote diversity, inclusivity, and equity by facilitating educational initiatives, encouraging open dialogue, and fostering cooperation. We strive to elevate marginalized communities, nurture empathy and acceptance, and challenge physical and metaphorical barriers."

Dive In, Above, and Beyond will all operate as programming under Elevate. Additionally, the board is establishing further initiatives, activities, and services aimed at uplifting marginalized individuals within Wells County. These communities include racial and ethnic minorities, the LGBTQ+ population, persons with disabilities, and individuals who are neurodiverse.

For more information, please visit the website: [www.elevatewells.com](http://www.elevatewells.com). If you wish to contribute, a donation page is available on the website, or you can donate through PayPal at <https://tinyurl.com/Elevatewells> or using the QR code provided. Checks and cash can also be sent to P.O. Box 187, Bluffton, IN 46714.

Elevate Wells County envisions a brighter future, where diversity is celebrated, inclusivity is the norm, and every individual is embraced with compassion and respect.

## Dino Days at FW Children's Zoo

Dino Days at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo will be held from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 23 & 24.

Dinosaurs will roam the zoo those days and an archeological dig will be in progress. The event is free with regular zoo admission: \$18 adults and children (2-12).

The zoo will continue to be open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Oct. 29th. The rides on the ski safari, railroad, carousal and creek are \$3 per person while feeding the goats, chickens and giraffes are \$1 and stingrays \$5.

## FW Museum of Art exhibits

The current exhibit at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art is Landfall Press: Five Decades of Print making, through Nov. 12, a celebration of 50 years. Curator's Tour on Oct. 5, at 12 noon (free with museum admission).

Indiana Artists Club 2023 Annual Members Exhibition, Sept. 16 - Nov. 26. Featuring over 50 diverse works by Indiana artists. Nick Antonakis was juror for this exhibit. This club was founded in 1917 by 46 artists.

Dia Delos Muertos, Sept. 23-Nov. 6, celebrating the Day of the Dead. Featuring memorial altars and symbolic objects. A Family Celebration on Sunday, Nov. 5, from 2 to 6 p.m., a free event. Mexican food truck on hand.

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# Raiders fall to the Cavaliers despite best offensive night

By RYAN WALKER

PONETO—Southern Wells started the match with a first-set win, but ended with a 3-1 defeat to Canterbury Tuesday night at the Raiderdome.

The Cavaliers (1-17) were one of the Raiders (0-12) better chances for their first win of the season, especially after a well-played 25-14 first set. As the match progressed, the team faltered exponentially before falling 25-19, 25-23, and 25-9 in the final three games.

Head coach Whitney Powell was disappointed in her team's lack of leadership and consistency. But on a positive note, she was pleased with her attackers and putting it all together in the first set.

"We had more fire. We had more communication and energy," Powell said after the game. "It just seemed like the match went on, and we lost the second game ... and it's just like as the match continues, then we just compete less and compete less. That's a culture issue, and it's got to change."

Powell used two timeouts to try and stop the bleeding in the second set, but her team was never able to overcome the deficit.

After going up 3-0, Southern Wells lost seven straight points to begin the third, leading to a back-and-forth game.

The Raiders just scored to make it 24-23 Canterbury in the finishing stages of the third. After Canterbury hit the ball on the other side, it landed right near the out-of-bounds line. The line judge initially called it out, which would have tied the game at 24, but the head official overturned the call to

give the Cavaliers the win.

Had the point not been reversed, the match would have given Southern Wells a chance for a comeback, considering a game must be determined by two points or more.

Powell agreed with the line judge that the ball was out but also wasn't giving any excuses for the loss.

"(The official) said that was in," Powell said. "(The line judge) called it out, but I saw it too. I could see court past the lines. I mean, it was clearly out, but like (assistant coach Allison Blevins) said, that call didn't lose that game. The first 10 points that we let them get on a run 10-0 is what lost that set. So, yes, I'm mad about it, but in the end, it's our errors and getting within that hole that ended up losing it. I can't blame it on one point."

By that time, Southern Wells had already achieved its best night on the attacking side with 27 kills, which Powell shared was the most they've had all season.

"I thought our offense was much better tonight — it could have to do with some of the defense on the other side, but that was the most kills we've had in a match this year," Powell said. "We saw some good things out of that."

But the inconsistencies settled in after the judgment call was made to end the third set. The Raiders made a slew of errors that caused a blowout in the fourth set by 16 points.

Kila Shelley led the team with nine kills and four aces.

Southern Wells will be at Whitko for a 6 p.m. start on Thursday, Sept. 21.

sports@news-banner.com



Southern Wells middle hitter Kila Shelley spikes during a match against Canterbury at home Tuesday night at the Raiderdome. Shelley led the team with nine kills and four aces in the 3-1 loss to the Cavaliers. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

# Julius Peppers and Antonio Gates headline list of new nominees for the Pro Football Hall of Fame

By JOSH DUBOW

AP Pro Football Writer

Three-time All-Pro Julius Peppers and Antonio Gates headline the list of nine first-year eligible players picked among the 273 nominees for the 2024 class of the Pro Football Hall of Fame.

The other first-year eligibles are receivers Brandon Marshall and Jordy Nelson; running back Jamaal Charles; offensive linemen T.J. Lang, Josh Sitton and Max Unger; and defensive tackle Haloti Ngata.

The nine new candidates combined for 42 Pro Bowl berths, 12 first-team All-Pro selections, with five of the nine winning Super Bowls and Peppers and Gates making all-decade teams. Peppers also won the Defensive Rookie of the Year award in 2002 and Nelson was picked as Comeback Player of the Year in 2016.

Peppers and Gates were both college basketball players before finding their greatest success in football.

Peppers was one of the league's most dominant linemen after being picked second overall by Carolina in 2002 following a two-sport career in college at North Carolina.

He had 12 sacks as a rookie and never really slowed down in a 17-year career that included stops in Chicago and Green Bay before ending with the Panthers. He was an All-Pro in 2004, 2006 and 2010.

Peppers finished his career with 159 1/2 sacks — the fourth most since they became official in 1982 — and had 10 seasons with double-digit sacks. Only Hall of Famers Bruce Smith (13) and Reggie White (12) had more.

Gates only played basketball in college

before turning into one of the NFL's top tight ends ever when he switched to football as a pro after going undrafted.

The Chargers took a chance on him and it paid off in a big way as he became an All-Pro in just his second season in 2004. He was All-Pro again the next two seasons and went on to have a 16-year career for the team.

Gates finished with 955 catches for 11,841 yards and an NFL record for tight ends 116 touchdown receptions. Only Hall of Famer Tony Gonzalez and Jason Witten have more catches or yards as a tight end.

The list will be reduced to 25 semifinalists in November and to 15 finalists in January before the selection committee discusses and chooses the class of 2023 that will be enshrined in August.

The 15 finalists will be trimmed to 10 and then five during the selection meeting early next year. The final five candidates will need to get 80% of the votes from the panel to get into the Hall.

The roster of nominees consists of 67 offensive players, 50 defensive players and 12 special teamers.

Finalists from 2022 re-nominated for next year are Devin Hester, Torrey Holt, Andre Johnson, Reggie Wayne, Willie Anderson, Jared Allen, Dwight Freeney, Patrick Willis and Darren Woodson.

The committee will also consider former Lions and Steelers coach Buddy Parker in the coaching category and three senior candidates: Randy Gradishar, Steve McMichael and Art Powell.

They also will get in if they get support from at least 80% of voters.

