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WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 2023 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## Norwell approves bids for new football and baseball projects

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Norwell Community Schools is moving forward with \$2.4 million construction projects for the baseball and football fields. The bids, presented to the board on Tuesday, included the construction of new concession and restroom buildings at either field and new entrances. The board had previously approved pursuing these projects and several others under a new \$6.105 million bond. At the time, the board and Superintendent Mike Springer expressed that a baseball building was a high priority among the projects. Given the similar nature of the work, the projects bid together for cost-effectiveness. Initial projections in June estimated the new

football and baseball buildings and entrances, weight room expansion, and softball field lights would cost \$2.485 million. Kent Gilliom from Weigand Construction, the company managing the projects, said they received roughly 30 bids with a guaranteed maximum price of \$983,281 for the baseball construction and \$1,443,272 for the football construction. Gilliom stated crews would begin groundwork as soon as possible, hoping to pour the foundation of the football building following this season. "This is needed, in my opinion, as we look at our current facilities ... that building (football) is falling apart," Springer said. Springer then affirmed that this bid price



The board discussed several upcoming Norwell construction projects during their meeting Tuesday. Pictured is Superintendent Mike Springer and board members Angie Topp, Chad Kline, Gene Donaghy, Corey Krug and Traci Neuenschwander. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

would not affect another high-priority project — renovations to Ossian Elementary School. He clarified that given the nature of the project, it would take longer to bid out, but funding wouldn't cause an issue. These renovations will include a "reconfiguration" of the classrooms, replacing cabinetry and carpet, and painting, among other items. The district also outlined the possibility of building a new administration building but ranked it the lowest priority project. Also during the meeting, the board approved a 2024-25 academic calendar following the same pattern as last year. (Continued on Page 2)

## NWCS strategic planning spotlights mental health

The entirety of Norwell's strategic planning session Tuesday was dedicated to the topic of mental health. While statistics presented during the meeting showed a significant portion of the student body struggling with mental health issues, there was also hope and a call to action. Pictured is one way students have chosen to help one another — sticky notes with encouraging messages and prayer requests on the bathroom mirror. Some read messages like "I pray life gets better for you," and others, "You are never alone." (Photo by Holly Gaskill)



**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
"The trend is here, and it's staying, unfortunately. Our kids are struggling," said Kelly Goode, mental health coordinator at Norwell Community Schools. "So yes, we should be working together as a group to say, 'What are some other things that we can do ... that can ultimately help?'" Following their regular agenda Tuesday, the NWCS school board discussed mental health resources in a strategic planning meeting. They heard from school counselors, teachers, and outside organizations about their efforts within the schools. During this time, Wendy Bailey, executive director of Alive and Well, informed the board that, within the district, 30 percent of fifth grade students reported they often feel worried, and 47 percent of middle school students reported feeling overwhelmingly anxious. Additionally, 10 percent of middle school students reported feelings of not wanting to be alive, and 6 percent reported struggling with self-harm. At the high school, 54 percent reported feeling overwhelmingly anxious, and 13 percent reported feelings of not wanting to be alive. Having worked with the district for two years — and adolescent mental health for nearly 20 years

— Goode stated these numbers are quite consistent with local statistics. And, while a nuanced subject, she explained that a significant portion of her efforts are finding ways to redirect negative thought patterns. At the elementary level, the schools incorporate "Second Step" programs, which teach students how to positively problem solve and speak kindly about themselves. Jennifer Sander, second grade teacher at Ossian Elementary School, said students are learning about positive self-talk and "unhelpful thoughts." To practice some of these skills, the students walk through daily affirmations like "I'm smart, I'm important, and I matter." While small, she's seen students develop a stronger self image — even to the extent that parents have noticed and asked for the list of affirmations to practice at home. Another highlighted exercise follows how to address problems — either trying again, making a small change, or asking for help. "We forget that sometimes kids have a hard time processing through those moments, especially if you have a lot of other things going on in their lives," Superintendent Mike Springer said. (Continued on Page 2)

## Street Commissioner informs Board of Works on street closings, Street Fair parking

**By DAVE SCHULTZ**  
Bluffton Street Commissioner Tim Simpson made a request Tuesday at the meeting of the city's Board of Public Works and Safety, asking that the city takes a little more care to preserve handicapped parking spots during the Bluffton Free Street Fair. Simpson was in front of the board to notify its members about a pair of potential street closings, but while he had the floor, and with the 2023 fair fresh on his mind, he brought up the handicapped parking situation. "In the past, the board has received applications for use of parking lots during the fair," he said. "In the past, that always came with a caveat — that the handicapped spots be preserved."

However, Simpson said, the city has not been as protective of that stipulation in recent years. That led to some disagreements this year, he said. He asked that in the future, that regulation be included as organizations are authorized to use the parking lots to raise funds on parking fees. Simpson also noted that the city would allow Chad Ringger to close the street near 115 and 117 S. Johnson St. In an email to Simpson, Ringger said there will be some exterior painting on the Metro Tile building between Friday, Sept. 29, and Sunday, Oct. 1. The lift required for the work may stretch into the street, he said. Simpson said some upcoming work at

## Prosecutor: theory that Delphi teens died in ritual sacrifice is made for social media

DELPHI, Ind. (AP) — The prosecutor overseeing the case against a northern Indiana man charged in the 2017 killings of two teenage girls has dismissed as "fanciful" a recent court filing by the man's attorneys contending the girls actually died as part of a ritual sacrifice. Carroll County Prosecutor Nicholas McLeland called the theory a "fanciful defense for social media to devour" in a document filed Monday, a week after Richard Allen's attorneys said in a filing that Abigail Williams, 13, and Liberty German, 14, were killed by members of a pagan Norse religion and white nationalist group known as Odinists. Allen's attorneys wrote that "absolutely nothing, links Richard Allen to Odinism or any religious cult." Their filing seeks a hearing at which they would argue for suppressing evidence collected at Allen's Delphi home. It says that law enforcement lied or omitted information to obtain a warrant to search his house, the Journal & Courier reported. In his response opposing Allen's attorneys' separate request to have their client's hearing. (Continued on Page 2)

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**Outside**  
  
Time to invest in a good umbrella  
Today Thursday Friday  
High 70 High 73 High 75  
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September 27, 2023

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# Baseball, football projects

(Continued from Page 1)  
 lowing feedback from teaching staff. By and large, the calendar follows the previous schedules, with slight adjustments dependent on holidays.

The first student day will be Aug. 7, 2024, and the last on May 22, 2025. Fall break and spring break will coincide with the Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools' schedule, the fourth week of October and the last full week of March, respectively. Other calendar holidays

are Labor Day, a three-day Thanksgiving break, a 10-day winter break, Presidents' Day, and Good Friday.

Other items were:  
 • An \$8,050 grant was accepted from the Wells County Foundation Virginia Gene Neuenchwander Youth Fund to support Victor Pacini's 'Be Seen and Heard' program, a sexual abuse education program.  
 • The board accepted the retirements of Pre-

school Director Deb Brickley, effective at the end of the 2023-24 school year, and OES secretary Janice Kenline, effective Jan. 1. In other personnel matters, the board approved the recommendation to terminate bus driver Deva Betts.

• Donations were received from Psi Iota Xi — \$200 for the NHS media center, \$200 for the NMS library fund, and \$200 for the LES library fund.  
 • The board approved field trip requests from

the FFA Soils Team to travel overnight to Benton County Oct. 20-21 and FFA to Indianapolis Nov. 1-3.

• Resolutions were adopted to allow the district to use funds from the bond. The board also adopted a resolution regarding the 2024 maximum tax rate, which the board had discussed at their previous meeting, and formal plans regarding bus replacements and capital projects.  
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# Weather

**Wednesday, September 27, 2023**  
**(24-hour observations at 9:22 p.m. Tuesday)**  
**High: 76; Low: 60; Precipitation: 0.23 inches of rain**  
**Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.27 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday**

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm. Cloudy, with a high near 70. East wind around 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Tonight:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind 5 to 10 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70 percent. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Thursday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m., then a chance of showers between 8 a.m. and 11 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 11 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a high near 73. Southeast wind around 5 mph becoming south in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 30 percent.

**Thursday Night:** A slight chance of thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 57. East wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 10 percent.

**Friday:** Partly sunny, with a high near 75.  
**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 56.  
**Saturday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 77.  
**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 55.  
**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 79.  
**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 54.  
**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 80.  
**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 54.  
**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 80.

# Mental health spotlight

(Continued from Page 1)  
 tendent Mike Springer shared. "And so, (this is) giving kids the tools to, I think, deal with different situations they have, and building up those soft skills."

Goode also highlighted several outside organizations and their role within the school. Alive and Well, which was represented Tuesday by Bailey, offers regular instruction to multiple age groups about mental and physical health, substance abuse, and making good choices. The Bowen Center offers additional counseling services to students. Campus Life, also known as Youth for Christ, offers faith-based gatherings and events.

Garrett Bucher, campus life director, said a large portion of his role has been to connect with students, listening to their problems and offering faith-based guidance.

"YFC thinks about it as a funnel of contacting pieces — the lunchroom

table, playing bingo, passing out candy, coming alongside anyone that you see that might be down and out — but just asking questions, and then also extending an invite whenever that time arises," Bucher said. "It is after school, before school that the real conversations really get to happen."

Ultimately, Springer noted that it's a combination of efforts that makes a difference for mental health issues within the schools.

"And so, when I think of all these things that we have going on — and we're notorious for this — (they're) a lot of these one-offs (resources), right?" Springer explained. "And we know that learning takes place when you make connections ... I just think there's an opportunity here with everything we're doing to intentionally make connections for kids that help put them in touch with resources they need."

Some of this, Springer explained, is a matter of getting involved in school

activities, like athletics or music, that prevent students from getting involved in dangerous activities. Other parts, however, require the school — and community at large — to invest in students' lives.

Goode echoed this, adding that building that connection is often a commitment. "That could take me six months," she said. Ked Moser, high school guidance counselor, added that he's recognized how vulnerability and compassion is such an important resource for students.

"All of this is a holistic approach," Springer said. "It's not foolproof that no one will ever do drugs (or other destructive things), but the more you have kids connected and involved in things, the less likelihood that's going to happen — whether that's an adult walking alongside them or an activity they're involved in, all those things go together."

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# Senate unveils bipartisan bill to avoid shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress rushed headlong into crisis mode Tuesday with a government shutdown days away, as House Speaker Kevin McCarthy faced an insurgency from hard-right Republicans eager to slash spending even if it meant halting pay for the military and curtailing federal services for millions of Americans.

There's no clear path ahead as lawmakers return with tensions high and options limited. On an evening vote, the House Republicans narrowly agreed to start debate on a package of bills to fund parts of the government. But it was a short-lived victory, because it's not at all clear that McCarthy has the support needed to actually pass the bills in the days ahead as holdouts demand steeper spending cuts.

"It's easy," McCarthy quipped about how he planned to keep government from shutting down.

But with just five days to go before Saturday's deadline, there is no endgame in sight.

Trying to stave off a federal closure, the Senate pushed ahead with a bipartisan stopgap measure to keep offices funded temporarily, through Nov. 17, to buy time for Congress to finish its work.

The Senate advanced the bill late Tuesday on an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote, 77-19, though it still needs to go through a final vote. Then it would go to the House, where it would face a difficult path to passage.

The Senate bill would fund the government at current levels and include about \$6 billion supplemental funding for Ukraine and \$6 billion in U.S. disaster assistance that has been in jeopardy. It also includes an extension of Federal Aviation Administration provisions expiring Saturday.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer called the temporary measure from the Senate "a bridge towards cooperation and away from extremism."

With a supportive nod, Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell appeared on board with the bipartisan Senate plan saying, "Government shutdowns are bad news."

A government shutdown would disrupt the U.S. economy and the lives of millions of Americans who work for the government or rely on federal services — from the military personnel and air traffic controllers who would be asked to work without pay to some 7 million people in the Women, Infants and Children program, including half the babies born in the U.S., who could lose access to nutritional benefits, according to the White House.

The standoff comes against the backdrop of the 2024 elections as a core group of hard-right Republicans are being egged on by Donald Trump, the Republican front-runner to challenge President Joe Biden. Trump has urged McCarthy's House to stand firm in the fight or "shut it down."

It is setting up a split-screen later this week as House Republicans hold their first Biden impeachment inquiry hearing probing the business dealings of his son, Hunter Biden, as Congress spirals closer to a shutdown. It also comes as former Trump officials are floating their own plans to slash government and the federal workforce if the former president retakes the White House.

