

# The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

THURSDAY, MAY 30, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00



## Valero makes donation to Kate's Kart

Over 400 books from Valero employees were donated to Kate's Kart, an organization that gives books to kids, on Wednesday. Along with the books, Valero's corporate office will also donate \$2,500 to Kate's Kart. Above, from left to right are, Kim Barger, Amos Wayman, who donated the most books of all employees, Dawn Donnelly, Krista Layman, Sara Moorman and Shawn Stafford. At right, Wayman and Ronnie Steele help load the books into the van. Below, Wayman, Layman and Moorman pose with a few donated books. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## Thirteenth suspect arrested in local PCI sting

By SYDNEY KENT

Predator Catchers Indianapolis successfully facilitated another arrest at Walmart in Bluffton on Friday.

Robert William Karn, 40, was charged with child solicitation, a Level 4 felony. Karn is the thirteenth subject to be caught in a PCI sting in the county in recent years.

In a video live-streamed on the group's Youtube channel, Karn admitted to a former arrest. He suggested that he had served several years in prison for the charges. PCI member Eric Schmutte asked Karn if he had abused a child before.

"He sat on my lap," Karn confirmed. "I touched his thighs, and that was it."

"And you got two years?" Schmutte asked.

"I got four years suspended," Karn answered. "Then I had sexual paraphernalia and I got sent on parole."

According to a probable cause affidavit, Karn was convicted of child molesting, a Class C felony, in 2008. Karn received a fully suspended four-year sentence after he pled guilty to touching the genitals of his nine-year-old nephew and attempting to lure him into his bed. The case was tried in the Allen Superior Court.

In the video, Karn had a Mountain Dew in his cart. Schmutte asked if the pop was intended for who he believed to be a 14-year-old child. Karn denied this, despite the fact that screenshots of messages between Karn and the decoy indicate otherwise.

"I would have bought him a cold one," Karn replied.

Karn is scheduled for a pretrial conference in the matter at 1 p.m. on July 17 in the Wells Circuit Court.

sydney@news-banner.com

## School voucher participation sees historic boost

Students from families making more than \$200K increased roughly tenfold, from 354 in 2022-23 to about 3,700 in 2023-24

By CASEY SMITH, Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana's private school voucher program enrollment jumped about 32% in the most recent school year, marking a historic single-year jump, according to the state's latest voucher report.

The state-funded program enrolled a record 70,095 students in 2023-2024, costing taxpayers \$439 million — which is around 40% higher than the \$311 million spent on vouchers in the year prior.

Even so, the report noted that — had all Hoosier voucher users attended their traditional public schools — the state would have paid around \$516 million in education expenses. That's because vouchers are paid at a lower amount than public school funding.

After widening the Choice Scholarship Program in 2022, state lawmakers further expanded the voucher system in 2023 to be nearly universal and open to almost all Hoosier families.

Since the changes took effect, eligibility for the scholarships — which allows families to receive vouchers to attend private schools — have expanded to include households with incomes up to 400% of the amount required for a student to qualify for the federal free or reduced price lunch program, equal to about \$220,000.

The latest numbers

The new statewide report released on Friday indicates that the latest surge in voucher participation was largely driven by students from wealthier families.

The average family income for a voucher student in 2023-24 was \$99,121 — an increase of more than 20% from the previous year. That's well above the state's median household income of about \$67,000, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Almost 8,000 students in the latest cohort came from households making between \$150,000 to \$200,000 annually — up from 2,800 in 2022-23.

Voucher students from families making more than \$200,000 increased even more — roughly tenfold — from 354 students in 2022-23 to about 3,700 in 2023-24.

Across other income brackets, around 2,000 more students came from families with incomes of up to \$50,000, while another 2,000 came from households making between \$50,000 and \$100,000. More than 4,000 additional students came from families with incomes between \$100,000 to \$150,000, according to the report.

Two-thirds of voucher recipients in the last school year had never attended an Indiana public school, an increase of

(Continued on Page 2)

## Lingering inflation pressures keeping Federal Reserve rate cuts on pause

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — Hopes for interest rate cuts this year by the Federal Reserve are steadily fading, with a stream of recent remarks by Fed officials underscoring their intention to keep borrowing costs high as long as needed to curb persistently elevated inflation.