# QB Deshaun Watson's second shaky start raises more questions about if he can carry Browns

By TOM WITHERS

AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Deshaun Watson doesn't look elite, composed or anything close to resembling a \$230 million quarterback or franchise savior at the moment.

Not even close.

Two games into his first full season with the Browns, there remain major questions about whether Watson can be the same player who led the NFL in passing three years ago for Houston or make Cleveland a Super Bowl contender.

Right now, Watson isn't even an average QB, ranking near the bottom in most major statistical categories.

And with Browns star running back Nick Chubb suffering a season-ending left knee injury in the 26-22 loss at Pittsburgh on Monday night, Watson has lost an indispensable playmaker. He may have to do even more to get the Browns offense on track.

Trouble is, he's not doing much of anything. Watson was off the mark from the start against the Steelers.

His short pass on the game's first play bounced off tight end Harrison Bryant's hands and was tipped to Pittsburgh's Alex Highsmith, who returned it 30 yards for a TD. The score gave the Steelers a 7-0 lead just 9 seconds in and set the tone for one of the rivalry's weirdest games.

His final pass sailed over Donovan Peoples-Jones.

Watson finished 22 of 40 for 235 yards with a touchdown, the pick-6, six sacks and two lost fumbles. He was also called for two facemask penalties, and Watson had a heated exchange while brushing into an official, leading to speculation he might be disci-

plined by the league.

The 28-year-old Watson is getting heat from reporters and fans about his plodding prime-time performance.

When he returned from an 11-game suspension last season for violating the league's personal conduct policy after being accused by women of sexual assault and harassment during massage therapy sessions, Watson blamed a long layoff — he also sat out 2021 — for his rust.

A full training camp was supposed to fix that.

It hasn't.

He was indecisive and off target in Week 1 against Cincinnati (16 of 29 for 154 yards), and Browns coach Kevin Stefanski cited wet weather as the main culprit.

It was bone dry in Pittsburgh. He wasn't much better.

Watson shouldered the blame after the Steelers loss.

"Not enough," he said. "Put it on me. I can take the full blame. I can take the criticism and I'm going to do that. And I told everyone in our offense, the whole team, I'm going to do better for this team, for this organization so we can win games like that. And I'm fine with taking the criticism and I will be better."

Watson has been saying all the right things for weeks.

But like the offense he's leading, his words and actions aren't in sync.

**WHAT'S NEXT**

No time for sympathy and little time for sleep. The Browns have to regroup quickly from losing Chubb and get ready for the Tennessee Titans (1-1), who are coming to town on Sunday.

## High School Calendar

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 20**  
BOYS TENNIS: Adams Central at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Bellmont, 4:30 p.m.  
GIRLS SOCCER: Heritage at Norwell, 7 p.m.  
**THURSDAY, SEPT 21**  
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Heritage, 6:15 p.m.  
BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Leo, 5 p.m.; Bluffton at Concordia, 5 p.m.  
VOLLEYBALL: DeKalb at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Eastbrook at Bluffton, 6 p.m.; Southern Wells at Whitko, 6 p.m.  
**FRIDAY, SEPT 22**  
FOOTBALL: East Noble at Norwell, 7 p.m.; Southern Wells at Bluffton, 7 p.m.  
GIRLS GOLF: (regional) Norwell, Bluffton at Noble Hawk, 8:30 a.m.  
**SATURDAY, SEPT 23**  
BOYS SOCCER: Columbia City at Norwell, 11:30 a.m.  
BOYS TENNIS: Norwell at Delta Varsity Invitational, 9 a.m.  
CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Huntington Univer-

sity, 9 a.m.  
VOLLEYBALL: ACAC Tournament, Bluffton, Southern Wells at Heritage, 9 a.m.  
**MONDAY, SEPT 25**  
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Huntington North, 6:30 p.m.  
GIRLS SOCCER: Huntington North at Norwell, 6:30 p.m.  
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Adams Central, 7:30 p.m.; Bluffton at New Haven, 6 p.m.; Southern Wells at Tri-Central, 6 p.m.  
**TUESDAY, SEPT 26**  
BOYS TENNIS: (Sectional) Bluffton, Norwell at Norwell 4:30 p.m. TBD  
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Bellmont, 7:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Heritage, 6 p.m.; Jay County at Southern Wells, 7:30 p.m.  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27**  
GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Woodlan, 5:30 p.m.  
**THURSDAY, SEPT 28**  
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at Blackford, 6:30 p.m.  
VOLLEYBALL: New Haven at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Woodlan, 7:30 p.m.

## Sports Roundup

### Tigers ranked No. 2 in latest AP high school football poll

The Bluffton Tigers football team has jumped to No. 2 (2A) in the latest weekly football rankings by the Associated Press.

In last week's poll, Bluffton sat in fourth, and leaped over LaVille (5-0), and Indianapolis Secca.

The Tigers are 5-0 on the season with four weeks left to go. Their marquee victory came against South Adams, who has receiving votes in 1A, in which Bluffton won 41-6. Its biggest test will come in a few weeks with No. 2 Adams Central coming to town.

To see the full AP rankings, head to page 7.

### Knights fall to NE8 foe Eagles in volleyball

Norwell lost at home against Columbia City in three sets Tuesday night at The Castle.

The Knights lost the first set 25-23, the second 25-19, and the third 25-21. Their record is now 13-7 (0-2 NE8) on the season.

Hope Mitchell and Macie Saalfrank led the team with six kills, Jordyn Xayyachack with 19 digs, Kennody Williams with one

block, Marlee Wenger with 14 assists, and Jenna Osborn with two aces.

Norwell lost the junior varsity match in two sets (25-19, 25-22), while the freshmen team lost in two sets (25-18, 25-24).

Norwell will host DeKalb at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, Sept. 21.

### Tigers fall to Jets in V-ball

Bluffton's volleyball team fell to Adams Central in three games Tuesday night at the Tiger Den.

The Tigers lost the first set 25-23, the second 25-15, and the third 25-20. Their record is now 7-11 (1-4 ACAC).

Stat leaders for the varsity team were Maryn Schreiber, with eight kills and six stuff blocks, Haley Gibson with 15 assists, and Marly Drayer with three aces and 18 digs.

The junior varsity team lost in two sets (25-21, 25-20).

Stat leaders for the varsity match were Rori Drayer and Rylynn Penick with three kills each, Isla Gibson with six assists and two aces, Sophie Eisenhut with two aces and one stuff block, and Madelyn Funk with 12 digs.

Bluffton will host Eastbrook at 7 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 21.

# Transfers are fueling some of college football's biggest success stories as teams embrace portal

By RALPH D. RUSSO  
AP College Football Writer

Clemson, the reigning Atlantic Coast Conference champion, has one player on its depth chart who arrived in Death Valley via the transfer portal: The backup quarterback.

No. 4 Florida State is trying to reclaim the ACC crown from the Tigers, and has used the portal to supercharge a rebuild under coach Mike Norvell. Most of the Seminoles' best players used to play at other schools.

Seminole vs. Tiger is one of several huge matchups this weekend in college football and one that feels like a referendum on roster management in the sport's new era.

Clemson sits right outside the AP Top 25, having already taken a loss that again sparked questions about whether Coach Dabo Swinney's program is working the transfer market aggressively enough since the rules changed in 2021.

"Do I prefer the portal? No, but am I opposed to it? No, absolutely not." Swinney said the day after the Tigers were upset at Duke.

He better not be because through three weeks of this season the transfer portal appears to be one of the big winners.

Whether it's Florida State re-emerging as a national power, Deion Sanders' extreme makeover at Colorado, Texas State's stunning upset of a Big 12 team or a Pac-12 resurgence fueled by transfer quarterbacks, reasons to embrace college football free agency are everywhere.