Against the mounting chaos, Biden warned the Republican conservatives off their hard-line tactics, saying funding the federal government is "one of the most basic fundamental responsibilities of Congress."

Biden implored the House Republicans not to renege on the debt deal he struck earlier this year with McCarthy, which set the federal government funding levels and was signed into law after approval by both the House and the Senate.

"We made a deal, we shook hands, and said this

is what we're going to do. Now, they're reneging on the deal," Biden said late Monday.

But Trump is pushing Republicans to dismantle the deal with Biden. "Unless you get everything, shut it down!" Trump wrote in all capital letters on social media. "It's time Republicans learned how to fight!"

McCarthy brushed off Trump's influence as just a negotiating tactic, even as far-right members keep torpedoing his plans.

He was hopeful the latest plan on a package of four bills, to fund Defense, Homeland Security, Agriculture, and State and Foreign Operations, would kickstart the process.

At the same time, McCarthy was also reviving his plan for the Republicans to pass their own stopgap measure even though a handful on the hard-right said they would never vote for it, denying him a majority. That proposal would fund the government while also adding severe border security provisions that Biden, Democrats and even some Republicans reject.

"I'm working all my time to make sure that there would not be a shutdown," McCarthy insisted Tuesday.

But at least one top Trump ally, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., who is also close to McCarthy, said she would be a "hard no" on the vote Tuesday to open debate, known as the Rule, because the package of bills continues to provide at least \$300 million for the war in Ukraine.

Other hard-right conservatives and allies of Trump may follow her lead.

While their numbers are just a handful, the hard-right Republican faction

# Board of Works

(Continued from Page 1)  
 the intersection of West Walnut and Baldwin streets will result in a two-day closure. The detour will be along Indiana, Market, and Bond streets.

The only other item on the agenda for the board was a Community Re-Investment Program application,

which will be discussed at the board's next meeting Oct. 3.

Scott Mentzer and Josh Hunt were the only two Board of Works members present. Mayor John Whicker was not present. In his absence, Mentzer chaired the meeting.  
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# Delphi teens

(Continued from Page 1)  
 ings and trial broadcast, the prosecutor wrote that only 13 pages of the defense's 136-page filing seeking the evidence hearing makes any relevant allegations.

"The remaining 90 percent of the Memorandum outlines its fanciful defense for social media to devour," McLeland wrote.

McLeland also filed a reply to the attorneys' request for a hearing to suppress evidence, writing that Carroll County Sheriff Tony Liggett "did not intentionally or recklessly omit evidence or lie about evidence in the probable cause affidavit to support the search warrant."

McLeland added that when investigators obtained the search warrant in October 2022 they believed there was a chance Allen "would destroy crucial evidence in the investigation" if he knew he was suspected in the killings.

A redacted probable

cause affidavit released in November 2022 states that during their search of Allen's home investigators seized a .40-caliber pistol belonging to him which Allen bought in 2001. The affidavit states that an unspent bullet found near the slain girls' bodies "had been cycled through" Allen's pistol.

Allen was arrested in October 2022 and charged with two counts of murder in the teens' killings. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges and his trial is scheduled for January.

According to court documents released in June, Allen confessed multiple times to the murders in a phone call to his wife while in prison.

Those documents had been under seal since December 2022, when a judge issued a gag order barring attorneys, law enforcement officials, court personnel, the coroner and family members from commenting on the case.



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OBITUARIES

Mary Margaret Kelsay, 85

Mary Margaret Kelsay, 85, passed away at 9:40 p.m. on Wednesday, Sept. 20, 2023 at Swiss Village in Berne. She was born on Sunday, Jan. 23, 1938, in Montpelier.



Mary Margaret grew up on the Kelsay family farm, a Hoosier Homestead. After graduating from Montpelier High School in 1956, she attended Earlham College in Richmond, completing a bachelor's degree in home economics and education in 1960. After teaching for a few years, she continued her education at Purdue University in West Lafayette where she earned a master's degree in home economics. In 1965, Mary began teaching at Huntington North High School where she spent the next 28 years helping students prepare to survive on their own after graduation. As part of her mission, she introduced students to wider gastronomical and social experiences. For example, she exposed them to unfamiliar foods like oysters and artichokes and revealed to them the finer graces of eating around an actual dining table set with baffling cutlery like butter knives and dessert spoons.

With her fellow home economics teacher, Velma Jean Gernand, Mary revived the Huntington North High School Junior Historical Society in 1975. The society was active in the first Forks of the Wabash Pioneer Festival that is now celebrating its 47th year. The Jr. Historical society also performed much of the initial hard physical labor involved in restoring the old buildings at the Forks of the Wabash historical site. In 1979 the society won the Young Preservationist Award from the National Trust for Historic Preservation, which was presented to them by the Secretary of the Interior in Washington D.C. Upon retiring from teaching in 1993, Mary was free to pursue her historical interests and skills as her full-time occupation. She restored her grandmother's house, literally taking it apart and rebuilding it safely and accurately with her brother David. Her interest in correct preservation spurred her involvement with Indiana Landmarks. She enjoyed attending Landmarks meetings and going on their sponsored trips to places like Savannah, where they got glimpses of sites not usually open to the public. Her home on Warren Ave is listed with Indiana Landmarks and is said to be the oldest house in Montpelier.

Mary was also an active member of the Montpelier Historical Society and worked on preservation of one of the first churches in Montpelier. Additionally, she served as a member of the Montpelier library board. Mary was proud of her Quaker heritage and often spoke of a great grandmother who was a Quaker "preacher" who rode on horseback from meeting to meeting.

Mary was also a lover of James Whitcomb Riley and could entertain a gathering by reciting verses from memory. Those who knew her well also found delight in the funny and less literary ditties that she could recite or sing.

She is survived by her sister, Ellen Louise (Allan) Lemaux of Charlotte, N.C.; four nieces, one nephew, three great-nieces and three great-nephews

She was preceded in death by her parents, Nixon Winslow Kelsay and Margaret L. (Bergman) Kelsay, a sister, Cynthia Sue Lampman, and a brother, Nixon David Kelsay.

A service to celebrate her life will be at 11 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 28, 2023, at the I.O.O.F. Cemetery with Pastor Les Bantz officiating.

Memorials may be sent to The Montpelier Historical Society to be used for the Church Exterior Improvement Fund, which was a very special and sentimental project to Mary, and/or to The Alzheimer's Association.

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at [www.glancyfuneralhomes.com](http://www.glancyfuneralhomes.com).

Police fatally shoot Indy man after pursuit

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Police fatally shot an armed man Tuesday during a confrontation on Indianapolis' north side, authorities said.

State Police and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department officers stopped the man around 4:40 p.m. and opened fire on him when he stepped out of a vehicle with a gun, state police Sgt. John Perrine said.

Two Indianapolis police officers and one state trooper fired their weapons, Perrine said. None of them were injured.

They will be placed on administrative duties while the shooting is investigated, authorities said.

The Marion County Coroner's Office identified the man as Ricktez Williams, 27, and said he died of multiple gunshot wounds.

Williams was wanted on a violent felony warrant, Perrine said.

Police recovered a handgun at the scene. It was not clear whether Williams fired a weapon.

The officers had been pursuing Williams as part of an operation of the Indiana Crime Guns Task Force, a joint effort among central Indiana law enforcement agencies to remove weapons from the streets, Perrine said.

INCIDENTS

**City:**  
Monday, 4:22 p.m., 300 block of South Liberty Street. Report of a vehicle with expired plates for extended time on street. Vehicle tagged.

Monday, 4:28 p.m., Dollar General. Report of possible drugs left by customer.

Monday, 4:36 p.m., 500 block of West Central Avenue. Caller advised juvenile was breaking things and threatening. Mom was contacted.

Monday, 5:23 p.m., Wells County Public Library. Report that someone popped caller's bike tires during street fair.

Monday, 5:53 p.m., 800 block of Eastmoor Drive. Caller requested officer to discuss possible theft and threatening.

Monday, 6:05 p.m., 900 block of West Market Street. Report of possible dog abuse.

Monday, 8:30 p.m., Kentucky Fried Chicken. Report of man asking for money. Man was being polite and walked away when officers arrived.

Monday, 10:31 p.m., 300 block of North Williams Street. Report of loud music and odor of marijuana. One person in custody.

Monday, 12:48 a.m., 200 block of Colombian Avenue. Caller reported hearing someone walk around her home. Unable to locate anyone.

Monday, 10:10 a.m., NEOTI. Bicycle found in parking lot.

**County:**  
Saturday, 1:05 a.m., 7300 South 400 West, Poneto. Caller reported vehicle struck mailbox and took off. Officers located the vehicle, driven by a juvenile who smelled like alcohol. He was taken home and his mother was advised he would be referred to Wells County Probation.

Saturday, 3:05 a.m., North 300 West and West 1000 North, Markle. Driver pulled over for lack of license plate lights. Officer noted the driver appeared nervous, sweaty, and had dilated pupils. The driver was arrested for driving while suspended and operating while suspended with a prior conviction.

Saturday, 5:18 p.m., 5800 North Main Street, Uniondale. Caller reported issue with juveniles and requested to make a statement.

Sunday, 12:58 a.m., North Scott Street and East Wabash Street, Bluffton. Individual was confused about one way street, stated they were not from the area.

Sunday, 7:58 a.m., 300 East 20 North, Bluffton. Caller expressed concern for subject walking in area with backpack. Subject was fine but would not give his information and requested a bottle of water. Officer gave him his Gatorade. Nothing further.

Sunday, 9:35 p.m., 1700 West 200 North, Bluffton. Caller requested welfare check for man from earlier incident. Man accepted a ride, he was on the way home from work.

Monday, 8:43 a.m., Ind. 116 and North 300 West, Markle. Report of tan Cadillac

Police Notebook

swerving all over the roadway.

Monday, 10:26 a.m., 800 block of Avondale Drive, Bluffton. Protection order served to Terry King.

Monday, 10:54 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Jaxson Leverton who turned himself in.

Monday, 7:42 p.m., IMI, Bluffton. Caller reported open gate. Employee advised he was on the property.

Monday, 7:48 p.m., East 150 North and Ind. 116, Bluffton. Report of a vehicle sitting at the tracks with people. Vehicle was caller for the open gate at IMI. Sitting at tracks waiting for a train.

Tuesday, 10:21 a.m., 2300 North Spruce Drive, Bluffton. Elderly man reported missing his wife. Woman was next door and returned home.

**Ossian:**  
Saturday, 6:34 p.m., Ind. 224 and North Greenwood Avenue, Ossian. Subjects moved road closed signs and drove through roadway. Should still be closed.

Sunday, 6:07 a.m., 200 block of West Mill Street, Ossian. Officer requested to issue PBT to subject who was covered in vomit and smelled like alcohol after caller reported he mistakenly tried to enter her home. PBT result was .168. One subject was transported to the Wells County Jail

Sunday, 9:50 p.m., 500 block of West Lafever Street, Ossian. Caller reported abandoned bike.

Monday, 1:18 a.m., North Jefferson Street and Mortin Lane, Ossian. Multiple juveniles referred to probation after a traffic stop revealed hundreds of dollars of THC products in the vehicle.

Monday, 6:42 a.m., Ind. 1 and East 800 North, Ossian. Officer checked on subject walking who advised he was going to work.

Tuesday, 10:36 a.m., 7700 North 100 East, Ossian. Officer assisted subject in finding phone.

**ACCIDENTS**

**City:**  
Thursday, 5:22 p.m., Ind. 1 at the intersection of Sewage Plant Drive, Bluffton. A vehicle swerved in front of Andrew D. Rinehart, 25, Bluffton, who was driving a 2019 Chevrolet Equinox SUV, causing him to slam the brakes and also the vehicle behind him, a 2008 Chevrolet Silverado pickup truck driven by Dillon S. Myers, 29, Markle. Behind Myers' vehicle, a 2008 Honda Odyssey mini-van driven by Jeri Harper, 30, Bluffton, was unable to stop and a collided with Myers' vehicle. Myers' vehicle then collided with Rinehart's vehicle. Harper's vehicle was rowed by Freeman's. Damage exceeded \$10,000.

Friday, 4:36 p.m., Wabash Street at the intersection of Scott Street. Riley A. Windsor, 18, Ossian, was driving a 2007 Chrysler Sebring eastbound and struck a 2017 Hyundai Sonata driven by Victoria Baumgartner, 27, Ossian. Windsor had been stopped at a temporary stop sign and advised she did not see

Baumgartner stopped northbound. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Saturday, 3:13 p.m., West Washington Street at the intersection of South Morgan Street. Kaby M. Peterson, 17, Uniondale, was driving a 2005 Pontiac Grand Prix southbound on Morgan Street and struck a 2005 Pontiac Vibe driven by Osmara X. Gerber, 18, Milford, Ind. Peterson advised he had stopped at the sign and did not see the other vehicle. Damag exceeded \$5,000.