A key reason for the delay in rate cuts is that the inflation pressures that are bedeviling the economy are being driven largely by lingering forces from the pandemic — for items ranging from apartment rents to auto insurance to hospital prices. Though Fed officials say they expect inflation in those areas to eventually cool, they've signaled that they're prepared to wait as long as it takes.

Yet the policymakers' willingness to keep their key rate at a two-decade peak — thereby keeping costs painfully high for mortgages, auto loans and other forms of consumer borrowing —

carries its own risks.

The Fed's mandate is to strike a balance between keeping rates high enough to control inflation yet not so high as to damage the job market. While most measures show that growth and hiring remain healthy, some gauges of the economy have begun to reveal signs of weakness. The longer the Fed keeps its benchmark rate elevated, the greater the risk of causing a downturn.

At the same time, with polls showing that costlier rents, groceries and gasoline are angering voters as the presidential campaign intensifies, Donald Trump has sought to pin the blame for higher prices squarely on President Joe Biden.

The Fed, led by Chair Jerome Powell, raised its benchmark rate by 5 percentage points from March 2022 through June 2023 — the fastest such increase in four decades — to try to drive inflation back down to its 2% target. According to the Fed's preferred

measure, inflation has tumbled from 7.1% in June 2022 to 2.7% in March.

That same gauge showed, though, that prices accelerated in the first three months of 2024, disrupting last year's steady slowdown. On Friday, economists expect the government to report that this measure rose 2.7% in April from a year earlier.

A separate inflation indicator that the government reported this month suggested that prices cooled slightly in April. But with inflation remaining stubbornly above the Fed's target level, Wall Street traders now expect just one rate cut this year, in November. And even that is hardly a slam-dunk, with investors placing the likelihood of a cut in November at 63%, down from 77% a week ago.

Last week, economists at Goldman Sachs became the latest analysts to give up on a rate cut in July, pushing back their forecast for the first of two cuts they expect this year to September.

(Continued on Page 2)

### Inside

#### Local/Area

Obituaries . . . . . 3  
Police Notebook . . . 3

#### Opinion

Holly Gaskill . . . . . 4

#### Also...

Sports . . . . . 1a-2a  
Classifieds . . . . . 4a  
Diversions . . . . . 3a

### Outside



Sunny and warm today,  
cool and breezy tonight

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 71	High 76	High 77
Low 47	Low 52	Low 60

More Weather on Page 2

### Online

Follow us on Facebook!  
Go to [www.facebook.com/newsbanner](http://www.facebook.com/newsbanner)

Place Your Classified  
Ads 24/7

Vol. 95 No. 178

THURSDAY  
May 30, 2024

**Find that car you've always wanted in the Classifieds.**

#### How to contact us:

Call us: 824-0224  
or 1-800-579-7476  
email@news-banner.com

On the Web:  
[www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com)

Follow us at:  
[twitter.com/newsbanner](https://twitter.com/newsbanner)



## School voucher participation

(Continued from Page 1)  
about four percentage points from 2022-23.

In total, 6.1% of all Indiana public and private-school students received a voucher in 2023-24, up from around 4.7% the year before, according to the report.

Data shows white students make up the majority of voucher users at 64%. Hispanic students account for 17.3% of voucher participants, while Black students make up just shy of 9%.

The average award amount was \$6,264 and the average tuition and fees at a private school was \$7,749, according to the report. Vouchers provide 90% of the amount of state-funding a public school corporation receives for each student, or covers all tuition and fees, whichever is lesser.

### An ongoing push to increase vouchers

Indiana voucher partici-

pation has grown rapidly since the program began in 2011, when less than 4,000 students used a Choice Scholarship. Spearheaded by then-Gov. Mitch Daniels, the program intended to help children from poor families find alternatives to low-performing public schools.

Indiana is now one of 16 states with publicly funded vouchers, according to EdChoice, an Indianapolis-based group that backs voucher programs.

But critics have long argued that most Choice Scholarship students will attend private schools with or without a voucher, meaning their tuition is an added expense for taxpayers and only the state's wealthiest will benefit.

Public schools officials and teachers unions also remain opposed to Choice Scholarship expansions,

arguing that its projected cost over the next two years will stymie K-12 education funding increases for public schools. They point to state law, too, that allows voucher schools to reject students for their religion, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, or academic ability, among other reasons.