"I do think there is a bit of a narrative out there, the portal is not sustainable," Florida State general manager of personnel Darrick Yravy said. "Well, it's only been around for a little bit. I don't think anyone really knows what it is and what it isn't. But we're trying to field the best football team every single

(Continued on Page 7)



# News-Banner Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### High School

6A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Brownsburg	5-0	286		1
2. Center Grove	4-1	272	T2	
3. Indpls Ben Davis	4-1	244	T2	
4. Westfield	5-0	214		5
5. Crown Point	5-0	164		7
6. Hamilton So.	4-1	142		4
7. Fishers	3-2	86		6
8. Indpls Cathedral	3-2	80		10
9. Warsaw	5-0	46		NR
10. Carmel	3-2	44		NR

Others receiving votes: Penn 42, Carroll (Fort Wayne) 12, Lawrence North 10, Lawrence Central 8.

5A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Ft. Wayne Snider	5-0	300		1
2. Bloomington North	5-0	254		2
3. Valparaiso	4-1	232		3
4. Plainfield	5-0	208		4
5. Bloomington South	4-1	170		5
6. Merrillville	4-1	154		6
7. Mishawaka	4-1	128		7
8. Lafayette Harrison	4-1	114		8
9. Floyd Central	4-1	34		NR
10. Decatur Central	3-2	22		NR

Others receiving votes: Ev. North 14, Concord 10, Franklin 4, Hammond Central 2, Castle 2, Michigan City 2.

4A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. E. Central	5-0	298		1
2. Kokomo	5-0	246		3
3. Ev. Reitz	5-0	238		2
4. Ev. Memorial	5-0	178		4
5. Greenfield	5-0	158		5
6. Columbia City	5-0	130		6
7. Northridge	4-1	108		7
8. Indpls Roncalli	3-2	92		8
9. New Haven	5-0	68		NR
10. New Palestine	3-2	56		10

Others receiving votes: New Prairie 34, Missisnewa 18, Northview 14, Indpls Brebeuf 4, Leo 4, Martinsville 2, S. Bend Riley 2.

3A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Indpls Chatard	5-0	300		1
2. Heritage Hills	5-0	224		3
3. Lawrenceburg	4-1	198		4
4. W. Lafayette	4-1	174		5
(tie) Guerin Catholic	4-1	174		2
6. Hanover Central	5-0	146		6
7. Hamilton Hts.	5-0	114		8
8. Tri-West	4-1	94		7
9. Tippecanoe Valley	5-0	50		NR
10. Gibson Southern	3-2	48		NR

Others receiving votes: Peru 42, Knox 40, W. Noble 22, Vincennes 20, Delta 4.

2A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Brownstown	5-0	278		2
2. Bluffton	5-0	226		4
3. LaVille	5-0	220		3
4. Triton Central	4-1	202		5
5. Linton	4-1	158		7
6. Heritage Christian	4-1	154		NR
7. Indpls Secaciana	4-1	138		1
8. N. Posey	4-1	100		6
9. Northeastern	5-0	76		10
10. Alexandria	5-0	58		NR

Others receiving votes: Ft. Wayne Luers 12, S. Vermillion 12, Paoli 6, Andean 4, Cascade 2, Greencastle 2, Rochester 2.

1A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Indpls Lutheran	5-0	300		1
2. Adams Central	5-0	264		2
3. Carroll (Flora)	5-0	238		3
4. Providence	5-0	194		4
5. Indpls Park Tudor	5-0	164		5
6. S. Putnam	4-1	134		6
7. Sheridan	4-1	124		7
8. Madison-Grant	4-1	82		NR
9. Pioneer	4-1	60		NR
10. N. Judson	3-2	26		10

(tie) Clinton Prairie 4-1, 26, 9  
Others receiving votes: N. White 18, Springs Valley 6, Triton 6, S. Adams 4, Covenant Christian 2, N. Vermillion 2.

## BASEBALL

### American League

East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
z-Baltimore	94	56	.627		
z-Tampa Bay	93	59	.612		2
Toronto	84	67	.556	10½	
New York	76	75	.503	18½	
Boston	75	76	.497	19½	

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	80	72	.526		
Cleveland	72	80	.474		8
Detroit	70	80	.467		9
Chicago	58	94	.382		22
Kansas City	50	102	.329		30

West Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	84	67	.556		
Seattle	82	68	.547	1½	
Texas	82	68	.547	1½	
Los Angeles	68	83	.450	16	
Oakland	46	104	.307	37½	

z-clinched playoff berth  
**Monday's Games**  
Kansas City 6, Cleveland 4  
Cincinnati 7, Minnesota 3  
Chicago White Sox 6, Washington 1  
Boston 4, Texas 2  
Baltimore 8, Houston 7  
Seattle 5, Oakland 0  
L.A. Dodgers 8, Detroit 3

**Tuesday's Games**  
Tampa Bay 6, L.A. Angels 2  
Washington 4, Chicago White Sox 3  
Toronto 7, N.Y. Yankees 1  
Minnesota 7, Cincinnati 0  
Kansas City 7, Cleveland 6  
Boston at Texas, late  
Baltimore at Houston, late  
Seattle at Oakland, late  
Detroit at L.A. Dodgers, late

**Wednesday's Games**  
Minnesota (Ober 7-6) at Cincinnati (Greene 4-6), 12:35 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Kopech 5-12) at Washington (Gray 7-12), 1:05 p.m.  
Boston (Bello 12-9) at Texas (Gray 8-8), 2:05 p.m.  
Baltimore (Bradish 11-7) at Houston (Javier 9-4), 2:10 p.m.  
Cleveland (Giolito 8-13) at Kansas City (Greinke 1-15), 2:10 p.m.  
Seattle (Kirby 10-10) at Oakland (Estes 0-0), 3:37 p.m.  
L.A. Angels (Detmers 3-10) at Tampa Bay (Civale 7-3), 6:40 p.m.  
Toronto (Gausman 11-9) at N.Y. Yankees (King 4-6), 7:05 p.m.  
Detroit (Olson 4-7) at L.A. Dodgers (Miller 10-3), 10:10 p.m.

**Thursday's Games**  
Philadelphia (Nola 12-9) at Atlanta (Elder 12-4), 12:20 p.m.  
Minnesota (Ober 7-6) at Cincinnati (Greene 4-6), 12:35 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Kopech 5-12) at Washington (Gray 7-12), 1:05 p.m.  
San Francisco (Webb 10-12) at Arizona (Kelly 11-7), 3:40 p.m.  
Colorado (Anderson 0-5) at San Diego (Lugo 7-7), 4:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets (Senga 11-7) at Miami (Pérez 5-5), 6:40 p.m.  
Pittsburgh (Keller 12-9) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 16-4), 7:40 p.m.  
Milwaukee (Houser 6-4) at St. Louis (Thompson 5-6), 7:45 p.m.  
Detroit (Olson 4-7) at L.A. Dodgers (Miller 10-3), 10:10 p.m.

**Friday's Games**  
Milwaukee at St. Louis, 1:15 p.m.  
Atlanta at Washington, 7:05 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 7:15 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.  
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

**Saturday's Games**  
Atlanta at Washington, 7:05 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 7:15 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**  
Atlanta at Washington, 7:05 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 7:15 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.

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L.A. Angels at Tampa Bay, 1:10 p.m.  
Toronto at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.  
Baltimore at Cleveland, 7:15 p.m.  
Detroit at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.