Saturday, 10:05 p.m., Main Street at the intersection of South Street. A witness reported a hit and run. The witness stated that John R. Eisaman, 30, Bluffton, backed into a 2011 Ford Ranger pick-up truck and left the scene. Neither Eisaman nor his vehicle were locate at his or his family's residences. Damage exceeded \$2,500.

Monday, 5:03 a.m., Wayne Street at Ohio Street. Elizabeth R. Grogg, 30 Bluffton, was driving a 2019 Nissan Rouge, southbound on Wayne Street when the driver's front side struck a low hanging wire. The wire scraped the area near the mirror and bent the mirror. Damage did not exceed \$1,000.

Monday, 4:22 p.m., 300 block of South Liberty Street. Report of a vehicle with expired plates for extended time on street. Vehicle tagged.

Monday, 4:28 p.m., Dollar General. Report of possible drugs left by customer.

Monday, 4:36 p.m., 500 block of West Central Avenue. Caller advised juvenile was breaking things and threatening. Mom was contacted.

Monday, 5:23 p.m., Wells County Public Library. Report that someone popped caller's bike tires during street fair.

Monday, 5:53 p.m., 800 block of Eastmoor Drive. Caller requested officer to discuss possible theft and threatening.

Monday, 6:05 p.m., 900 block of West Market Street. Report of possible dog abuse.

Monday, 8:30 p.m., Kentucky Fried Chicken. Report of man asking for money. Man was being polite and walked away when officers arrived.

Monday, 10:31 p.m., 300 block of North Williams Street. Report of loud music and odor of marijuana. One person in custody.

Monday, 12:48 a.m., 200 block of Colombian Avenue. Caller reported hearing someone walk around her home. Unable to locate anyone.

Monday, 10:10 a.m., NEOTI. Bicycle found in parking lot.

**County:**  
Sunday, 6:07 p.m., 100 East and Ind. 218, Elijah Yardley stated he drove too quickly on the gravel road and was doing fishtails. He lost control of the his Chevy Silverado and it ran into a ditch, hitting a utility pole. No injuries reported. AEP was contacted due to the damage to the power pole. Damages not exceeding \$10,000.

Sunday, 7:58 p.m., 500 West and 400 South. Christopher Alma was driving through the intersection when his vehicle collided with the front end of Allison Johnson's vehicle, which was also going through the intersection. Damages not exceeding \$10,000.

Sunday, 9:04 p.m., Ind 1 and Ind. 224. Richard Gerber was traveling southbound on Ind. 1 when a deer ran into the roadway toward the front driver side of Gerber's Ford Fusion. Damages not exceeding \$2,500.

**ARRESTS**  
Rhett Duane Gilbert, 18, Hartford City, charged with operating a vehicle while intoxicated with a prior conviction, a Level 6 felony, criminal mischief, a Class B misdemeanor, minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage and operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, both Class C misdemeanors, operating a vehicle while intoxicate - endangerment, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

Joshua Robert Klinski, 33, Bluffton, charged with trespassing - no intent of felony theft, a Level 6 felony, public intoxication, a Class B misdemeanor, and minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,500.

Dustin Lee Joseph Weimer, 35, Markle, charged with battery and battery - bodily waste, both Level 5 Felonies, and one count of battery and resisting law enforcement, both Level 6 Felonies, and disorderly conduct and public intoxication, both Class B misdemeanors. No bond set.

Daniel Glores Vega, 30, Indianapolis, charged with battery against a public safety official, a Level 6 felony, criminal trespassing, a Class A misdemeanor, resisting law enforcement and disorderly conduct, both Class B misdemeanors. Bond set at \$9,000.

Jazmine Nicole Love Webster, 22, Bluffton, battery against a public safety official, a Level 6 felony, and possession of marijuana, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$6,000.

Jaxson Tyler Leverton, 19, Markle, minor in possession of an alcoholic beverage, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$500.

**Randall "Randy" Studebaker**  
Calling: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Thursday, September 28.  
Funeral: 2 p.m. Thursday, September 28 at the funeral home.  
Goodwin-Cato & Harnish MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
A Tradition of Caring  
Locally Owned and Operated Since 1922  
St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton 824-3852

**Charles "Chuck" Bertsch**  
Calling: 4 - 7 p.m. Thursday, September 28.  
Funeral: 7 p.m. Thursday, September 28 at the funeral home.  
Goodwin-Cato & Harnish MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
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**CAR & CRAFT FEST**  
Benefiting Forgotten Children Worldwide!

**CRAFT FEST**  
Friday, October 6 & Saturday, October 7, 2023  
SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE! Pumpkins & mums, seasonal decor, handmade craft items, woodworking, floral decor, honey, baked goods, & more!

**FOOD & ENTERTAINMENT**  
Friday, October 6 & Saturday, October 7 - 10 am - 6 pm  
Fun for the whole family!  
Come enjoy food trucks, kettle corn, hay rides, face painting, bounce houses, pumpkins & mums, handmade crafts, woodworking, flower arrangements, honey, baked goods, & much more!

**CAR FEST**  
Saturday, October 7 Only - 9 am - 6 pm  
Registration 9 am-12 pm. Awards at 3:30 pm (Top 20, Best of Show, People's Choice Award, Kid's Choice Award, & All American Stores Choice Award). Dash plaques, DJ Scott Teeter, Music, & Raffle!  
\$15 entry fee (\$10 if Pre-Registered by September 16, 2023). For pre-registration, contact Jeff Patterson at (260)366-7590.  
Cars, Trucks, & Bikes all welcome!

**UPCOMING SEASON**  
Check out what's happening at the farm. We are preparing for another fall season by planting and harvesting new pumpkins and gourds for customers to come and pick out their favorite.

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## Not registered to vote? You have until Oct. 10

It's no secret that Hoosier participation in elections is among the lowest in the nation and has been declining in comparison to other states for at least a decade.

The Indiana Civic Health Index, a project of the Indiana Bar Foundation and several partner organizations, has been tracking the alarming slippage since 2011.

### Hoosier Opinions

In presidential election years, the percentage of eligible Hoosiers registered to vote dropped from 71.3% in 2012 to 69.3% in 2020, the index shows. Nationally, Indiana's ranking for voter registration fell from 37th to 39th.

Of the fraction of Hoosiers actually registered to vote in presidential elections, 59.3% did so in 2012. That percentage rose slightly in 2020, to 60.6%. But Indiana's national ranking fell eight spots, putting it in the abysmal bottom five for voter turnout.

Of course, the numbers are much worse and more startling in municipal election years like this one. That's why we encourage every eligible person to register and vote this year to make their voices heard in marquee mayoral races in Indianapolis and Carmel down to council races in the region's smallest cities.

Four years ago, the city election in Indianapolis drew a dreadful 24% of registered voters to the polls.

That's likely because the mayor's race was only weakly contested, as Democratic Mayor Joe Hogsett handily won a second term against woefully underfunded Republican Jim Merritt.

This year, Hogsett faces much stiffer competition from wealthy businessman Jefferson Shreve, who is largely and substantially self-funding his campaign.

Our hope is that the contest will bring a much larger number of voters to the polls on Nov. 7, so they can have a say in which mayoral candidate not only has the best public safety or economic development plan for the city but also has the best overall vision for the future.

All of Indianapolis' 25 City-County Council seats also are up for election this year, and voters should be concerned about how those candidates will make sure their streets are paved and their trash is collected.

We hope for a much larger turnout in city elections across the state and throughout central Indiana as leaders are selected to lead their communities.

But in order to encourage a larger turnout, we also hope more people will take the time to register to vote by the Oct. 10 deadline at [www.indianavoters.com](http://www.indianavoters.com) or in person at their local voter registration office.

Before the Nov. 7 election, we also urge Hoosiers to educate themselves about their local candidates by attending forums and debates, reading trusted news accounts and being wary of misinformation that can be generated by artificial intelligence, as pointed out in this issue of IBJ by ReCenter Indiana.

Our democracy and our future depend on an informed and active electorate. Please get out and do your part. Early voting begins Oct. 11.

INDIANAPOLIS BUSINESS JOURNAL.

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Wednesday, Sept. 27, the 270th day of 2022. There are 95 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On Sept. 27, 1996, in Afghanistan, the Taliban, a band of former seminary students, drove the government of President Burhanuddin Rabbani out of Kabul, captured the capital and executed former leader Najibullah.

On this date:

In 1779, John Adams was named by Congress to negotiate the Revolutionary War's peace terms with Britain.

In 1825, the first locomotive to haul a passenger train was operated by George Stephenson in England.

In 1854, the first great disaster involving an Atlantic Ocean passenger vessel occurred when the steamship SS Arctic sank off Newfoundland; of the more than 400 people on board, only 86 survived.

In 1928, the United States said it was recognizing the Nationalist Chinese government.

In 1939, Warsaw, Poland, surrendered after weeks of resistance to invading forces from Nazi Germany and the Soviet Union during World War II.

In 1956, Olympic track and field gold medalist and Hall of Fame golfer Babe Didrikson Zaharias died in Galveston, Texas, at age 45.

In 1979, Congress gave its final approval to forming the U.S. Department of Education.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush announced in a nationally broadcast address that he was eliminating all U.S. battlefield nuclear weapons, and called on the Soviet Union to match the gesture.

In 1994, more than 350 Republican congressional candidates gathered on the steps of the U.S. Capitol to sign the "Contract with America," a 10-point platform they pledged to enact if voters sent a GOP majority to the House.

### The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

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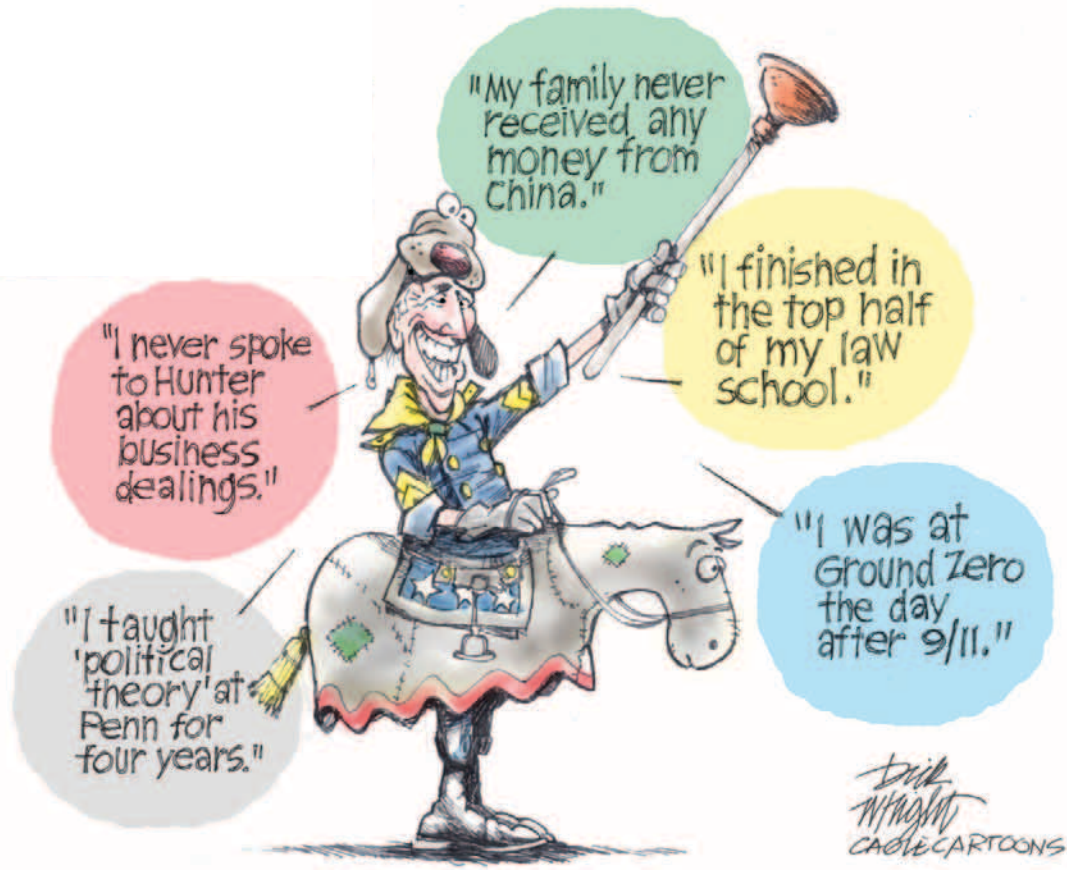
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## Why Biden lies

It's almost always the case when the president of the United States says, "I give you my word as a Biden," that whatever he's about to say is untrue.