In a Friday statement, the leader of Indiana's largest teachers' union said he was "deeply concerned" about the growth of the private school voucher program in the last year.

"This expansion, extending vouchers to wealthier families, funnels public funds to those who can already afford private schools. This shift adds a financial burden on the state without reducing public school costs, undermining claims of state savings," said Keith Gambill, president of the Indiana State Teach-

ers Association. "Instead of helping wealthy families attend private schools at the expense of public school kids, we should be investing these tax dollars in our public schools."

Still, change could be on the horizon for the state's voucher system.

During the most recent 2024 legislative session, Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, previewed his own proposal to completely overhaul Indiana's private school vouchers with a grant program that would allow all Hoosier families — regardless of income — to choose where their students get educated.

Although the bill did not advance, discussion at the Statehouse previewed likely legislative momentum in 2025, when the General Assembly reconvenes to craft the next state budget.

## Federal Reserve

(Continued from Page 1)  
ber. Oxford Economics made a similar call last month. Bank of America foresees just one Fed rate cut this year, in December. Just months ago, many economists had forecast the first rate cut for March of this year.

"We will need to accumulate further data over the coming months to have a clearer picture of the inflation outlook," Loretta Mester, president of Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland, said this month. "I now believe that it will take longer to reach our 2% goal than I previously thought." (Mester is among 12 officials who are voting on the Fed's rate policy this year.)

As further data accumulates, so do some signs that the economy is cooling a bit. More Americans, particularly younger adults, are falling behind on their credit card bills, for example, with the share of card debt 90 days or more overdue reaching 10.7% in the first quarter, according to the Fed's New York branch. That's the highest proportion in 14 years.

Hiring is also slowing, with businesses posting fewer open jobs, though job advertisements remain high.

And more companies, including Target, McDonalds and Burger King, are highlighting price cuts or cheaper deals to try to attract financially squeezed consumers. Their actions could help lower inflation in the coming months. But they also underscore the struggles that lower-income Americans face.

"There's a lot of signs that consumers are kind of losing some steam and hiring demand is cooling," said Julia Coronado, a former Fed economist who is president of MacroPolicy Perspectives. "You could see more of a slowdown."

## On spelling's saddest day, hyped National Spelling Bee competitors see hopes dashed

By BEN NUCKOLS  
Associated Press

OXON HILL, Md. (AP) — When Achyut Ethiraj's final appearance in the Scripps National Spelling Bee ended far earlier than he anticipated, the 14-year-old grimaced at the microphone, walked off the stage quietly and exited the ballroom with his mother's arm draped around his back.

Achyut had plenty of company among the 140 spellers eliminated on Wednesday, spelling's saddest day.

"I didn't expect to get out, but I did, and I guess I have to accept the truth now," said Achyut, an eighth-grader from Fort Wayne, Indiana. "I'm happy to do high school and do other things, but I'm kind of confused what to do now that I'm done with spelling."

"It's my last year, and I expected to do better, but I guess it is what it is," he said. "And I have to move on."

The structure of the spelling bee has undergone plenty of changes over time, but over the past three years under executive director Corrie Loeffler, the competition has gotten very hard, very fast for spellers who make it past the preliminary rounds.

The morning began with 148 spellers. By the end of the first quarterfinal round, there were 59 left, and 46 of those got through a vocabulary round to reach the semifinals. By the end of the day, eight finalists remained. They will return Thursday

night, when the winner will receive a trophy and more than \$50,000 in cash and prizes.

The champion won't be Shradha Rachamreddy, who finished third last year and was a consensus favorite to go all the way. She was eliminated on exactly the sort of "super short, tricky word" she said she concentrated on studying after misspelling "orle" last year. This year it was "varan," a type of lizard. She added an extra "r," and former spellers in the audience gasped at her mistake.

"I am in shock and despair," said Dev Shah, the 2023 champion.

"We all thought she was going to win," added Charlotte Walsh, last year's runner-up.

Starting in the quarterfinals, the bee's word panel can use any of the more than half a million words in Webster's Unabridged dictionary, plus some geographical names that aren't even listed in that volume. While the panel tries to maintain a consistent level of difficulty in each round, it can vary from word to word.

That's when luck comes into play.