### National League

East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	97	54	.642		
Philadelphia	82	69	.543	15	
Miami	79	73	.520	18½	
New York	70	81	.464	27	
Washington	67	85	.441	30½	

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	85	66	.563		
Chicago	78	72	.520	6½	
Cincinnati	79	74	.516	7	
Pittsburgh	70	80	.467	14½	
St. Louis	67	84	.444	18	

West Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Los Angeles	92	57	.617		
Arizona	79	72	.523	14	
San Francisco	76	74	.507	16½	
San Diego	73	78	.483	20	
Colorado	56	94	.373	36½	

x-clinched division  
**Monday's Games**  
Cincinnati 7, Minnesota 3  
N.Y. Mets 2, Miami 1  
Chicago White Sox 6, Washington 1  
Philadelphia 7, Atlanta 1  
St. Louis 1, Milwaukee 0  
L.A. Dodgers 8, Detroit 3  
San Diego 11, Colorado 9

**Tuesday's Games**  
Washington 4, Chicago White Sox 3  
Miami 4, N.Y. Mets 3  
Atlanta 9, Philadelphia 3  
Minnesota 7, Cincinnati 0  
Milwaukee 7, St. Louis 3  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, late  
Colorado at San Diego, late  
San Francisco at Arizona, late  
Detroit at L.A. Dodgers, late

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N.Y. Mets at Philadelphia, 7:15 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Chicago Cubs, 7:40 p.m.

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**Saturday's Games**<





**On the carousel**

Emilia Dixon rides the carousel with her mom, Hannah, during the opening night of the Street Fair. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

## Texas prisoner accused of killing 22 older women is slain by cellmate

DALLAS (AP) — A Texas prisoner accused of killing 22 older women over two years, preying on them so he could steal jewelry and other valuables, was slain Tuesday by his cellmate while serving a life sentence, prison officials said.

Billy Chemirmir, 50, who was convicted last year in the slayings of two women, was found dead in his cell at a prison in rural East Texas, Texas Department of Criminal Justice spokesperson Hannah Haney said. He was killed by his cellmate who was also serving a prison sentence for murder, according to Haney.

Chemirmir's death comes about two weeks after Texas' 100 prisons were placed on a rare statewide lockdown because of a rise in the number of killings inside the facilities, which prison officials have said were related to drugs.

Haney did not release the name of the cellmate, how Chemirmir was killed or what may have led to the slaying.

Family members of those he was accused of killing

expressed shock and relief at the news.

"My mother died in fear. This man did not have a peaceful passing. There's some relief in feeling that he didn't get off easily," Shannon Dion, whose 92-year-old mother, Doris Gleason, was among those Chemirmir was charged with killing, said at a news conference.

Time after time, the deaths in Dallas and nearby cities were initially determined to be from natural causes, even as family members raised alarm about missing jewelry.

Chemirmir was caught after a 91-year-old woman survived a 2018 attack and told police a man had forced his way into her apartment at an independent living community for seniors, tried to smother her with a pillow and took her jewelry.

Police said they found Chemirmir the following day in the parking lot of his apartment complex holding jewelry and cash, having just thrown away a large red jewelry box. Documents in the jewelry box led them to the home of Lu Thi Har-

ris, 81, who was dead in her bedroom.

After Chemirmir's arrest, police across the area reexamined deaths, and the charges against him grew. Many of the victims' children have said they were left perplexed by the deaths at the time, as their mothers, though older, were still healthy and active.

The first capital murder trial of Chemirmir for the slaying of Harris ended in mistrial in Dallas County. He was later convicted in a retrial for Harris' death and was then convicted of a second killing in the death of Mary Brooks, 87.

Following his second conviction, family members of those Chemirmir was accused of killing gathered in a Dallas courtroom to face him. Ellen French House showed Chemirmir two photos of her mother: one of Norma French alive, the other after the 85-year-old was killed.

"This is my beautiful mother," House said as she displayed the first photo. "This is my mother after you pried her wedding ring off of her finger that she couldn't even get off."

## Florida jury pool could give Trump an advantage in documents case

MIAMI (AP) — The classified documents indictment of Donald Trump would seem, on paper at least, to be the most straightforward of the four criminal cases the former president is facing.

Reams of classified files were stashed in Trump's office and storage room and he boastfully showed off to guests one such document he acknowledged was "secret," federal prosecutors have alleged. His own lawyer is quoted in the indictment as saying Trump encouraged him to mislead investigators who demanded the documents back, and prosecutors have since secured the cooperation of a Mar-a-Lago staffer who says the ex-president asked about deleting surveillance footage at the Palm Beach property.

But that doesn't make the path to conviction easy, particularly with the case set for trial in a Florida courthouse expected to draw its jury pool from a conservative-leaning region of the state that supported Trump in the 2020 election. Those built-in demographics may be a challenge for prosecutors despite the evidence at their disposal, underscoring the impossibility of untangling the law from politics in an

election-year trial involving a former president who is seeking to return to the White House.

"The more conservative the counties, the highest chance he has to find jurors that would be sympathetic with him," said Richard Kibbey, a criminal defense attorney in Stuart, Florida, part of the Fort Pierce district where the jury pool is expected to be taken from.

When it comes to finding truly impartial jurors, he added, "It's going to be very difficult given the political climate across the country. Jurors will bring their own biases into the courtroom."

Unless the trial location is moved or its date pushed back, it will take place starting next May in Fort Pierce before U.S. District Judge Aileen Cannon, a Trump appointee who drew scrutiny last year for granting a Trump team request to appoint an independent arbiter to review the classified documents seized from Mar-a-Lago. That decision was reversed by a unanimous three-judge appeals panel.

For months, a grand jury in Washington had been hearing testimony in the case, leading to expect-

tations that any charges against Trump would be brought there. Instead, the indictment wound up being filed in the Southern District of Florida, enabling special counsel Jack Smith's team to avoid any protracted fights with Trump's lawyers over the appropriate venue for the case but creating the potential for a less desirable jury pool, at least politically.

The jury selection process is meant to weed out personal or partisan bias that could taint the case, with jurors instructed to make decisions solely on the basis of the evidence they hear. But in a federal court system where convictions overwhelmingly outnumber acquittals, defense lawyers — and prosecutors, for that matter — could nonetheless look to jury selection as a way to elicit an edge.

"Picking a jury is an art. It's not a science. And whether you're a prosecutor or a defense attorney, you use everything in your arsenal to seat the best jury you can get for your case," said Michael Sherwin, a former federal prosecutor in Miami who served during the Trump administration as acting U.S. Attorney in Washington.



**Southern Wells students recognized**

The Southern Wells school board recognized students who received the 2023 College Board National Recognition Award during their meeting Tuesday. Pictured in front is Ella Lahr, Alyssa Green and Alaina Nusbaumer; Malaina Culbertson and Derek Rockwell were not present. In back are members of the school board, Andrew Pursifull, Todd Fiechter, Delora Schneider, and Chad Roush, teacher Joel Roush and Superintendent Trent Lehman. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

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<b>Memorial Chapel</b> thegmcfamily.com	<b>JC'S GARAGE DOOR</b> SALES & SERVICE jcsgaragedoor.com	<b>Daniel's JEWELERS</b> daniels-jewelers.net
<b>FISHER'S GARAGE DOORS</b> fishersgaragedoors.com	<b>3 RIVERS</b> 3riversfcu.org	<b>Myers FUNERAL HOMES</b> myersfuneralhomes.com
<b>SRG STEFFEN Financial Group</b> steffinancial.com	<b>RiverStone DENTAL</b> riverstonedental.net	<b>Bluffton Tire</b> blufftontire.com
<b>ICAV</b> icav.us	<b>HIDAY AUTOMOTIVE GROUP</b> hidaymotors.com	<b>Edward Jones</b> EdwardJones.com
<b>Lengerich MEATS</b> lengerichmeats.com	<b>Jerry Flack &amp; Associates</b> jerryflackinsuranceandinvestments.com	<b>La Fontaine Center</b> A RHF Community lafontainecenter.org
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**Ossian on Parade**

At top, Kelly Engineer Mike Moriarity drives a Bluffton Fire Department Truck in the Ossian Days parade Saturday. Mason Sanders and his son Sebastian Sanders wave from the back of the truck. Below, the Norwell Knights marching band opened the Ossian Days parade with playing the national anthem. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

# United Auto Workers threaten to expand targeted strike if there is no substantive progress by Friday

By DAVID KOENIG  
AP Business Writer

The United Auto Workers union is stepping up pressure on Detroit's Big Three by threatening to expand its strike unless it sees major progress in contract negotiations by Friday.