Joe Biden's incredible stories have finally generated more mainstream attention, particularly after he erroneously claimed to have gone to Ground Zero *the day after* Sept. 11 and stared into "the gates of hell."

The president even got an extensive, excoriating fact check from CNN — not usually known for humiliating Democratic politicians — about all his false and exaggerated yarns.

So why does Biden do this? To understand the source of his constant flagrant departures from reality, it's worth reverting to the late philosopher Harry G. Frankfurt's analysis in his classic essay, "On Bullshit."

"It is impossible," Frankfurt writes, "for someone to lie unless he thinks he knows the truth. Producing bullshit requires no such conviction." The person doing it cares about the facts only "insofar as they may be pertinent to his interest in getting away with what he says. He does not care whether the things he says describe reality correctly. He just picks them out, or makes them up, to suit his purpose."

Frankfurt adds that the spinner of these tales "does not reject the authority of the truth, as the liar does, and oppose himself to it. He pays no attention to it at all. By virtue of this, bullshit is greater enemy of the truth than lies are."

What is Biden's purpose? Self-valorization, of course — literally from the moment of his birth, which he has repeatedly mischaracterized. Biden likes to say that his grandfather died in the same hospital where he was born days later, but it's not true.

His stories are almost always supposed to be dramatic, moving and pointed, with Biden himself the center of the action — overcoming adversity, fighting injustice, righting wrongs, witnessing great events and acts of courage.

The psychologist might have trouble disentangling Biden's chip on his shoulder and sense of inadequacy



Rich Lowry

from his excessive self-regard, with the latter certainly compensating for, to some extent, the former.

For instance, Biden's classic, falsehood-laden fusillade at a New Hampshire campaign event in 1987 about his own brilliance and accomplishment as a student was disturbing, hilarious and, at the end of the day, simply pathetic.

Biden is a talker, and of the worst sort. It's one thing to be a talented conversationalist, brimming with interesting and funny things to say. Or a gifted speaker, whose after-dinner remarks never leave anyone dissatisfied.

Biden, on the other hand, is notable only for the amount of his talking, not its quality. This kind of talker tends to be undisciplined — so he's not particularly careful about anything he says — and tends to be self-obsessed, otherwise he wouldn't be so willing to subject people to his verbal barrages.

Biden easily could be that guy who never shuts up at the end of the bar who says he had tickets on the 50-yard line of the Philadelphia Eagles game when he really was in the upper deck behind one of the endzones, and that he's friends with star quarterback Jalen Hurts because he saw him from a distance once at the gym.

Biden wasn't particularly careful when he was a much younger man in the U.S. Senate. Otherwise, he wouldn't have blown himself up in 1987 cribbing from British politician Neil Kinnock to say false things about his own family background.

Now, he's older. That means some of these stories have been related over and over, and stories never get worse in the retelling, only better. On top of this, he's almost certainly more genuinely confused about timelines and facts than he was in his prime.

Now, his malarkey, to use his term from his vice-presidential debate with Paul Ryan back in 2012, is more obvious and discrediting than ever. His words as a Biden are usually insufferable and, at times, complete bullshit.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

## The surge of populism — and nationalism

"Populist politicians and parties," writes the Ethics and Public Policy Center's Henry Olsen in *The Spectator*, are "rapidly gaining strength and power across the developed world." They're doing so despite the opposition and angry scorn of political and intellectual establishments of Left and Right, and with a resilience that they find baffling.

Nothing exemplifies that resilience more than the current standing of Donald Trump's third presidential campaign. Trump didn't come close to a plurality, much less a majority, of the popular vote as the Republican nominee in 2016 and 2020; his conduct led to his party's loss of its House majority in 2018 and his endorsements of weak nominees cost it its Senate majority in 2022; and of course, despite his claims, he failed to win reelection in November 2020.

But there he sits, despite four indictments with 91 counts, polling 59% against multiple opponents in primary pairings and a 45%-45% tie against President Joe Biden, who led him 51%-47% in 2020.

As Olsen points out, Trump isn't the only politician often labeled as a populist who is doing well despite elite scorn. Italy's prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, comes from a party with roots in the fascist movement of Benito Mussolini. Though Mussolini has been dead for 78 years, that aroused more unease than the election of a former Communist to that post in 1998, just nine years after the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Other populists doing well lately include Germany's Alternative fur Deutschland and Canadian Conservative party leader Pierre Poilievre, long-time Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, and, back in 2019, former British Prime Minister Boris Johnson.

In different ways and to different extents, these populists abjure the market economics and interventionist foreign policies of Ronald Reagan and Margaret Thatcher and have been winning the votes without entirely endorsing the platforms of cultural conservatives.

The stock response of financial and corporate establishments has been to use any means to exclude such politi-



Michael Barone

cians from positions of power. In this country, that has included concocting and promoting the Russia collusion hoax rather than accepting Trump's election as legitimate, and using intelligence officials to muscle social media to suppress news of the legitimate Hunter Biden scandal in 2020.

Now the establishment may be throwing in the towel. In its most recent edition, the London-based *Economist* left off worrying about populists' supposed authoritarianism and conceded that "Europe is not about to be overrun by fascists, in a repeat of the 1930s."

"Rather than trying to exclude hard-right parties entirely from government and public debate," it went on, "the best response is for mainstream parties to engage with them, and on occasion to do deals with them. If they have to take some responsibility for actually governing, they may grow less radical."

Quite possibly, and quite possibly some establishment folks may one day concede that some of their policies and presuppositions have not worked out well. Olsen cites "the blind faith elites had that the pursuit of wealth would transform China's Communist party," the "elite economic mismanagement" that caused the 2008 financial crash and today's inflation, and "elite insistence that traditional mores be disregarded" which has led to "culture wars." He might have added the overly stringent and scientifically unjustified COVID-19 lockdowns in this and other countries.

Some 30 years ago, in the late Irving Kristol's *Public Interest* quarterly, I wrote an article in which I argued that democracies have had "four major types of political parties: religious, liberal, socialist, and nationalist." Some democracies over the preceding 160 and the intervening 30 years have fared better than others.

Religious parties in Europe have disappeared or changed character with the decline there of religious belief. The Republican Party for three decades since the 1980s has had some of the

character of a religious party, which has faded in the Trump years, while today's Democratic Party sometimes advocates with religious fervor the secular liberalism of an increasing number of its supporters. As I predicted in 1993, "parties will attack their opponents by calling them religious."

Liberal parties dedicated to 19th-century liberalism, free trade, market economics, religious toleration, and freedom succumbed in the 20th century to socialist parties, closely allied with labor unions. Grover Cleveland's laissez-faire Democrats become Woodrow Wilson's statist Democrats. Britain's Liberal Party, with a 397-156 seat margin in 1906 and a front bench with two later wartime prime ministers, David Lloyd George and Winston Churchill, faded to third-party status as Labour elected a prime minister in 1924.

Anti-clerical liberal parties in Italy, Spain and France "died from failure of nerve," as I wrote, failing to protect democracy against Mussolini, Franco and Vichy. Socialist policies didn't work and were repudiated by Thatcher and Reagan — and Tony Blair and Bill Clinton.

The democratic parties with staying power have been nationalist parties — "not the nationalism of Hitler, of course," as I wrote in 1993, but the "nationalism that is open to various economic programs and compatible with cultural toleration." Olsen identifies "national solidarity" as the guiding principle of populist voters, who favor "the particular over the global, the communal over the individual, and the traditional over the novel."

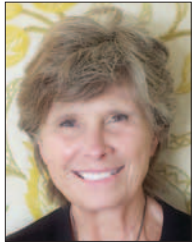
"The United States may be entering a happy period," I wrote in 1993, "where it has two nationalist parties, with differing positions on important cultural and economic issues, but a fundamentally favorable outlook toward American nationalism, a condition we have not enjoyed since the mid-1960s."

Those hopes have been disappointed, most recently by the personal shortcomings of Donald Trump and Joe Biden, by the refusal of Trump's opponents to accept the legitimacy of his victory in 2016 — and by his refusal to accept the legitimacy of theirs in 2020. It's looking like they will be disappointed for some time to come.

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# Life is indeed a paradox of complexity and simplicity

I have an affinity for simple. You know the KISS thing – keep it simple stupid. Simply stated, simple works best for me. Here's an example: I love real mashed



**Billy Kreigh**

potatoes smothered in fat noodles saturated with a stick of butter. And if one is so inclined to add some corn to my plate, you will not hear me complaining. I often prefer solitude and quiet. A good book, a Pepsi, salty pretzels, and no phone ringing creates a perfect afternoon. Being with my family, talking with good friends, listening to the Beach Boys, Simon and Garfunkel, Everly Brothers, Elvis, or Queen also contribute to a "good day." Summer walks when the humidity is low enough that I do not feel as if I am breathing underwater is always a plus. Laughter is a key component when I consider the simple pleasures of my life. Well, for the sake of time, yours and mine, I will move on. You are welcome.

It occurs to me with some regularity that humans have a tendency to make some things

harder than they have to be. Hang with me here a moment and let's see if we can figure this out. In its very elemental state, life is pretty clear cut. Basically, once anything or anyone is alive, it will die. Whoa, you say, lighten up Kreigh. Not trying to be the proverbial "downer" here, but that is a fact. If it is alive, it will die, no control required.

Now, once that fact is established, accepted, and internalized, the priorities from there are what happens between those two distinct points – the moment you take your first breath and the moment you take your last. So, let's look at some of the options, shall we?

Ok, there are the obvious things: birth, growing up, education, family, marrying or not marrying, having kids or not having kids, friendships, settling down or not, career/job, working, playing, thinking....you get the idea.

The thing is this: there are many aspects of living on this planet where we have no control. That may come as a shock to some, especially those who exist under that illusion that they have control over their lives. I was mar-



ried for 48 years to one such person. Rex fervently and adamantly insisted that he controlled his life. It used to irritate me at times and at other times I had to shake my head and covertly smile.

Truth be told, we have seriously very little which we actually control. Think about it; make a list of the areas in life where you have control. I reckon it will ultimately be a rather short list. So, what's a person to do? Just let life happen and passively observe? Would not be my choice, but I would never tell you what to choose.

What did you include on that list? What you eat? When you go to bed? Where you live? What job you have? Ok, I will concede that in those areas we can and do hold some semblance of control. But not entirely – many of those decisions and actions are influenced, if not dictated, by precedent, how, where, and by whom we were raised - among other contributors.

We did not control who gave birth to us, where we grew up, relatives, siblings. what we were fed, what people were in our lives, what beliefs were held by those around us...for starters. And each

of these integrated and merged into much of who and how we are right now. Whether we are 4, 16, 44, or 75 – a great deal of who we are, what we think, what we believe, how we behave, what we value or devalue – was "given" to us before we even knew what was happening.

We could very easily spend days considering all of the things in our lives which we "learned" in those first 18 years of our lives. I began this saying that I like simple, so let's keep it simple.

Simply put we cannot control whatever is happening every moment, nor can we control what those around us do or say or think. Our power lies in our being able to choose not to allow events or people to control our emotions, reactions, and responses.

How we achieve this personal control is not some wimpy challenge, is it? How very often I have let events or others dictate my reactions and responses. It is not easy to control these things; anyone who says differently is either lying or in a coma.

I never asked my students to do something that I was not willing to do myself. When I asked you to make a list, I made one also. Without any prompting, I will share a very abbreviated list of those things over which I might wield a modicum of control.

Simply:  
\* opinions need not define my reality

\* it is unrealistic and incredibly unfair to expect anyone else to be responsible for my happiness

\* what goes around comes around, hence it behooves me to be aware of what I am putting out there

\* I do not want to waste any time or energy over things that will not matter in the last 5 minutes of my life (I actually quite like this one and yes, it initiated another list)

**Here's the thing:** Life by its very nature often is difficult. There is no credible reason for us to make it harder for anyone, consciously or inadvertently. Consider the potential outcome if we all simply treated others exactly how we want to be treated; that we can control. We want a better world, we need to be better people. It simply makes sense..

bkreigh@adamswells.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, 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.*



Kaitlin Powers will speak to Ossian Rotary on Thursday about growing up with health issues due to a difficult birth. (Photo contributed)

## Ossian Rotary to hear from Kaitlin Powers

Ossian Rotary will continue its series of speakers who either experience disabilities, or assist those who do, in order to educate our members and our community about different disabilities and how individuals cope with them.