Achyut was asked to spell the word "sistine." Derived from the Sistine Chapel, it's an adjective meaning "a light blue color." He went with "cistine," and his coach, Grace Walters, was second-guessing herself.

"I'm sure when I was making my lists, I just assumed, 'Oh, everybody

But Coronado and other economists also regard the latest trends as a sign that the economy may simply be normalizing after a period of rapid growth. Companies are still hiring, though at a more modest pace than at the start of the year. And data suggests that Americans traveled in record numbers over the Memorial Day weekend, a sign they're confident in their finances.

The Fed's reluctance to cut rates is likely to set it apart from some of its counterparts overseas in the coming months. Central bankers in Europe and the United Kingdom are expected to reduce borrowing costs as soon as next month, largely because inflation has fallen further in those areas than in the United States. Rising prices in Europe and the U.K. were driven mostly by spiking energy costs stemming from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, and those costs have largely receded.

The U.K. and European economies have also fared much worse than the U.S. economy since the pandemic, so inflation has not been as serious a threat. The economies of the U.K. and the 20 countries that use the euro currency actually shrank in the second half of last year before recording mild growth in the first three months of 2024. The U.K. economy has barely grown in the past 12 months.

In the U.S., a big reason why inflation remains above the Fed's target is that distortions stemming from the pandemic are still keeping prices elevated in several areas even as much of the rest of the economy has moved past the pandemic.

Housing costs, led by apartment rents, jumped two years ago after many Americans sought additional living space during the pandemic.

Rental costs are now slowing: They rose 5.4% in April on an annual basis, down from 8.8% a year earlier. But they're still rising faster than before the pandemic.

Last month, rent and homeownership, along with hotel prices, accounted for two-thirds of the annual rise in "core" inflation, which excludes volatile food and energy costs. Powell and other Fed officials have acknowledged that they had expected rents to fall more quickly than they have.

The cost of a new lease, though, has tumbled since mid-2022. A gauge of newly leased apartment rents calculated by the government shows that they rose just 0.4% in the first three months of 2024 compared with a year earlier. Yet it takes time for newer, lower-priced rents to feed into the government's inflation measure.

"Market rents adjust more quickly to economic conditions than what landlords charge their existing tenants," Philip Jefferson, the Fed's vice chair and a top lieutenant to Powell, said last week. "This lag suggests that the large increase in market rents during the pandemic is still being passed through to existing rents and may keep housing services inflation elevated for a while longer."

The cost of auto insurance has soared nearly 23% from a year earlier, a huge jump that reflects the surge in prices of new and used cars during the pandemic. Insurance companies now must pay more to replace totaled cars and as a result are charging their customers more.

"This is about stuff that happened in 2021," said Claudia Sahm, chief economist at New Century Advisors and a former Fed economist. "You cannot go back and change that."

knows the Sistine Chapel.' But the reality is these kids are like 10 to 14. They might not have the ... cultural knowledge that us older people have," said the 22-year-old Walters, a former speller. "So that's definitely something I feel like I overlooked in helping him prepare."

Two years ago, Achyut finished in a tie for 14th place, and last year he tied for 23rd. This year, he tied for 60th place alongside the 88 others eliminated in the round.

"My rank has been going lower. But the reality is my preparation has been increasing a lot," Achyut said. "And I don't know how that matches up, but I know that I know the words and I deserve a good break."

He has plenty of company. Rare is a speller like Vanya Shivashankar, who came in with enormous buzz in 2015 after years of strong finishes and ended up winning. Even Shivashankar had a setback the previous year when a written spelling and vocabulary test kept her out of the finals.

Naysa Modi, the 2018

runner-up, didn't make the finals the following year. Ishika Varipilli, who hoped to make a run at the trophy this year in her third and final attempt, bowed out in a tie for 47th after missing a vocabulary word, "swanky," and said afterward she was "trying to keep it together."

In the semifinals, Shradha was followed to the exit by two more top-ten finishers from 2023: Aryan Khedkar and Sarah Fernandes. Aryan got a long hug from fellow competitor Faizan Zaki before leaving the stage.

"These kids put a lot of pressure on themselves. I think they get nervous. They get worried. They get more focused on, 'What if I don't make it? What if this happens? What if that happens?'" Walters said. "The kids feel it around them that, you know, they're being looked up to as previous finalists, previous semifinalists, and they internalize that people expect something from them."