In a video statement late Monday, UAW President Shawn Fain said workers at more factories will join those who are now in the fifth day of a strike at three plants.

"We're not going to keep waiting around forever while they drag this out ... and we're not messing around," Fain said in announcing the noon Eastern time Friday deadline for escalating the strike unless there is "serious progress" in the talks. The union plans to disclose the locations of new strikes during an online presentation to members that morning.

Ford, General Motors and Stellantis said they want to settle the strike, and they held back from directly criticizing the escalation threat.

Mark Stewart, the North American chief operating officer of Stellantis, the successor to Fiat Chrysler, said the company is still looking for common ground with the UAW.

"I hope that we're able to do that by Friday," Stewart said on CNBC.

GM said in a statement, "We're continuing to bargain in good faith with the union to reach an agreement as quickly as possible for the benefit of our team members, customers, suppliers and communities across the U.S."

A Ford spokeswoman said Tuesday that negotiations were continuing, but provided no additional details.

Late Tuesday, Canadian union Unifor said it reached a tentative agreement with Ford to avert a midnight strike by 5,600 workers at several plants in Canada. The union did not immediately disclose terms of the deal, which it said was endorsed unanimously by its bargaining committee.

Unifor opened negotiations with the Detroit Three on Aug. 10 before narrowing discussions to Ford as

the target company on Aug. 29. The union will seek to use the Ford deal as a pattern for thousands of GM and Stellantis workers in Canada.

In Washington, the Biden administration reversed a plan to send acting Labor Secretary Julie Su and senior adviser Gene Sperling to Detroit this week to meet with both sides, according to a White House official. Last week, President Joe Biden publicly backed the UAW and said the officials could play a positive role.

The White House now believes that since negotiations are taking place, "it is most productive for Sperling and Su to continue their discussions from Washington and allow talks to move forward," said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the private plans.

Fain had discounted the need for help from Washington, saying "This battle is not about the president," and some Democrats opposed the White House involvement.

"I do not believe that the president himself should intervene as he did in the railroad strike in these talks. He should not be at that table," said Rep. Debbie Dingell, whose congressional district includes part of southeast Michigan.

So far the strike is limited to about 13,000 workers at a Ford assembly plant in Wayne, Michigan, a GM factory in Wentzville, Missouri, and a Stellantis plant in Toledo, Ohio.

However, layoffs are starting to occur at other locations as the strike crimps the industry's supply chain.

In Toledo, 12 different shops that supply the Jeep plant where UAW is striking have laid off more than 1,600 workers, according to Bruce Baumhower, president of the union local in northeast Ohio. More than half will get state unemployment benefits, while workers at two companies located inside the Jeep plant have been approved for payments from the union strike fund, "but they can't picket because they're not on strike," he said.

GM warned Monday that the strike in Wentzville, near St. Louis, could force the company to idle an assembly plant in Kansas City early this week. On Tuesday, the company said that it expected to keep production going in Kansas City for at least one more day.

The automakers normally provide supplemental or partial pay to workers who are idled because of supply chain problems, but Ford and GM have said they will not do that this time because the shutdowns are caused by a strike. The union argues that layoffs are a choice by management, but the union's ability to challenge the change in policy is unclear.

United States Steel Corp. said it was temporarily idling one of its blast furnaces in Granite City, Illinois, an indication that the company expects the strike to reduce demand for steel. There are about 1,450 workers at the site — most of them represented by the United Steelworkers, but the company said many workers won't be affected by the furnace shutdown.

The area's congresswoman, Democrat Nikki Budzinski, said U.S. Steel was using the strike as an excuse to idle the furnace. "Their effort to blame this announcement on the United Auto Workers strike is a shameful attempt to pit working people against one another," she said.

A parts supplier, CIE Newcor, told Michigan officials that it expects a one-month closure of four plants in the state to start Oct. 2 and idle nearly 300 workers.

The UAW is seeking wage increases of more than 30 percent over four years and other sweeteners. The union says workers deserve a bigger share of record profits that the companies posted as prices rose sharply on strong consumer demand and a limited supply of vehicles because of chip shortages and other issues.

The companies say they can't afford to meet the UAW's demands because they must invest those profits to help them make the transition to electric vehicles.

# Sacramento prosecutor sues California's capital city over failure to clean up homeless encampments

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Sacramento's top prosecutor is suing the city's leaders over failure to clean up homeless encampments, escalating a monthslong dispute with leaders in California's capital city.

County District Attorney Thien Ho announced the lawsuit Tuesday during a news conference in Sacramento, saying the city is seeing a "collapse into chaos" that he said reflects the "erosion of everyday life." A group of residents and business owners also filed a companion lawsuit against the city.

Ho said his office had asked the city to enforce local laws around sidewalk obstruction and to create additional professionally operated camping sites, but that the city did not.

The lawsuit includes accounts from dozens of city residents living around 14 encampments. Some homeowners recounted being threatened with firearms at their front door and

having their properties broken into and vandalized — which has driven some from their homes. Local business owners said they have spent thousands of dollars to upgrade their security systems after their workers were assaulted by homeless people, while calls to city officials seeking help have gone unanswered, the lawsuit said.

"This is a model for the people to stand up and hold their government accountable," Ho said in an interview Tuesday. "All I'm asking is the city do its job."

Sacramento County had nearly 9,300 homeless people in 2022, based on data from the annual Point in Time count. That was up 67 percent from 2019. Roughly three-quarters of the county's homeless population is unsheltered, and the majority of that group are living on Sacramento streets.

Sacramento Mayor Darrell Steinberg said Ho was politicizing the issue. The city has added 1,200 emer-

gency shelter beds, passed ordinances to protect sidewalks and schools and has created more affordable housing, Steinberg said in a statement.

The city is trying to avoid "the futile trap of just moving people endlessly from one block to the next," Steinberg said. People's frustrations are "absolutely justified" but Ho's actions are a "performative distraction," he said.

Homeless tent encampments have grown visibly in cities across the U.S. but especially in California, which is home to nearly one-third of unhoused people in the country.

Ho had threatened in August to file charges against city officials if they didn't implement changes within 30 days. In a letter to the city, Ho demanded that Sacramento implement a daytime camping ban where homeless people have to put their belongings in storage between 6 a.m. and 9 p.m., among other rules.