Kaitlin Powers is coming to Ossian Rotary on Thursday morning, September 28th. Her mother, Kristina, had normal blood pressure and then suddenly developed high blood pressure during the pregnancy, which is known as preeclampsia. Kaitlin was in distress and was born via cesarean section, so she was born prematurely.

Kaitlin was born on August 29, 1998 at 33 weeks of development, weighing only 1 pound, 15 ounces. Kaitlin didn't leave the hospital until seven months of age. Kaitlin endured many health events at the beginning of her life and has had a few more challenges along the way.

Kaitlin has resided in Bluffton her entire life. She enjoys going to country music concerts, being outdoors, riding UTV's and four wheelers, hanging out with her friends, dating, iced coffee, loves animals, swimming, riding bicycle, fishing, camping, campfires, baking, cooking, and deer hunting with her father Ben and taking car rides with her dog Zeke. Oh, and eating ice cream!

For the past six years, Kaitlin has worked at Sorting Solutions in Berne. She graduated from Bluffton High School in 2020 -The year of COVID.

Anyone is welcome to attend Thursday morning, September 28th, at 7:30 at Ossian Baptist Church, 1001 Dehner Drive. Please note that if Norwell Schools have a cancellation or delay, Ossian Rotary will not meet.

For more information, please contact Jeremy Penrod, Ossian Rotary President, at jeremy.penrod@edwardjones.com.

## Cemetery Walk and My Town Talks at Historical Museum

The Wells County Historical Museum's Annex will host the society's Cemetery Walk and My Town Talk on Sunday, Oct. 1st at 2 p.m.

Oakland Cemetery will be honored with re-enactors to include Connie Brubaker, Larry and Elaine McAfee, Jim and Jen Sturgeon, Alan Daugherty and Mike Downney.

Craigville will be the small town explored with Connie Brubaker presenting the history. Re-enactors will include Dave Schultz, Ben Jones, Amanda Brubaker and Ryan Crismore.

Businesses to be talked about will include: Post Office (Christine Hunt), Craigville Garage (Josh Hunt), Farmers & Merchants Bank (John Gerber), Craigville Telephone (Arvilla Rodenbeck and Carla Von Gunten) and Craigville Locker (Tammy Schaffer for the Willis Prichard family).

Lynn Elliott will offer the closing remarks.

## Program offered to help cope with death of a spouse

"Loss of a Spouse" is a free one-night GriefShare video event designed to provide practical coping strategies when you are grieving a spouse's death. It will be offered on Wednesday, Oct. 4 from 6:30-8 p.m. at Pleasant Dale Church located at 4504 W 300 N, Decatur.

The seminar features video interviews with counselors, grief experts, and widowed men and women who offer helpful insights on many issues including how to deal with loneliness, what to do with your spouse's belongings, what to expect in the days to come, and

why it won't always hurt this much.

Everyone who attends will receive a booklet with over 30 short readings on how to live with grief and eventually rebuild your life.

For more information, visit the church's website at [www.discoverpd.org/grief-share](http://www.discoverpd.org/grief-share) or contact Pam Schaffer at [prschaffer@gmail.com](mailto:prschaffer@gmail.com).

## BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION



## Glenna Plummer Birthday

The Plummer family is hosting an open house to celebrate Glenna Plummer's 95th birthday. The event will be held on Sunday, October 8, 2023, at the Christian Care Activity Center.

Your presence is your present to her. If you attend in person or in thought, please shower her with cards full of notes and memories. She is 95, loved and blessed

## Spooktacular Safety Event

Family Centred Services, 1515 North Sutton Circle Dr. in Bluffton will be the site of the Spooktacular Safety Event on Thursday, Oct. 12, from noon to 3:30 p.m.

Car seat inspections and car seat education will be offered along

with free snacks, drinks, crafts and other goodies as well as drawings for prizes.

For more information contact Nicoel Eakright, Certified Car Seat Technician or FCS for any questions at (260) 824-8574.

## Free Theater Thursday at Wells County Library

FREE Theater Thursday is on September 28th. Join us at the Wells County Public Library for Theater Thursday! We will show the movie "Dog," rated PG13, at 10 a.m. at the Wells County Public Library.

With a dog named Lulu by his side, army ranger Briggs races down the Pacific coast to make it to a soldier's funeral on time. Along the way, Briggs and Lulu drive each other completely crazy, break a handful of laws, narrowly evade death, and learn to let down their guard to have a fighting chance of finding happiness.

Bluffton Parks and Recreation Department and Wells County Public Library have partnered to offer adults a free monthly movie. For more information call 824-6069

### ABC CINEMA

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**The Hill**  
Thursday, September 28th 6pm

**The Blind - The True Story of the Robertson Family**  
ONE WEEKEND ONLY

Thursday, September 28th 6:20pm  
Friday, September 29th 6pm & 8:30pm  
Saturday, September 30th 12:30pm, 3:10pm, 5:50pm, & 8:30pm  
Sunday, October 1st 2pm & 4:30pm

**Paw Patrol: The Mighty Movie**  
Friday, September 29th 6:20pm & 8:45pm  
Saturday, September 30th 1pm SSS, 3:20pm, 6pm, & 8:30pm  
Sunday, October 1st 2:20pm & 4:45pm

[www.abcinemainc.com](http://www.abcinemainc.com)

## Online Directory

Check out these websites of local & area companies and businesses.

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## Sports Roundup

### Tigers ranked No. 1 in AP football poll

The Bluffton Tigers are now ranked No. 1 for 2A in the latest high school football poll announced Tuesday.

The Tigers (6-0) received nine of the 17 first place votes, sharing with Triton Central (4), Linton (2), and Heritage Christian (2).

Bluffton is traveling to Heritage this week in a first of two week stretch against quality opponents. No. 2 in 1A Adams Central will follow.

### Tigers fall to Patriots in ACAC volleyball

Bluffton's volleyball team fell at Heritage in three games Tuesday night.

Scores for the varsity were not provided at the time of publication.

Stat leaders were Maryn Schreiber with seven kills and one stuff block, Konley Ault with one stuff block, and Haley Gibson with 14 assists, 12 digs, and four aces.

The junior varsity team lost in two sets (25-15, 25-18).

Stat leaders were Rori Drayer with three kills and one ace, Sophie Eisenhut with one ace and two stuff blocks, Ella Borrer with four assists, and Madelyn Funk with five digs.

Bluffton will be at the Jay County Invitational at 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 30.

### Rain pushes tennis sectional back 1 day

The rain on Tuesday forced the first match of the boys' tennis sectional at Norwell High School to be pushed back one day for all of the matches this week.

Tuesday night would have been Adams Central against Bellmont, but will now play at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday. The winner will face Bluffton at the same time Thursday, with the championship to follow for Friday.

Norwell will play South Adams on the other side of the courts Thursday.

There still is weather concerns for Wednesday's matches, and any postponements will be updated throughout the week.

## High School Calendar

### WEDNESDAY, SEPT 27

BOYS TENNIS: (Sectional at Norwell) Bluffton vs. Bellmont/Adams Central, 4:30 p.m.; Norwell vs. South Adams, 4:30 p.m.  
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.

### FRIDAY, SEPT 29

FOOTBALL: Norwell at DeKalb, 7 p.m.; Bluffton at Heritage, 7 p.m.; Adams Central at Southern Wells, 7 p.m.

### SATURDAY, SEPT 30

CROSS COUNTRY (CO-ED): Norwell at NE8 CC Championship at Columbia City, 10 a.m.; Bluffton at Bluffton Invitational, 10 a.m.

### MONDAY, OCT 2

VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Lakeland Christian, 7:30 p.m.

### TUESDAY, OCT 3

BOYS SOCCER: (sectional) Norwell at Woodlan vs. TBD.  
VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at East Noble, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Anderson Prep, 7:30 p.m.



Bellmont attacker Delaney Lawson (left) spikes over the heads of Norwell defenders Macie Saalfrank (middle) and Mallory Falls (right) in a match at the Teepee. Norwell fell in three sets to the No. 1 Braves, who are ranked No. 1 in 3A. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

## Knights fall, but finds positives against powerful No. 1 Braves

By RYAN WALKER

DECATUR — Bellmont swept Norwell at home in volleyball at the Teepee, and who can blame them?

The Knights lost the first set 25-17, the second 25-10, and the third 25-19, against one of the state's best on the road on its senior night.

The Braves, now 23-2 on the season, are currently ranked No. 1 in the fresh batch of IHSCVA rankings from Monday. The team has had two state titles over the last decade and change while being the runner-up in the state final in 2021 and 2022.

The team even boasts an NCAA Division One commitment, Delaney Lawson, who will be heading to Utah State in the Mountain West Conference.

There are several other players on the roster that make an impact, creating fits for opposing coaches to find a weakness.

"They're always a very, very solid

team kind of in every aspect," Norwell head coach Kayla Hunter said after the match. "If it's serve receive, we were trying to find people to pick on, and we can't because they're just really solid."

Considering the scores, Norwell held its own and showed it still belonged on the court. It's been a program that's gradually getting better as the years pass, eclipsing a winning record for the first time since 2014.

At times, Norwell attackers found a rhythm offensively, covered the floor well on defense, and made a few nice blocks on hard spikes.

"I honestly was really proud of them," Hunter said. "I thought (Norwell) played well against a great team, and I kind of talked before that we know (Bellmont's) going to get really good swings. They're going to play really well, so we need to shake off their good plays and just try to make their own."

Hunter shared that the game plan was to give their best to challenge a good opponent and to make adjustments as the game went along. She used five timeouts throughout the night, learning that the best way to approach each point was on serve receive since it's more controllable than other strategies.

At the end of the day, the Braves just had more playmakers and proved why they're the best in 3A.

With the loss, Norwell sinks to 1-3 in the Northeast 8 Conference but 14-9 overall.

Stat leaders on the night were Macie Saalfrank with seven kills and 10 assists, Autumn Lee with eight digs, Jordyn Xayyachack with two aces, and Mekynzi Beck and Mallory Falls with one block.

Norwell will host New Haven starting at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sept. 28.

sports@news-banner.com

## Stewart edges Thomas, Wilson for WNBA MVP award in a tight race

By DOUG FEINBERG  
AP Basketball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Breanna Stewart was honored to win one of the closest MVP races in WNBA history.

The New York Liberty star took the WNBA's Most Valuable Player award for the second time in her career Tuesday, edging Alyssa Thomas and A'ja Wilson. There were only 13 points separating Stewart from second-place finisher Thomas of Connecticut and last year's MVP, Wilson of Las Vegas.

"It's been an unbelievable season for the WNBA, AT and A'ja had amazing seasons, it just shows we're reaching new heights," Stewart said. "That greatness shines in many different ways. That this race was so tight is kind of crazy, but I'm happy to be standing up here today."

Stewart received 446 points (20 first-place votes, 23 second-place votes and 17 third-place votes). Thomas had 439 points (23, 12 and 25). Wilson received 433 points (17, 25, 17 and 1).

A lot has changed since Stewart last won the award in 2018. She's married, has a daughter, Ruby, recovered from a ruptured Achilles tendon injury. She also made the difficult choice to leave Seattle and come to New York as a free agent.

"It's been a roller-coaster of a journey and I wouldn't wish it any other way," Stewart said. "To show that resiliency works. No matter the highs and lows, keep pushing forward."

Stewart accepted the award an hour before the Liberty faced Connecticut in Game 2 of their WNBA semifinals playoff series in front of her teammates, grandparents, dad, wife Marta and Ruby, who was wearing an MVP T-shirt with her mom on the front.

"To be a role model to you Ruby is what keeps me going," said Stewart with her daughter in her arms. "Today you get to see your mommy win MVP."

With Stewart and Thomas separated by seven points, this marks the second-smallest margin between the first- and second-place finishers in the history of the award. The closest finish was a two-point difference between Sheryl Swoopes and Lauren Jackson in 2005.

The 13 points separating Stewart and Wilson represent the smallest margin between first- and third-place vote-getters for MVP in WNBA history, surpassing the 45-point difference in 2013 between Candace Parker and Elena Delle Donne.

"It hurt like hell, it really did," Wilson said of not being named MVP. "But it's all part of the game."