"It's been brutal," Chepuri said. "The first kid, I felt so sorry for him. This was a bloodbath!"

## Weather

Thursday, May 30, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:27 p.m. Wednesday)  
High: 71; Low: 53; Precipitation: 0.01 inches of rain  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 3.78 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 71. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

**Tonight:** Clear, with a low around 47. Northeast wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 76. Calm wind becoming southeast around 5 mph in the morning.

**Friday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 52. Southeast wind around 5 mph.

**Saturday:** A slight chance of showers, then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Saturday Night:** A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 60.

**Sunday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m., then a chance of showers between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 77. Chance of precipitation is 40%.

**Sunday Night:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

**Monday:** A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

**Monday Night:** A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.

**Tuesday:** A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 84.

**Tuesday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67.

## Key Republican calls for increase in defense spending

By STEPHEN GROVES, Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The top-ranking Republican on a Senate committee that oversees the military is calling for a "generational investment" in America's defense, saying aggressive and significant spending increases are necessary to deter coordinated threats from U.S. adversaries such as Russia, Iran and China.

Sen. Roger Wicker told The Associated Press that he will seek an additional \$55 billion in defense spending over the limits that were forged in the deal to suspend the nation's debt limit a year ago. Wicker explained his position in global terms, saying there has "never been such a level of cooperation and coordination among an axis of aggressors" that aims to challenge U.S. dominance.

The plan lays down a significant marker for Senate Republicans as they enter into a new round of budget fights with Democrats in the heat of a closely fought election year. The White House has proposed \$850 billion in defense spending, adhering to the debt limit deal by proposing a 1% increase from the previous year. That plan is unlikely to keep pace with inflation and would seek to reduce the military's costs by retiring older ships and aircraft.

Wicker acknowledged it would be "a hill to climb" to convince Congress to break from the spending caps at a time of deep political upheaval. Washington is still grappling with divisions over support for Ukraine, the aftershocks of two long wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and a presidential election between two presumptive candidates — Biden and Republican Donald Trump — who espouse vastly different visions of America's role abroad.

But Wicker, R-Miss., said the U.S. has no choice. "We would be very foolish on a national survival basis to adhere to that when it comes to national defense," said Wicker, the ranking member on the Senate Armed Services Committee.

While GOP defense hawks have long advocated for robust defense spending, Wicker's plan goes a step further, calling for a broad shift in the U.S. defense posture that would amount to a reshuffling of national priorities. Under his proposal, the military would eventually consume 5% of America's gross domestic product, or total economic output.

Defense spending when measured as a portion of GDP is currently about 3% and has been declining since the height of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. It has not reached above 5% since the early 1990s.

Back in the 1980s and early 1990s, Wicker said, "nobody took a chance against the United States because we were powerful enough to keep the peace. We are simply not anywhere near that right now."

"I think that the fact that we're in a new Cold War is self-evident," he said.

Wicker's full plan is laid out in a 52-page paper he has been working on for the past year. In it, he makes the case for a new generation of weapons, pointing to an aging American arsenal as Russia moves to expand its territory in Europe and China tries to show increasing dominance in parts of the Pacific.

Closer ties between China and Russia were underscored earlier this month by a visit between leaders Vladimir Putin and Xi Jinping. The two-day visit — Putin's first trip abroad after being inaugurated to a fifth term in office — reflected a growing partnership between the two nations, an alliance grounded in support for authoritarian regimes and dominance in their respective regions.

China has given diplomatic support to Moscow after its invasion of Ukraine and emerged as a top export market for Russian oil and gas, helping fill the Kremlin's war coffers for the ongoing offensive.

Wicker said the high-level meeting between Putin and Xi "ought to be a wake up call."

He said in his proposal that the U.S. faces "the most dangerous threat environment since World War II" and urges a national war footing appropriate for a long, drawn-out conflict with a major world power. For Wicker, that encompasses everything from addressing deferred maintenance on U.S. military facilities that don't have the right voltage on power outlets to preparing for nuclear weaponry in space.