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**Second place float**

This year's second place float went to BBR Imports of Bluffton, which received prize of \$200. (Photo by Barbara Barbieri)



Pictured in the photo from left, Bluffton Mayor John Whicker, Kelsey Grover, Caleb Grover, Kate Sumrall and Dave Sumrall all of ITOWN Church, Wells County Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible and Rachel Reinhard of Grace & Mercy. (Photo submitted)

**Chamber celebrates ITOWN Church groundbreaking**

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce proudly welcomed ITOWN Church to Bluffton with a ground breaking ceremony on the north side of town on September 15, marking a significant milestone in the community's spiritual landscape.

Founded and led by Pastors Dave and Kate Sumrall, ITOWN Church has become a beacon of faith and community in Fishers, Indiana, since its inception in 2010. Over the years, it has grown from a small launch team to serving thousands of worshippers across three locations, including Bluffton.

Pastor Dave Sumrall shared the journey of ITOWN Church's expansion to Bluffton, saying, "Bluffton started with a small group of 70 to 80 people, who just started watching us online, gathering together in their homes. And it grew large enough to be at the Bluffton High School here in town." Their commitment to building a

vibrant spiritual community led them to a partnership with the Bluffton congregation.

Today, ITOWN Church is thriving and now owns 37 acres of land where they plan to construct a 16,000 square foot facility. This state-of-the-art building will include a 500-seat auditorium, dedicated kids' areas, and a café serving specialty drinks throughout the week. It aims to be a welcoming space for church members and the community to gather, study, and find solace.

Pastor Dave Sumrall also expressed his openness to future possibilities, saying, "We believe the building is positioned in a way that we've got plenty of land to do whatever God leads us to do with the rest of the property."

The church's construction approach involves five separate steel buildings, each serving a unique purpose, which will be joined together to create a unified facility. Construction is on a fast track, with the goal of completing all

infrastructure, including the parking lot, by January. The final construction is expected to be completed by the end of the year.

While the new facility takes shape, ITOWN Church invites the community to visit their temporary location at the local high school, emphasizing their commitment to Bluffton's growth and well-being.

Caleb Grover, who leads the Bluffton campus, received praise for his dedication and love for the community. "We are very excited about having a permanent home in the community of Bluffton because we love this city, and we're just excited to be here for the long haul," said Pastor Dave Sumrall.

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce extends its heartfelt congratulations to ITOWN Church on this significant milestone and looks forward to witnessing their continued positive impact on the Bluffton community.

**Oklahoma church expelled after pastor defends his blackface**

By PETER SMITH  
Associated Press

The Southern Baptist Convention has ousted an Oklahoma church whose pastor defended his blackface performance at one church event and his impersonation of a Native American woman at another.

The Executive Committee of the nation's largest Protestant denomination voted Tuesday that Matoaka Baptist Church of Ochelata "be deemed not in friendly cooperation with the convention" — the official terminology for an expulsion.

The church's pastor, Sherman Jaquess, dressed in blackface for a 2017 church Valentine's Day event, in which he claimed to be impersonating the late soul singer Ray Charles. Jaquess wore dark facial makeup, a large Afro wig and dark glasses and smiled broadly as he sang a duet. Some in the crowd can be heard laughing during the video of the performance.

The video was brought to light earlier this year by a Tulsa community activist, Marq Lewis.

Another Facebook photo, published by the Examiner-Enterprise of Bartlesville, also surfaced, showing Jaquess dressed as a Native American woman at a "Cowboys and Indians" night at a church camp. The photo shows a man dressed as a cowboy, holding an apparently fake gun to Jaquess in jest while a boy dressed as a cowboy is poised with raised fists next to him.

In a Facebook post earlier this year, Lewis wrote: "He didn't just mimic Ray Charles, he distorted the features and culture of African Americans and also Indigenous Americans with his offensive Pocahontas caricature. He is promoting the hatred that sees African Americans and Indigenous Americans as not only different but less than."

Jaquess said in an interview that it's "repugnant to have people think you're a racist," especially when he said he was paying tribute to Charles.

"If it had been done in a derogatory or hateful manner, that would be one thing, but the church was full of people. Nobody took it as a racial slur," he said, contending that people dredged up the years-old posts after he spoke against drag shows in Bartlesville.

Jaquess, who became a Christian in a Southern Baptist church at age 13, also said that he's part Cherokee and he wasn't attempting to caricature Native people.

He said the denomination reached out a few months ago about how they would send a packet "where I would have to prove I wasn't a racist." Jaquess said he never received anything until Friday when notice of the pending vote and his lack of cooperation arrived. He said he called but couldn't reach anyone.

His church, he said, may appeal the ouster to the SBC's full annual meeting next year, as is its right.

Now, "I don't know if I want to be a part of a denomination that would make a judgment about you without even talking to you," said Jaquess, who said he committed his life to ministry in Southern Baptist churches. "The only thing I see that they do well is cash my check."

But Lewis praised the Executive Committee's action.

"For him (Jaquess) to not apologize, and double down on it, to me I felt this is a pastor that needed to be exposed," Lewis said in an interview. "I'm grateful that the Southern Baptist organization said, 'We don't want to have anything to do with this.'"

Blackface performances date back to minstrel shows of the 1800s, in which performers darkened their faces to create bigoted caricatures of Black people.

Since Southern Baptist churches are independent, the convention can't tell a church what to do or whom to have as a pastor, but it can oust a church from its membership.

The SBC's constitution says a church can only be deemed in friendly cooperation if, among other things, it "does not act to affirm, approve, or endorse discriminatory behavior on the basis of ethnicity."

The conservative denomination has in recent years expelled churches for various reasons — most prominently Saddleback Church, the California megachurch ousted earlier this year for having women pastors.

In 2018 and 2022, the Executive Committee ousted a Georgia church and a New Jersey congregation amid concerns over alleged discriminatory behavior.

Other reasons for ouster include a failure to address sexual abuse and for acting to "endorse homosexual behavior."

Separately, the committee faced its third leadership setback in a matter of months when its anticipated appointment of an interim president fell through.

Retired Kentucky pastor Dan Summerlin, who had been recommended by the committee's officers, withdrew his candidacy, saying Tuesday that he wouldn't have time for the job while caring for his wife during cancer treatment.

The committee was meeting for the first time since its interim president, Tennessee pastor Willie McLaurin, resigned in August after it came to light that he had falsified his educational credentials on his resume. McLaurin had been the leading candidate to become the permanent president after the committee failed to approve the nomination of its former chairman, Jared Wellman, as president in May.

The committee said in a statement Tuesday that based on an internal investigation, it concluded that "McLaurin engaged in both academic and professional fraud." But it said no evidence was found "of wrongdoing or direct financial harm to the Executive Committee." It did not elaborate.

"While the Executive Committee acknowledges the collateral, reputational harm and indirect financial impact resulting from McLaurin's misrepresentations, the Executive Committee does not plan to proceed with taking any legal action against McLaurin at this time," it said.

Jonathan Howe, who as vice president had been serving in the interim role, will continue that role, according to the committee.

The job of the chief executive involves leading the day-to-day business of the committee, which acts on behalf of the convention when its annual meeting is not in session. The previous permanent president, Ronnie Floyd, resigned amid turmoil over the Executive Committee's handling of a third-party investigation into how the committee addressed sexual abuse reports.

Amid tight finances, the committee recently cut five full-time staff positions and two contractor positions.

**Zelenskyy speaks to UN General Assembly**

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that Russia is "weaponizing" everything from food and energy to abducted children in its war against Ukraine — and he warned world leaders that the same could happen to them.

"When hatred is weaponized against one nation, it never stops there," he said at the U.N. General Assembly's annual top-level meeting. "The goal of the present war against Ukraine is to turn our land, our people, our lives, our resources into weapons against you — against the international rules-based order."