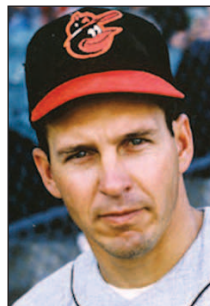
All the WNBA awards are voted on by a 60-person national media panel and had them vote for their top five choices for the MVP award. Players were awarded 10 points for a first-place vote, seven points for a second-place vote, five points for a third-place vote, three points for a fourth-place vote and one point for a fifth-place vote.

The Liberty forward was impressed with the way the other two top candidates played this season.

"The competitive camaraderie that we have with one and another, but also the way we're continuing to show excellence in different ways and be the conversation, that's the way the league needs to go," Stewart said. "Have people watching different players and making sure they see greatness on all different levels."

By DAVID GINSBURG  
Associated Press

BALTIMORE (AP) — Hall of Fame third baseman Brooks Robinson, whose deft glove work and folksy manner made him one of the most beloved and accomplished athletes in Baltimore history, has died. He was 86.



Brooks Robinson

The Orioles announced his death in a joint statement with Robinson's family Tuesday. The statement did not say how Robinson died.

The Orioles held a moment of silence before their game against the Washington Nationals, and the teams lined up outside their dugouts to pay their respects. Also before the game, fans gathered around the 9-foot bronze statue of Robinson inside Camden Yards.

"Great player, great guy on the field, great guy off," said fellow Orioles Hall of Famer Jim Palmer, who was overcome with emotion. "Respectful, kind. And you don't meet too many guys like that. Brooks was a genuine person. There was no acting. Brooks was just a genuine person."

Coming of age before the free agent

era, Robinson spent his entire 23-year career with the Orioles. He almost single-handedly helped Baltimore defeat Cincinnati in the 1970 World Series and homered in Game 1 of the Orioles' 1966 sweep of the Los Angeles Dodgers for their first crown.

Robinson participated in 18 All-Star Games, won 16 consecutive Gold Gloves and earned the 1964 AL Most Valuable Player award after batting .318 with 28 home runs and a league-leading 118 RBIs.

"An integral part of our Orioles Family since 1955, he will continue to leave a lasting impact on our club, our community, and the sport of baseball," the team said.

He finished with 268 homers, drove in 1,357 runs and batted a respectable .267 in 2,896 career games. Not bad for ol' No. 5, the boy from Arkansas.

MLB Commissioner Rob Manfred described Robinson as "one of the greats of our National Pastime," calling him a "model of excellence, durability, loyalty and winning baseball for the Orioles."

MLB Player Association Executive Director Tony Clark cited Robinson's role as an advocate for his fellow players.

"Tributes to Brooks Robinson will duly note his brilliance at third base ... But his impact transcended the field — as a prominent voice in the early days of the MLBPA and a relentless advo-

cate for his fellow players through his work with the Major League Baseball Players Alumni Association."

The Hall of Fame applauded Robinson's role as a member of its board.

"For generations of fans, Brooks Robinson's talent on the field was surpassed only by his incredible character and integrity. His love of the Hall of Fame brightened Cooperstown, as did his devotion to the Museum as a long-standing and valued member of our Board of Directors."

Robinson will be forever remembered for his work ethic and the skill he displayed at the hot corner, where he established himself as one of the finest fielding third basemen in baseball history, whether charging slow rollers or snaring liners down the third-base line.

"Brooks was maybe the last guy to get into the clubhouse the day of the game, but he would be the first guy on the field," said former Orioles manager Earl Weaver, who died in 2013. "He'd be taking his groundballs, and we'd all go, 'Why does Brooks have to take any groundballs?'"

"I wouldn't expect anything else from Brooks. Seeing him work like that meant a lot of my young person coming up. He was so steady, and he steadied everybody else."

Robinson arrived in Baltimore in September 1955 as an 18-year-old

(Continued on Page 7)

## Cardinals' right hander Adam Wainwright, 42, says he has thrown his final career pitch

By TOM KERTSCHER  
Associated Press

MILWAUKEE (AP) — Eight days after winning his 200th game, 42-year-old Adam Wainwright said Tuesday he has thrown his final pitch.

"I've thought a lot about it the last few days, but I'm in a really good place mentally," the St. Louis Cardinals right-hander said ahead of his team's game against the Milwaukee Brewers. "No regrets about anything I ever did, no second thoughts of, am I making the right decision on pitching or retiring. I'm at peace with all of it in this spot that I've never been."

"I've literally left everything I had out there, for real."

Wainwright, a three-time All-Star, pitched all 18 of his seasons with the Cardinals, who won the 2006 World Series in his second year. He threw seven innings of four-hit ball in winning his final start, a 1-0 victory Sept. 18 over the Brewers in St. Louis.

"I knew the day after I pitched that it was going to be very hard for me to throw a ball competitively ever again," he said.

It was the longest outing this season for Wainwright (5-11, 7.40 ERA). He recorded his final out by throwing a curveball to Josh Donaldson, who flied out.

"I felt kind of like Kevin Costner in that movie where I'm thinking, I can

do this one more time," he said of his final pitch.

Wainwright went on the injured list in March (groin injury) and in July (shoulder strain). He made 21 starts and threw 101 innings, with 55 strikeouts.

Manager Oliver Marmol said that during the Cardinals' series in San Diego against the Padres over the weekend, Wainwright played catch "and the reality is, there's no way he'd be able to go out and throw another inning."

"To walk off the way he did, at home, ended on a curveball, fans on their feet, the ovation after he came out, all of it, there's not a better way to go out," Marmol said.

# Scoreboard

## FOOTBALL

### High School

6A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Brownsburg	6-0	344		1
2. Center Grove	5-1	320		2
3. Indpls Ben Davis	5-1	308		3
4. Crown Point	6-0	224		5
5. Hamilton So.	5-1	200		6
6. Fishers	4-2	150		7
7. Westfield	5-1	144		4
8. Indpls Cathedral	4-2	124		8
9. Carmel	4-2	78		10
10. Penn	5-1	62		NR

Others receiving votes: Carroll (Fort Wayne) 12. Lake Central 10. Warsaw 4.

5A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Bloomington N.	6-0	352		2
2. Ft. Wayne Snider	5-1	286		1
3. Bloomington So.	5-1	278		5
4. Merrillville	5-1	224		6
5. Mishawaka	5-1	200		7
6. Valparaiso	4-2	192		3
7. Laf. Harrison	5-1	140		8
8. Plainfield	5-1	114		4
9. Decatur Central	4-2	82		10
10. Floyd Central	5-1	68		9

Others receiving votes: Concord 20. Ev. North 18. Franklin 6.

4A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. E. Central	6-0	358		1
2. Ev. Reitz	6-0	318		3
3. Ev. Memorial	6-0	250		4
4. New Haven	6-0	208		9
5. Northridge	5-1	176		7
6. Kokomo	5-1	172		2
7. New Palestine	4-2	160		10
8. Greenfield	5-1	130		5
9. Mississinewa	6-0	46		NR
10. New Prairie	5-1	42		NR

Others receiving votes: Columbia City 38. Indpls Brebeuf 34. S. Bend Rlys 22. Indpls Roncalli 12. Pendleton Hts. 6. Leo 6. Jasper 2.

3A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Indpls Chatham	6-0	360		1
2. W. Lafayette	5-1	252		4
3. Hanover Cen.	6-0	226		6
4. Hamilton Hts.	6-0	216		7
5. Guerin Catholic	4-2	196		5
6. Gibson Southern	4-2	144		10
7. Tippecanoe Valley	6-0	128		9
8. Heritage Hills	5-1	116		2
9. Tri-West	5-1	102		8
10. Peru	6-0	66		NR

Others receiving votes: Vincennes 42. Knox 38. Lawrenceburg 36. Batesville 26. W. Noble 24. Delta 8.

2A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Bluffton	6-0	312		2
2. Triton Central	5-1	276		4
3. Linton	5-1	258		5
4. Brownstown	5-1	210		1
5. Heritage Christian	5-1	206		6
6. N. Posey	5-1	170		8
7. LaVie	5-1	152		3
8. Indpls Sciecina	4-2	76		7
9. Ft. Wayne Luers	4-2	72		10
10. Alexandria	5-1	34		10
(tie) S. Vermillion	5-1	34		NR

Others receiving votes: Paoli 22. Eastbrook 20. Andean 14. Greencastle 6. Northeastern 6. Lafayette Catholic 2.

1A		Rcd	TP	Pvs
1. Indpls Lutheran	6-0	340		1
2. Adams Central	6-0	302		2
3. Carroll (Flora)	6-0	266		3
4. Providence	6-0	222		4
5. Indpls Park Tudor	6-0	196		5
6. S. Putnam	5-1	154		6
7. Sheridan	5-1	138		7
8. Madison-Grant	5-1	100		8
9. N. White	6-0	68		NR
10. N. Judson	4-2	30		T10

Others receiving votes: W. Central 18. Triton 12. Springs Valley 10. N. Vermillion 4. Pioneer 4. Milan 4. Hagerstown 2.

## BASEBALL

American League					
East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
z-Baltimore	98	59	624		
z-Tampa Bay	96	62	608		2½
Toronto	87	70	554		11
New York	80	77	510		18
Boston	76	81	484		22

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Minnesota	84	73	535		
Detroit	74	83	471		10
Cleveland	74	84	468		10½
Chicago	60	97	382		24

National League					
East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	101	56	643		
y-Philadelphia	89	69	561		13
Miami	81	75	519		19½
New York	71	85	455		29½
Washington	69	89	437		32½

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	88	69	561		
Chicago	82	75	522		6
Cincinnati	81	77	513		7½
Pittsburgh	74	83	471		14
St. Louis	69	88	439		19

West Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Los Angeles	96	60	615		
Arizona	83	74	529		13½
San Francisco	78	79	497		18½
San Diego	77	80	490		19½
Colorado	57	99	365		39

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Texas	88	68	564	
Houston	86	71	548	
Seattle	84	72	538	
Los Angeles	70	87	446	
Oakland	48	109	306	

2:10 p.m.  
St. Louis at Milwaukee, 4:10 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia, 6:05 p.m.  
Miami at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.  
Chicago Cubs at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.  
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.

Monday's Games				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Arizona 4				
Houston 5, Seattle 1				
Texas 5, L.A. Angels 1				
Arizona at Chicago White Sox, ppd.				

Tuesday's Games				
Baltimore 1, Washington 0				
Cincinnati 11, Cleveland 7				
Detroit 6, Kansas City 3				
N.Y. Yankees 2, Toronto 0				
Tampa Bay 9, Boston 7				
Minnesota 11, Oakland 3				
Arizona 15, Chicago White Sox 4				
Texas at L.A. Angels, late				
Houston at Seattle, late				

Wednesday's Games				
Arizona (Pfaadt 2-9) at Chicago White Sox (TBD), 2:10 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Abbott 8-5) at Cleveland (Bieber 5-6), 6:10 p.m.				
Tampa Bay (Glasnow 9-7) at Boston (Bello 12-10), 6:10 p.m.				
Washington (Corbin 10-14) at Baltimore (Rodriguez 6-4), 6:35 p.m.				
Kansas City (Bowlan 0-0) at Detroit (Skubal 7-3), 6:40 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees (Cole 14-4) at Toronto (Berrios 11-11), 7:07 p.m.				
Oakland (Estes 0-1) at Minnesota (Lopez 11-8), 7:40 p.m.				
Texas (Dunning 11-6) at L.A. Angels (Canning 7-7), 9:38 p.m.				
Houston (Valdez 12-11) at Seattle (Miller 8-6), 9:40 p.m.				

Thursday's Games				
Kansas City at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.				
Oakland at Minnesota, 1:10 p.m.				
Arizona at Chicago White Sox, 2:10 p.m.				
Boston at Baltimore, 6:35 p.m.				
N.Y. Yankees at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.				
Texas at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.				

Tuesday's Transactions				
<b>BASEBALL</b>				
<b>Major League Baseball</b>				
<b>American League</b>				
BOSTON RED SOX Sent RHP Kyle Barraclough outright to Worcester (IL).				
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed OF Luis Robert Jr. on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of OF Tyler Naquin from Charlotte (IL). Transferred RHP Jimmy Lambert from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL.				
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed LHP Patrick Sandoval on the 15-day IL. Recalled LHP Kolton Ingram from Salt Lake (PCL).				
MINNESOTA TWINS — Reinstated RHP Brock Stewart from the 60-day IL. Designated RHP Dylan Floro for assignment.				
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Reinstated INF Brandon Belt from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Jay Jackson from Buffalo (IL). Optioned INF Spencer Horwitz and RHP Nate Pearson to the Florida Complex League (FCL).				
<b>National League</b>				
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated RHP Wander Suero from the 15-day IL and optioned him to Oklahoma City (PCL).				
MIAMI MARLINS — Placed LHP Tanner Scott on the paternity list. Sent RHP Chi Chi Gonzalez outright to Jacksonville (IL). Reinstated RHP Huascar Brazoban from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Jeff Lindgren to Jacksonville (IL).				
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed RHP Trevor Megill on the paternity list. Recalled RHP Colin Rea from Nashville (IL).				
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Recalled INF Nick Gonzalez from Indianapolis (IL). Optioned INF Ailika Williams to Indianapolis.				