### MARIACHI LOCO

**Mexican Grill & Bar**  
1595 Harrison Plaza • Bluffton, IN

\$3.00
\$5.00

A Purchase of \$30<sup>00</sup> or More  
Limit 1 coupon per party per visit. Not valid with other discounts or coupons. Expires 6/30/2024

A Purchase of \$40<sup>00</sup> or More  
Limit 1 coupon per party per visit. Not valid with other discounts or coupons. Expires 6/30/2024

Call for Carry-Out 260-827-0616

**Now Booking Graduation Parties**

- Options for all budgets
- Have us do the work for a stress free day
- Congrats Class of 2024

*Locally Owned Restaurant in Wells County!*

260-824-4950

1415 South Main Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

OBITUARIES

Shirley Ellenberger, 80

Shirley Ellenberger, 80, of Greenfield, formerly of Geneva, passed away at 1:25 p.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2024, at I.U. Health Methodist Hospital in Indianapolis.



She was born on Sunday, Sept. 12, 1943, in Union City, Indiana. She married Jerome Ellenberger on Sunday, Aug. 30, 1959, in Geneva. Shirley was a graduate of Geneva High School. She had worked at the Ben Franklin Dime Store in Geneva, Nusbaum Novelty in Berne, and for Franklin Electric in Bluffton for 26 and a half years. She was a member of Franklin Electric Retired Ladies Group in Bluffton. Shirley attended the First Missionary Church in Berne. She enjoyed crafts and flowers.

Shirley will be forever missed by her husband, Jerome Henry Ellenberger of Greenfield; daughters, Ronda S. Todd of Ossian and Lynette D. (Brad) Johnson of Greenfield; grandchildren, Joshua Todd of Ossian, Andy Todd of Ossian, Jessica Todd of Albion, Kristina Todd of Ossian, Taylor Herman of Uniondale, Megan Bluhm of Decatur, Christopher Herman of Woodburn, Kegan Johnson of Greenfield; and 10 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Wilber Day and Madeline (Mendenhall) Day; son, Brian L. Ellenberger, and sister, Dorothy Teeter.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember at from 2-8 p.m. on Monday, June 3, 2024, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St. in Geneva.

A service to celebrate Shirley's life will be at 11 a.m. Tuesday, June 4, 2024, at the First Missionary Church, 950 US 27 South in Berne, with pastor Dathen Foust officiating. Interment will follow in the West Lawn Cemetery in Geneva.

Arrangements are being handled by Downing & Glancy Funeral Home in Geneva.

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

# SW announces Jr./Sr. High School honor roll students

Southern Wells Junior-Senior High School has released the names of its students on the high honor roll and honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2023-24 school year.

**Seniors**

**High Honor Roll** — Joshua Bricker, Brittany Costello, Malaina Culbertson, Caleb Johnson, Ella Lahr, Peyton Long, Tessa Maul, Kammy Miller, Yazmine Tucker and Tristen Worster.

**Honor Roll** — Seth Alstoft, Allison Barger, Jaxon Heath, Brayden Jackson, Gabriel McElhaney, Andrew Pearson, Karlee Warner, Rylie Wilson and Delaney Zigler.

**Juniors**

**High Honor Roll** — Aidan Carney, Alyssa Green, Owen King, Nickolas Lee, Hana McClain, Ashlie Needler, Alaina Nusbaumer, Kenzie Paxson, Collena Reeves and Derek Rockwell.

**Honor Roll** — Ava Adkins, Matthew Aulbach, Quinten Darling, Maverick Floyd, Tyler Grover, Andres Herrmann, Colter Kiel, Cohen Miller, Aruzhan Mussina, Matthew Pearson, Brandon Reed, Caroline Reed and Haidee Stetzel.

**Sophomores**

**High Honor Roll** — Sydney Alstoft, Kolbie Beavans, Peyton Bertsch, Peyton Ellis, Korbin Eltzroth, Keith Gartin, Addison Gaskill, Gracie Reeves, Adeline Sabinske, Dannicka Sorensen and Emily Steffen.

**Honor Roll** — Cambrée Coleman, Chloe Enochs, Lexie Fiechter, Jarin Frauhiger, Lilly Gartin, Shaylinn Geesaman, Kaiden Gilbert, Jazlyn Gillum, Leeland Goodnight, Lucas Goodrich, Mylia Horner, Kane Jenkins, Lillian Mahorney, Miley Michael, Anthony Mills, Emma Parks, Taylor Rogers, Trey Slusher and Braden Yencer.