The war in Ukraine has deepened major global supply disruptions caused by the pandemic, driving a huge spike in food and energy prices, jolting the global economy and increasing hardship in many developing countries.

Decades-old energy supply channels to Europe from Russia, a major oil and gas producer, were halted or

severely disrupted by the war due to sanctions, trade disputes, pipeline shutoffs and a major push by Western countries to find alternative sources. Both Russia and Ukraine also are major grain exporters, and Russia withdrew this past summer from a deal that allowed shipments of Ukrainian grain through the Black Sea.

Zelenskyy pointed to the food and fuel crunches, and he highlighted what Ukraine says were kidnappings of at least tens of thousands of children taken from Ukraine after Moscow's invasion: "What will happen to them?"

"Those children in Russia are taught to hate Ukraine, and all ties with their families are broken. And this is clearly a genocide," Zelenskyy said in remarks that ran 15 minutes — the meeting's often-disregarded time limit.

The International Criminal Court issued an arrest warrant in March for Russian President Vladimir Putin and another official, accusing them of abducting

children from Ukraine. Russian officials have denied any forced transfers of children, saying some Ukrainian youngsters are in foster care.

Russia gets its chance to address the General Assembly on Saturday. Deputy U.N. Ambassador Dmitry Polyansky sat in Russia's seat during Zelenskyy's address.

"Did he speak?" Polyansky said with a wry smile when an Associated Press reporter asked about his reaction to the address. "I didn't notice he was speaking. I was on my phone."

Zelenskyy took to the world stage at a sensitive point in his country's campaign to maintain international support for its fight. Nearly 19 months after Moscow launched a full-scale invasion, Ukrainian forces are three months into a counteroffensive that has not gone as fast or as well as initially hoped.

Ukraine and its allies cast the country's cause as a battle for the rule of international law, for the sov-

eignty of every country with a powerful and potentially expansionist neighbor, and for the stability of global food and energy supplies.

"We must stand up to this naked aggression today and deter other would-be aggressors tomorrow," U.S. President Joe Biden told the assembly Tuesday in his own speech. As he pledged support to Ukraine, there was a round of applause, including from Zelenskyy.

Russia insists its war is justified, claiming that it is defending Russian speakers in Ukraine from a hostile government and protecting Russian interests against NATO encroachment, and more.

The war has raged longer and losses have been greater than Russia hoped, and the fighting has spurred widespread international condemnation against Moscow.

But the Kremlin also has influential friends that haven't joined the chorus of censure: China and India, for instance, have staked out neutral positions.

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Co-worker crises

Dear Annie: My boyfriend of five months has a female co-worker, "Leslie," who he has known and been close to for five years. She is also a single parent of two kids under 10.

I have met Leslie several times, and she has always been kind. I've never felt threatened by my boyfriend's relationship with her.

Last week, he asked me to meet him at his work so the two of us could go to lunch. When I got there, Leslie was in a panic because her sitter was sick and needed to go home.

My boyfriend turned to me, right in front of Leslie, and asked if I would mind going to her apartment and staying with the kids until she got off work.

I don't know these kids, and they don't know me. Leslie seemed fine with this, however.

I instantly felt angry. My boyfriend was putting me on the spot, not caring that it was my day off, and other than lunch with him, I had other plans.

I said no. I apologized to Leslie but said for several reasons, I was not willing to do this. My boyfriend couldn't understand why I wasn't willing to help her out.

We got into a big argument in the parking lot. I told him I didn't appreciate being put on the spot like that and him being willing to use me to fill another woman's needs. — Am I Right?

Dear Right: Yes, you are correct that putting you on the spot to babysit his co-worker's children when you were supposed to have lunch was inconsiderate. With that being said, remember that a good relationship isn't really looking to blame the other person but rather to compromise.

had other plans for your day off, so you were right to say no.

Dear Annie: I just saw your advice regarding a co-worker who talks too much, and your advice was to go to human resources.

I have a degree in human resources and would advise your reader to try to have a conversation with the employee first, as this may open the door to communication between the two of them.

Maybe that is why the co-worker keeps trying to engage in a conversation. If the conversation between the two of them doesn't solve the issue, then their manager would be the next step, and then HR.

There is a chain of command in the workplace that facilitates great relationships. I am sure you would rather a co-worker approach you with a problem rather than go straight to HR. — Works in HR

Dear HR: I always love hearing from professionals in their fields. Thank you for your letter. You bring up a great point, especially for issues in large corporations. Many smaller businesses with fewer employees than yours don't always have the same type of chain of command.

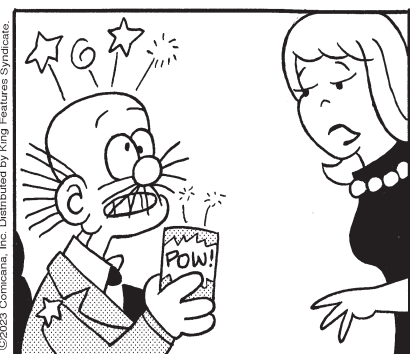
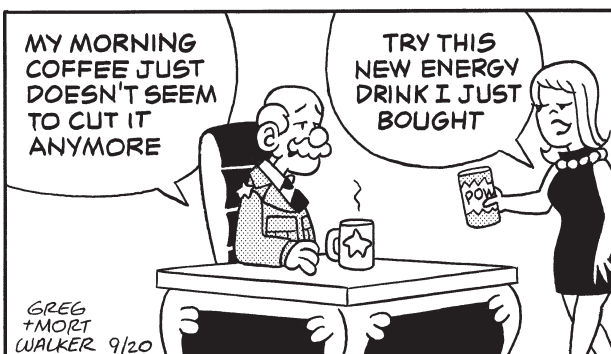
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Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



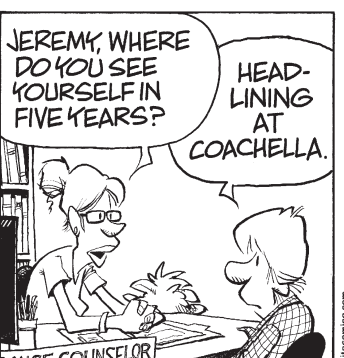
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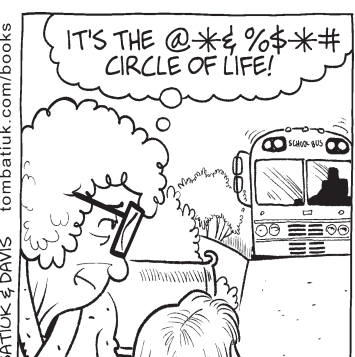
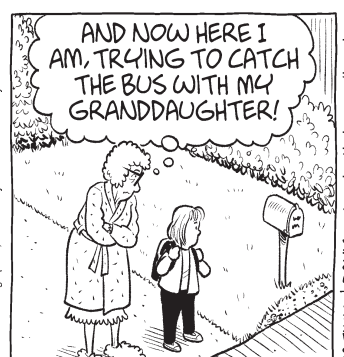
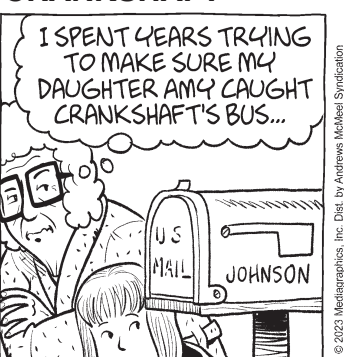
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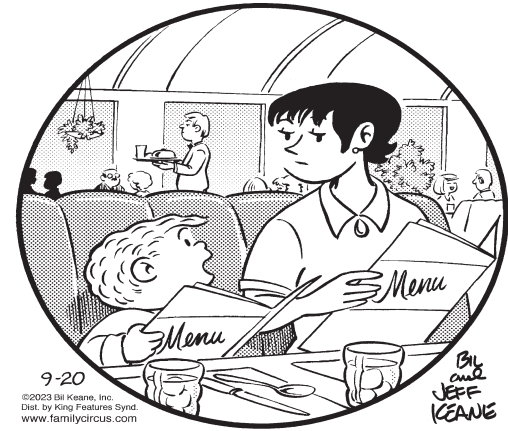
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Divine dilemma is that man is sinful and separated from God

Q: The days of Adam and Eve are long gone. We don't live in an archaic world and the sin that ruined life for them has nothing to do with living today in a modern and high-tech environment.