National League					
East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	101	56	643		
y-Philadelphia	89	69	561		13
Miami	81	75	519		19½
New York	71	85	455		29½
Washington	69	89	437		32½

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Milwaukee	88	69	561		
Chicago	82	75	522		6
Cincinnati	81	77	513		7½
Pittsburgh	74	83	471		14
St. Louis	69	88	439		19

West Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Los Angeles	96	60	615		
Arizona	83	74	529		13½
San Francisco	78	79	497		18½
San Diego	77	80	490		19½
Colorado	57	99	365		39

Monday's Games				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Arizona 4				
San Francisco 2, San Diego 1				
Arizona at Chicago White Sox, ppd.				

Tuesday's Games				
Colorado 4, L.A. Dodgers 1, 1st game				
Baltimore 1, Washington 0				
Cincinnati 11, Cleveland 7				
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 2, 10 innings				
St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 1				
Atlanta 7, Chicago Cubs 6				
Arizona 15, Chicago White Sox 4				
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, late				
San Diego at San Francisco, late				
Miami at N.Y. Mets, ppd.				

Wednesday's Games				
Arizona (Pfaadt 2-9) at Chicago White Sox (TBD), 2:10 p.m.				
Miami (Garrett 9-6) at N.Y. Mets (TBD), 4:10 p.m., 1st game				
Cincinnati (Abbott 8-5) at Cleveland (Bieber 5-6), 6:10 p.m.				
Washington (Corbin 10-14) at Baltimore (Rodriguez 6-4), 6:35 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Oviedo 9-14) at Philadelphia (Suarez 4-6), 6:40 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Taillon 8-10) at Atlanta (Vines 1-0), 7:20 p.m.				
Miami (TBD) at N.Y. Mets (TBD), 7:40 p.m., 2nd game				
St. Louis (Thompson 5-7) at Milwaukee (Miley 9-4), 7:40 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Sheehan 3-1) at Colorado (Davis 0-3), 8:40 p.m.				
San Diego (Waldron 1-3) at San Francisco (Manaea 7-6), 9:45 p.m.				

Thursday's Games				
Arizona at Chicago White Sox,				

National League					
East Division		W	L	Pct	GB
x-Atlanta	101	56	643		
y-Philadelphia	89	69	561		13
Miami	81	75	519		19½
New York	71	85	455		29½
Washington	69	89	437		32½

Central Division		W	L	Pct	GB
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x-Los Angeles	96	60	615		
Arizona	83	74	529		13½
San Francisco	78	79	497		18½
San Diego	77	80	490		19½
Colorado	57	99	365		39

Monday's Games				
N.Y. Yankees 6, Arizona 4				
San Francisco 2, San Diego 1				
Arizona at Chicago White Sox, ppd.				

Tuesday's Games				
Colorado 4, L.A. Dodgers 1, 1st game				
Baltimore 1, Washington 0				
Cincinnati 11, Cleveland 7				
Philadelphia 3, Pittsburgh 2, 10 innings				
St. Louis 4, Milwaukee 1				
Atlanta 7, Chicago Cubs 6				
Arizona 15, Chicago White Sox 4				
L.A. Dodgers at Colorado, late				
San Diego at San Francisco, late				
Miami at N.Y. Mets, ppd.				

Wednesday's Games				
Arizona (Pfaadt 2-9) at Chicago White Sox (TBD), 2:10 p.m.				
Miami (Garrett 9-6) at N.Y. Mets (TBD), 4:10 p.m., 1st game				
Cincinnati (Abbott 8-5) at Cleveland (Bieber 5-6), 6:10 p.m.				
Washington (Corbin 10-14) at Baltimore (Rodriguez 6-4), 6:35 p.m.				
Pittsburgh (Oviedo 9-14) at Philadelphia (Suarez 4-6), 6:40 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs (Taillon 8-10) at Atlanta (Vines 1-0), 7:20 p.m.				
Miami (TBD) at N.Y. Mets (TBD), 7:40 p.m., 2nd game				
St. Louis (Thompson 5-7) at Milwaukee (Miley 9-4), 7:40 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers (Sheehan 3-1) at Colorado (Davis 0-3), 8:40 p.m.				
San Diego (Waldron 1-3) at San Francisco (Manaea 7-6), 9:45 p.m.				

Thursday's Games				
Arizona at Chicago White Sox,				

## BASKETBALL

### WNBA

WNBA Playoff Glance				
<b>Semifinals</b>				
(Best-of-5)				
No. 3 Connecticut 1, No. 2 New York 1				
<b>York 1</b>				
Sunday, Sept. 24: Connecticut 78, New York 63				
Tuesday, Sept. 26: New York 84, Connecticut 77				
<b>Connecticut 2</b>				
Friday, Sept. 29: New York at Connecticut, 7:30 p.m.				
Sunday, Oct. 1: New York at Connecticut, TBD				
<b>x-Tuesday, Oct. 3: Connecticut at New York, TBD</b>				
No. 1 Las Vegas 1, No. 4 Dallas 0				
Sunday, Sept. 24: Las Vegas 97, Dallas 83				
Tuesday, Sept. 26: Dallas at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.				
Friday, Sept. 29: Las Vegas at Dallas, 9:30 p.m.				
<b>x-Sunday, Oct. 1: Las Vegas at Dallas, TBD</b>				
<b>x-Tuesday, Oct. 3: Dallas at Las Vegas, TBD</b>				

## TRANSACTIONS

Tuesday's Transactions				
<b>BASEBALL</b>				
<b>Major League Baseball</b>				
<b>American League</b>				
BOSTON RED SOX Sent RHP Kyle Barraclough outright to Worcester (IL).				
CHICAGO WHITE SOX — Placed OF Luis Robert Jr. on the 10-day IL. Selected the contract of OF Tyler Naquin from Charlotte (IL). Transferred RHP Jimmy Lambert from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL.				
LOS ANGELES ANGELS — Placed LHP Patrick Sandoval on the 15-day IL. Recalled LHP Kolton Ingram from Salt Lake (PCL).				
MINNESOTA TWINS — Reinstated RHP Brock Stewart from the 60-day IL. Designated RHP Dylan Floro for assignment.				
TORONTO BLUE JAYS — Reinstated INF Brandon Belt from the 10-day IL. Recalled RHP Jay Jackson from Buffalo (IL). Optioned INF Spencer Horwitz and RHP Nate Pearson to the Florida Complex League (FCL).				
<b>National League</b>				
LOS ANGELES DODGERS — Reinstated RHP Wander Suero from the 15-day IL and optioned him to Oklahoma City (PCL).				
MIAMI MARLINS — Placed LHP Tanner Scott on the paternity list. Sent RHP Chi Chi Gonzalez outright to Jacksonville (IL). Reinstated RHP Huascar Brazoban from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Jeff Lindgren to Jacksonville (IL).				
MILWAUKEE BREWERS — Placed RHP Trevor Megill on the paternity list. Recalled RHP Colin Rea from Nashville (IL).				
PITTSBURGH PIRATES — Recalled INF Nick Gonzalez from Indianapolis (IL). Optioned INF Ailika Williams to Indianapolis.				

# Ohtani headlines MLB's soon-to-be free agents

**By JAY COHEN**  
**AP Baseball Writer**  
**CHICAGO (AP) —** There is Shohei Ohtani, and then there is the rest of baseball's soon-to-be free agents.

With the season winding down and the playoffs coming up, it's almost time for major league teams to go shopping once again. And there is one player that is sure to dominate the conversation until he makes a decision.

It looks as if Ohtani is going to the open market after another stellar season with the Los Angeles Angels. The Japanese slugger is the favorite for the AL MVP award after batting .304 with 44 homers, 95 RBIs, eight triples and 20 steals. The right-hander also went 10-5 with a 3.14 ERA in 23 starts on the mound.

The questions surrounding Ohtani's free agency once centered on the money and length of a contract that could set multiple financial records for the sport, and exactly which teams might be willing to go into that territory to secure his services.

Those questions remain, but the situation has grown more complicated than it was as late as the All-Star break.

Ohtani tore a ligament in his elbow on Aug. 23 at Cincinnati, ending his pitching season. He remained in the Angels' lineup as the designated hitter until he was shut down because of an oblique injury in early September.

Ohtani, who doesn't turn 30 until July, had elbow surgery last week and will not pitch next season. The elbow injury, especially considering Ohtani had Tommy John surgery in 2018, raises questions about just how effective he might be as a pitcher moving forward.

That will all figure into the calculus for Ohtani's potential suitors, along with the other possibilities. Here's a closer look at a couple more of baseball's





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### King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

9/27

### Lottery Numbers

**Tuesday's Drawings**  
HOOSIER LOTTERY  
Cash 5 — 08-21-22-41-44

Cash4Life — 08-09-12-24-59, Cash Ball: 01

**Quick Draw Midday** — 07-08-10-14-15-17-18-23-26-28-35-37-46-55-56-63-66-67-74-77, BE: 28

**Daily Three-Midday** — 07-01-03, SB: 08

**Daily Three-Evening** — 07-03-04, SB: 09

**Daily Four-Midday** — 06-00-04-05, SB: 08

**Daily Four-Evening** — 03-03-02-01, SB: 09

**Quick Draw Evening** — 06-09-10-12-28-29-31-32-38-40-44-47-58-61-63-64-68-69-78-79, BE: 32

**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$34.2 million

**MEGA MILLIONS** 15-30-35-42-60; Mega Ball: 16; Megaplier: 4X.

**POWERBALL** Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$835 million

Read & recycle

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**LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:**  
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## Public Sale Calendar

**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! **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, [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. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, [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. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**OCTOBER 15-OCTOBER 22 - (Online Only Auction)** - Michael & Jane Michaud, seller. Gravely zero turn riding mower, 2018 Family Farm Home single axle utility trailer, Craftsman portable air compressor, Craftsman & DeWalt power tools, late model appliances, antique furniture, assorted household, Christmas decorations, Berkley fishing boat w/14' trailer, assorted fishing. Preview: Oct. 12 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 19 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 1791 E 1100 S, Warren. Sale managers, Patrick Carter & Nick Huffman. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

**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, house-

hold, 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. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, [Kjauction.com](http://Kjauction.com), 260-724-7402.

**OCTOBER 22-OCTOBER 27 - (Online Only Auction)** - Michael & Jane Michaud, seller. Single story home situated on 4.55 Acres w/outbuildings. 3 bedroom and 2 full bathrooms with 1,880 square foot and an attached 2 car garage. Open houses: Oct. 12 from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 19 from 3-6 p.m., Oct. 26 from 4-6 p.m., 1791 E 1100 S, Warren. Pat Carter & Nick Huffman, sale managers. **The Steffen Group Inc.**, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

**OCTOBER 22- OCTOBER 29 - (Online Only Auction)** - Harvey E. & Wilma D. King, seller. H&D Repair Center & Body Shop retirement auction. Automotive & body shop equipment, pickup truck, tractor, Rotary lift 9,000-lb. capacity 2-post hydraulic lift, mower. Preview: Oct. 19 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m. and Oct. 26 from 3 p.m.-6 p.m., 300 Standard Oil Blvd., Montpelier. Sale manager, Patrick Carter, **The Steffen Group Inc.**, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

### SUDOKU ANSWER

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

# Biden urges striking auto workers to 'stick with it' in visit

VAN BUREN TOWNSHIP, Mich. (AP) — President Joe Biden grabbed a bullhorn on the picket line Tuesday and urged striking auto workers to "stick with it" in an unparalleled show of support for organized labor by a modern president.

Donning a union ballcap and exchanging fist bumps, Biden told United Auto Workers strikers that "you deserve the significant raise you need" as he stopped in the Detroit area just a day ahead of a planned visit by former President Donald Trump, the frontrunner for the Republican nomination in next year's election.

"No deal, no wheels!" workers chanted as Biden arrived at a General Motors parts distribution warehouse, one of several facilities that has been targeted in a widening strike now in its 12th day. "No pay, no parts!"