**Freshmen**

**High Honor Roll** — Kinley Allred, Joshua Aulbach, Cash Banter, Kyah Boots, Aliah Carroll, Miranda Holloway, Gavin Howell, Landon Johnson, McKenna King, Sophia Meeks, Lillia Paxson and Kila Shelley.

**Honor Roll** — Jayda Brown, Andi Jane Bryant, Kaylea Coffel, Samantha Kahn, Alison Knight, Cardon Liddy, Aubree Meyer, Chanie Mounsey, Gunner Murray, Elisabeth Penrod, Catalina Ramirez, Delinda Schortgen and Emma Shepard.

**8th Grade**

**High Honor Roll** — Harlie Durham, Madison Grover, Mary Huffman, Olivia Newman, Sarah McFarren, Addison Miller, Laren Schneider, Drew Steffen and Abrielle Zigler.

**Honor Roll** — Kaylee Davis, Ellie DeWeese, Briggs Fiechter, Mallory Gifford, Jacob Hahn, Sevoa Harris, Kameron Hawkins, Sophie Heckman, Bailey Jenkins, Drew Lahr, Violet McClain, Marianne Pease, Alexis Pennington, Evelyn Peterson, Milee Rickard, Abigail Sawin, Lanlie Simpson, Mia Vanover, Cadence Watson, Caylee Williams and Kendal Zavattaro.

**7th Grade**

**High Honor Roll** — Mack Frauhiger, Gabriella Hoffacker, Gwyneth Howell, Lyla Lyons, Lyric McQueary, Lucille Palmer, Amelia Penrod, Adelynn Robles, Grace Rockwell, Annalyse Roe, Grace Rogers, Timothy Smith and Logan Tarr.

**Honor Roll** — Aubrie Beavans, Brooklyn Blinn, Colton Caldwell, Leighann Carpenter, Alaina Edmonds, Rylan Gates, Avery Geesaman, Camryn Hamilton, Adelyn Heim, Kyan Johnson, Chase Kirkwood, Logan Leas, Rylan Leas, David McMillan, Olivia Newman, Kylie Peterson and Ella Schwartz.

# Police Notebook

**INCIDENTS**

**County:**  
Tuesday, 12:27 p.m., 1100W and West 800S, Warren. Report of a kid home alone.  
Tuesday, 12:36 p.m., Wells County Jail. Caller reported they hit a baby deer with mower, requested officer to put it down.  
Tuesday, 2:06 p.m., 1000S S.R. 3, Montpelier. Car versus deer.  
Tuesday, 2:16 p.m., 8100S 700E, Bluffton. Caller reported aggressive dogs.  
Tuesday, 2:51 p.m., S.R.

1 and East 1000S, Keystone. Caller reported her vehicle overheated.  
Tuesday, 3:15 p.m., 3500N Matthews Street, Bluffton. Report of grass blown all over.  
Tuesday, 3:52 p.m., 8000N Marzane Road, Markle. Caller reported unwanted vehicle on his property.  
Wednesday, 9:48 a.m., 1700S S.R. 301, Bluffton. Report of a vehicle that drove off the road.  
Wednesday, 10:14 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served on Jon Hollingsworth.

**ACCIDENTS**

**County:**  
Monday, 4:11 p.m., C.R. 800E and 100S. Lisset Castillo-Velazquez, 20, Decatur, stated that she was traveling east on CR 100S when she came to the intersection and did not see a vehicle traveling on CR 800E. She then proceeded into the intersection where her Jeep Cherokee collided with a Dodge Grand Caravan driven by Clayton Tonner, 32, Berne. Damages did not exceed \$25,000.

Pedro Matom-Cobo, 31, Bluffton; domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$25,000.  
Margarit Marco Sanchez, 32, Bluffton; domestic battery — adult knowing presence of a child, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$25,000.  
Jon Michal Hollingsworth, 62, Montpelier; invasion of privacy, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.  
Martin Benito Paz Marin, 46, Bluffton; operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

**ARRESTS**

## Records shed small light on state dollars spent for Rokita discipline, Bernard cases

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

New, partially-unredacted public records offer a glimpse into public dollars so far spent to defend Attorney General Todd Rokita's law license.