A: The people of the 21st century are no different from Adam and Eve. We may have added some sophisticated technology, built skyscrapers, and written several million books, but there is still a chasm between sinful man and holy God.

to Him. We can see this is true because people still sin, still defy authority, and still act independently of God, revealing the great gulf between mankind and God.

Adam and Eve chose to disobey God and plunged into a world that was spiritually dark and dead — and physically unproductive except by hard work and suffering. The world was under the judgment of God — and still is.

The divine dilemma is that man is sinful and separated from God. Because God is holy, He couldn't

automatically forgive or ignore man's rebellion still present today. Because God is love, He couldn't completely cast man aside. As He revealed Himself to Adam and Eve long ago, He has revealed Himself to mankind through His Son, Jesus Christ, who came to redeem mankind from sin.

The greatest act of love is to tell people about God's love through Christ, who willingly shed His blood on the cross for the sins of men, women, and children — past and present.

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

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Table with columns for date, time, and program details. Includes channels like WINM, CBS, and various news and entertainment programs.

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 23 mins and a 'Yesterday's answer' section.

Table with columns for date, time, and program details. Includes channels like HBO, MAX, SHOW, and TMC.



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

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Difficulty: ★★★

9/20

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## This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

155 N 450 E, Bluffton, Sept. 21 and 22, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Bedding, pet supplies, kid's bikes, collectibles, and nice misc. items.

"STILL DOWNSIZING", 2335 N. Fairway Lane, Bluffton, Sept. 21-22, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Sept. 23, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Quality furniture.

1520 SUTTON CIRCLE BARN SALE Household, Christmas, Vintage, Lamps, Chairs, Glider, TV, Misc. Sept. 21 & 22 8:00 AM-4:00 PM, Sept. 23 8:00 AM- Noon.

**ANNUAL GARAGE SALE** at the Imel barn, 8313 N. 600 W., Markle, Friday and Saturday, September 22 and 23, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. As always lots of great items, clean and well marked. Nice, small women's clothes, furniture, household. Bonus... Markle townwide sales as well!

316 S. WAYNE St., Bluffton, Sept. 21, 22, 23, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. \$1 to \$5 table, tools, toolbox, padlocks with keys, NEW Coleman camping stove, jewelry, purses, knitting supplies, diamond art supplies, home decor, ladies clothes (large to extra large), insulated lunch bags, much more. No kids clothes.

**HELOISE HINT:** To make extra money at your garage sale. You can sell vegetables from your garden or sell baked goods, such as homemade cookies, pies or cakes. Email [HELOISE@Heloise.com](mailto:HELOISE@Heloise.com).

## NOTICE

### Notices

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## Public Sale Calendar

**SEPTEMBER 26 - 6 p.m. - Steven H. Arnold, seller.** OK Modern Dry Cleaners, 404 S. Main St., Bluffton. Empty building, 1,078 sq. ft., 70'x55' lot, half bath. [Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.](http://HeartlandAuction.com), 260-724-3499, [heartlandauction.com](http://heartlandauction.com).

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 26 - 6 p.m. EST - Leo Thieme, owner.** Real estate 6 p.m.: 1,780 sq. feet, full basement, 3 bedroom, 2 full bath home, oversize 2 car attached garage, 3 acres, 6850 E 700 N, Decatur. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2007 Dodge Grand Caravan, 131k miles, appliances, antiques, collectibles, furniture, fish and animal mounts, household items, tools, etc. [Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckeburgAuction.com), [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**SEPTEMBER 28 - 1 p.m. AND SEPTEMBER 29 - 8 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Truck & equipment and online only equipment. Day 1: skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 Trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter containers, truck take off parts, more! Day 2 live and online bidding: 700+ lots! 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, dump, utility, & bucket trucks, day cabs, utility & semi trailers, SUVs, pickups, skid steer attachments. Accepting consignments! [Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckeburgAuction.com), [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**OCTOBER 1-8 - (Online Only) - Estate of Robert Isch, seller.** 1978 White 2-50 diesel tractor, 2015 Ex-Mark Laser-Z zero turn riding lawn mower, 2002 Simplicity lawn mower, 2006 Simplicity Legacy riding lawn mower, single axle utility trailer, tandem axle trailer, 14' hay wagon, 3 bottom plow, Winco generator, lawn and garden, tools, antique & modern furniture, antiques, primitives, glassware, household. Preview: Sept. 28, Oct. 5, from 3-6 p.m., 601 E St. Rd. 124, Monroe. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 8 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Larry Beer, owner.** Sports collector's dream! 950+ lots featuring lots of sports memorabilia, signed jerseys, bats & balls, MLB, NFL, MLB cards (some cards Graded), die cast toys, stamp collection, yard & hand tools, Yamaha gas powered golf cart, like new Cub Cadet riding lawn mower, household, furniture, Fenton glass, Roseville & Hull pottery, more! Preview: Oct. 5, 4-6 p.m., 909 Woodridge Ct., Decatur. [Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckeburgAuction.com), [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**BIDDING NOW OPEN AND STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 15 STARTING AT 4 PM EST - Randy Rossman, owner and multiple consignors.** Online only consignment auction. 1,000+ lots! Featuring furniture, household items, collectibles, antiques, tools, guns, & much more! Auction preview: Oct. 12, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm St., Decatur. Pick up times: Oct. 16, 1-6 p.m. & Oct. 17, 9 a.m.-noon, 3 pick up locations in Decatur. [Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckeburgAuction.com), [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**BIDDING STARTS CLOSING OCTOBER 17 STARTING AT 6 P.M. EST - Ronald L Franke estate, owner.** Real estate 6 p.m.: 812 sf, full basement, 2 bed, 2 full bath, 14'x22' detached garage, .29 acre lot, Fort Wayne Community School, Wayne Township, Allen County. Personal property 6:30 p.m.: 2006 Chevy Monte Carlo SS, 105k miles, household, tools, riding lawn mower, furniture, collectibles, more! Preview: Oct. 9, 5-6 p.m., 930 Irene Ave., Fort Wayne. Pick up: Oct. 18, 3-6 p.m. [Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC](http://KrueckeburgAuction.com), [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

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                                  ) 90C01-2309-EU-000039  
IN RE: THE UNSUPERVISED )  
ESTATE OF )  
REBA JEAN MCAFEE, )  
DECEASED )  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION )  
For Publication in Newspaper )  
Notice is hereby given that Betty Jean George was on September 7, 2023 appointed Personal Representative of the ESTATE OF REBA JEAN MCAFEE, deceased, who died on July 19, 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 the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, 09/07/2023  
Beth Davis  
CLERK,  
WELLS SUPERIOR COURT  
Janell M. Sprinkle (#23097-49)  
Beers Mallers, LLP  
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## SUDOKU ANSWER

02/6								
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