Despite concerns that a prolonged strike could undermine the economy, particularly in the crucial battleground state of Michigan, the Democratic president encouraged workers to keep fighting for better wages at a time when car companies have seen rising profits.

Asked if UAW members deserved a 40 percent raise, one of their demands over the course of negotiations, Biden said: "Yes. I think they should be able to bargain for that."

He's repeatedly argued that auto companies have not gone far enough to meet union demands,

especially after making concessions in the wake of the 2008 financial crisis.

"The fact of the matter is that you guys, the UAW, you saved the automobile industry back in 2008 ... you made a lot of sacrifices. You gave up a lot. And the companies were in trouble. Now they're doing incredibly well and guess what? You should be doing incredibly well."

The White House said Biden was the first modern president to visit a picket line, a sign of how far he's willing to go to cultivate union support as he runs for reelection.

Lawmakers often appear at strikes to show solidarity with unions, and Biden joined picket lines with casino workers in Las Vegas and auto workers in Kansas City while seeking the 2020 Democratic presidential nomination.

But sitting presidents, who have to balance the rights of workers with disruptions to the economy, supply chains and other facets of everyday life, have stayed out of the strike fray — until Biden.

Unimpressed, Trump called Biden's visit "nothing more than a PR stunt from Crooked Joe Biden to distract and gaslight the American people from his disastrous Bidenomics policies that have led to so much economic misery across the country."

The president spent less than half an hour at the Willow Run parts distribution warehouse, where he was joined by UAW President Shawn Fain, who rode

with Biden in the presidential limousine to the picket line.

"Thank you, Mr. President, for coming to stand up with us in our generation-defining moment," said Fain, who described the union as engaged in a "kind of war" against "corporate greed."

"We do the heavy lifting. We do the real work," Fain said. "Not the CEOs."

Labor historians said they could not recall an instance when a sitting president had joined an ongoing strike, even during the tenures of ardent pro-union presidents such as Franklin Delano Roosevelt and Harry Truman. Theodore Roosevelt invited labor leaders alongside mine operators to the White House amid a historic coal strike in 1902, a decision that was seen at the time as a rare embrace of unions as Roosevelt tried to resolve the dispute.

Biden's visit to the picket line was the most significant demonstration of his pro-union bona fides, a record that includes vocal support for unionization efforts at Amazon.com facilities and executive actions that promoted worker organizing. He also earned a joint endorsement of major unions earlier this year and has avoided southern California for high-dollar fundraisers amid the writers' and actors' strikes in Hollywood.

The United Farm Workers announced their endorsement of Biden on Tuesday, calling him "an authentic champion for workers and their families, regardless

of their race or national origin." Biden's campaign manager, Julie Chavez Rodriguez, is the granddaughter of Cesar Chavez, the union's co-founder.

The UAW has not endorsed Biden. Asked about that after landing in Michigan, Biden told reporters that "I'm not worried about that."

Fain later said any endorsements would come later. "We've got to get good contracts first and we'll work out those things down the road," he said.

At least one warehouse worker on the picket line was not swayed by the visit. Curtis Cranford, who has 38 years with GM, was happy that Biden visited, but said it wouldn't necessarily deter him from voting Republican in 2024.

"I think it means a lot. It should hopefully put some pressure on the company. The White House is behind us" Cranford said.

Still, he said he and many union members disagree with Democrats on securing the borders, abortion and other issues. And he said both Trump and Biden were too old for the job.

Biden and other Democrats are aggressively touting the president's pro-labor credentials as Trump works to make inroads in critical swing states where unions remain influential, including Michigan and Pennsylvania. Biden is leaning on his union support at a time when labor enjoys broad support from the public, with 67 percent of Americans approving of labor unions in an August Gallup poll.

The UAW strike, which expanded into 20 states last week, remains a dilemma for the Biden administration since a part of the workers' grievances include concerns about a broader transition to electric vehicles. The shift away from gas-powered vehicles has worried some autoworkers because electric versions require fewer people to manufacture and there is no guarantee that factories that produce them will be unionized.

Adrian Mitchell, who works at the GM parts warehouse, said Biden would be better for the middle class than Trump. "He supports the people in regards to coming out here, showing solidarity with the UAW workers," Mitchell said. "He's always been for the middle class. I can't speak about Trump."

On electric vehicles, Mitchell said workers are concerned that the transition from internal combustion vehicles may cost them jobs. "We haven't really gotten to that point to see the job losses yet," he said. "So we can't look into the future to kind of see what's really going to happen. But we're all a little worried about that right now."

Trump is skipping the second Republican primary debate on Wednesday and will meet with striking autoworkers in Michigan, seeking to capitalize on discontent over the state of the economy and anger over the Biden administration's push for more electric vehicles — a key component of its clean-energy agenda.

# Judge rules Trump committed fraud while building real estate empire

NEW YORK (AP) — A judge ruled Tuesday that Donald Trump committed fraud for years while building the real estate empire that catapulted him to fame and the White House, and he ordered some of the former president's companies removed from his control and dissolved.

Judge Arthur Engoron, ruling in a civil lawsuit brought by New York Attorney General Letitia James, found that Trump and his company deceived banks, insurers and others by massively overvaluing his assets and exaggerating his net worth on paperwork used in making deals and securing loans.

Engoron ordered that some of Trump's business licenses be rescinded as punishment, making it difficult or impossible for them to do business in New York, and said he would continue to have an independent monitor oversee Trump Organization operations.

If not successfully appealed, the order would strip Trump of his authority to make strategic and finan-

cial decisions over some of his key properties in the state.

Trump, in a series of statements, railed against the decision, calling it "un-American" and part of an ongoing plot to damage his campaign to return to the White House.

"My Civil rights have been violated, and some Appellate Court, whether federal or state, must reverse this horrible, un-American decision," he wrote on his Truth Social site. He insisted his company had "done a magnificent job for New York State" and "done business perfectly," calling it "A very sad Day for the New York State System of Justice!"

Trump's lawyer, Christopher Kise, said they would appeal, calling the decision "completely disconnected from the facts and governing law."

Engoron's ruling, days before the start of a non-jury trial in James' lawsuit, is the strongest repudiation yet of Trump's carefully coiffed image as a wealthy and shrewd real estate mogul turned political powerhouse.

Beyond mere bragging about his riches, Trump, his company and key executives repeatedly lied about them on his annual financial statements, reaping rewards such as favorable loan terms and lower insurance costs, Engoron found.

Those tactics crossed a line and violated the law, the judge said, rejecting Trump's contention that a disclaimer on the financial statements absolved him of any wrongdoing.

"In defendants' world: rent regulated apartments are worth the same as unregulated apartments; restricted land is worth the same as unrestricted land; restrictions can evaporate into thin air; a disclaimer by one party casting responsibility on another party exonerates the other party's lies," Engoron wrote in his 35-page ruling. "That is a fantasy world, not the real world."

Manhattan prosecutors had looked into bringing criminal charges over the same conduct but declined to do so, leaving James to sue Trump and seek penalties that aim to disrupt his

and his family's ability to do business.

Engoron's ruling, in a phase of the case known as summary judgment, resolves the key claim in James' lawsuit, but several others remain. He'll decide on those claims and James' request for \$250 million in penalties at a trial starting Oct. 2. Trump's lawyers have asked an appeals court for a delay.

"Today, a judge ruled in our favor and found that Donald Trump and the Trump Organization engaged in years of financial fraud," James said in a statement. "We look forward to presenting the rest of our case at trial."

Trump's lawyers, in their own summary judgment bid, had asked the judge to throw out the case, arguing that there wasn't any evidence the public was harmed by Trump's actions. They also argued that many of the allegations in the lawsuit were barred by the statute of limitations.

Engoron, noting that he had rejected those arguments earlier in the case,

equated them to the plot of the film "Groundhog Day." He fined five defense lawyers \$7,500 each as punishment for "engaging in repetitive, frivolous" arguments, but denied James' request to sanction Trump and other defendants.

James, a Democrat, sued Trump and the Trump Organization a year ago, accusing them of routinely inflating the value of assets like skyscrapers, golf courses and his Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida, padding his bottom line by billions.

Engoron found that Trump consistently overvalued Mar-a-Lago, inflating its value on one financial statement by as much as 2,300 percent. The judge also rebuked Trump for lying about the size of his Manhattan apartment. Trump claimed his three-story Trump Tower penthouse was nearly three times its actual size, valuing it at \$327 million.

"A discrepancy of this order of magnitude, by a real estate developer sizing up his own living space of decades, can only be consid-

ered fraud," Engoron wrote.

Under the ruling, limited liability companies that control some of Trump's key properties, such as 40 Wall Street, will be dissolved and authority over how to run them handed over to a receiver. Trump would lose his authority over whom to hire or fire, whom to rent office space to, and other key decisions.

"The decision seeks to nationalize one of the most successful corporate empires in the United States and seize control of private property all while acknowledging there is zero evidence of any default, breach, late payment or any complaint of harm," Kise said after the decision.

The Trump Organization was convicted of tax fraud last year in an unrelated criminal case for helping executives dodge taxes on perks such as apartments and cars. The company was fined \$1.6 million. One executive, Trump's longtime finance chief Allen Weisselberg, pleaded guilty and served five months in jail.

# Hollywood writers strike is over after guild leaders approve contract

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Leaders of the screenwriters union declared their nearly five-month-old strike over Tuesday after board members approved a contract agreement with studios, bringing Hollywood at least partly back from a historic halt in production.

The governing boards of the eastern and western branches of the Writers Guild of America and their joint negotiating committee all voted to accept the deal, and afterward declared that the strike would be over and writers would be free to work starting at 12:01 a.m. Wednesday.

Late-night talk shows — the first to go dark when writers walked out on May 2 — are likely the first shows that will resume.

The writers still have to vote to ratify the contract themselves, but lifting the strike will allow them to work during that process, the Writers Guild told members in an email.

After Tuesday's board votes, the contracts were

released to the writers, who had not yet been given any details on the deal, which their leaders called "exceptional."

The members will vote between Oct. 2 and 9.

Hollywood actors remain on strike with no talks yet on the horizon, but a new spirit of optimism animated those who were picketing Tuesday for the first time since writers reached their tentative deal Sunday night.

"For a hot second, I really thought that this was going to go on until next year," said Marissa Cuevas, an actor who has appeared on the TV series "Kung Fu" and "The Big Bang Theory." "Knowing that at least one of us has gotten a good deal gives a lot of hope that we will also get a good deal."

Writers' picket lines had been suspended, but they were encouraged to walk in solidarity with actors, and many were on the lines Tuesday, including "Mad Men" creator Mat-

thew Weiner, who picketed alongside friend and "ER" actor Noah Wyle as he has throughout the strikes.

"We would never have had the leverage we had if SAG had not gone out," Weiner said. "They were very brave to do it."

Striking actors also voted to authorize their leadership to potentially expand their walkout to include the lucrative video game market, a step that could put new pressure on Hollywood studios to make a deal with the performers who provide voices and stunts for games.

The Screen Actors Guild-American Federation of Radio and Television Artists announced the move late Monday, saying that 98% of its members voted to go on strike against video game companies if ongoing negotiations are not successful. The announcement came ahead of more talks planned for Tuesday.

Acting in video games can include a variety of roles, from voice perfor-

mances to motion capture work as well as stunts. Video game actors went on strike in 2016 in a work stoppage that lasted nearly a year.

Some of the same issues are at play in the video game negotiations as in the broader actors strike that has shut down Hollywood for months, including wages, safety measures and protections on the use of artificial intelligence. The companies involved include gaming giants Activision, Electronic Arts, Epic Games, Take 2 Productions as well as Disney and Warner Bros.' video game divisions.

"It's time for the video game companies to stop playing games and get serious about reaching an agreement on this contract," SAG-AFTRA President Fran Drescher said in a statement.

Audrey Cooling, a spokesperson for video game producers, said they are "continuing to negotiate in good faith" and have reached tentative agree-

ments on more than half of the proposals on the table.

So far this year, U.S. consumers have spent \$34.9 billion on video games, consoles and accessories, according to market research group Circana.

The threat of a video game strike emerged as Hollywood writers were on the verge of getting back to work after months on the picket lines.

The alliance of studios,

streaming services and producers has chosen to negotiate only with the writers so far, and has made no overtures yet toward restarting talks with SAG-AFTRA. That will presumably change soon.

SAG-AFTRA leaders have said they will look closely at the writers' agreement, which includes many of the same issues, but it will not effect their demands.

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