Payments related to the attorney general's disciplinary case is likely far greater than what's visible in the documents, but redactions continue to make a total sum difficult to calculate.

Rokita's office last week released 86 pages of attorney invoices from the Schaerr Jaffe law firm dated between August 2022 and October 2023. An earlier batch of records obtained by reporters last year were heavily redacted by the Indiana Comptroller, who pays the invoices.

The Washington, D.C.-based law firm was hired by the state to defend Rokita, whom the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission began investigating after a complaint was filed in late 2022, as first reported by the Indiana Citizen.

The investigation — and ultimate reprimand — stemmed from the Republican attorney general's televised comments about Indianapolis doctor Caitlin Bernard, who oversaw a medication abortion for a 10-year-old rape victim from Ohio in 2022.

But the same firm was handling the attorney general's medical licensure case against Bernard, along with other cases. Black-outs to the invoices had previously made it impossible to distinguish which expenditures were related to Rokita's disciplinary matter.

The new records made available by Rokita's office show only a few expenses directly related to his disciplinary case. Even so, documents bring other spending to light — indicating more than \$100,000 spent in the weeks surrounding Bernard's case before the Indiana Medical Licensing Board.

Rokita's office referred the Indiana Capital Chronicle to a statement it

issued last year:

"We will continue using Schaerr Jaffe as this office has done throughout multiple administrations — whether it's related to abortion activist, Caitlin Bernard, separate pro-life issues, or other cases in general. Of course, public money is involved in any matter which defends the work of a state attorney whose efforts are performed on behalf of the state."

Redactions remain — but some new numbers emerge

The Capital Chronicle and Indiana Citizen first requested the invoices in October 2023.

The Indiana Comptroller handled the initial request and released 44 pages of heavily redacted documents shortly after.

Luke Britt, the Indiana Public Access Counselor (PAC) said in a March 12 report that some of those redactions were appropriate, but recommended that state officials only block out portions of the documents "consistent with basic tenets of transparency and good governance."

In response to a records request made after Luke's opinion, Rokita's office released the slightly-less redacted invoices last week.

Relevant invoice entries cite "disciplinary commission" or "DC case" to reference work logged and billed by staff at the Schaerr Jaffe firm.

Visible among the charges are at least \$385 spent on "next steps in litigation" in July and August 2023. Another \$300 was spent in September 2023 on "continuing education" for Schaerr Jaffe attorneys working on Rokita's case.

It's still unclear what redacted invoice items around the same time were related to, but those charges total thousands of additional dollars.

The invoices provided by the attorney general's office were filed by Schaerr Jaffe through Oct. 30, 2023,

however, leaving out any additional invoices subsequently billed for October work — when more of the legal work with the disciplinary commission was completed.

Because billing records can be submitted weeks or months after work is logged, invoice records are often delayed.

More details about Bernard case spending

While the expenditures on Rokita's disciplinary case remain muddy, what has become clearer is the extent of state spending on Rokita's case against Bernard before the Medical Licensing Board.

Amid the legal saga surrounding the doctor, the state sought a suspension of Bernard's medical license. Following a 14-hour hearing in May 2023, the licensing board ultimately ruled that Bernard violated state and federal patient privacy laws, but declined to take action affecting her ability to practice.

Billing from Schaerr Jaffe shows more than \$105,000 billed in May 2023 alone. Much of that billing is attributed to the Bernard case, according to the new records.

Among the line items in the invoice are more than \$13,000 charged by Schaerr Jaffe counsel who were present on the day of the licensing board hearing.

Tens of thousands of additional state dollars were spent on legal prep performed by the law firm ahead of the hearing, as well as attorney travel to and from Washington, D.C.

Schaerr Jaffe's contract with the state was first signed between the attorney general's office and law firm in 2020. At that time, the agreement involved just one federal case. The contract has since been amended six times to include several other matters, including legal defense for Rokita's law license.

## Jason Johnloz named northeast Indiana rep for Halderman Real Estate

Halderman Real Estate and Farm Management welcomes associate Jason Johnloz as an Area Representative in Northeast Indiana.

Jason is a second generation Halderman employee and has been around the farm management and real estate business since a very young age getting lots of exposure and experience. Jason was born and raised in Bluffton, where he currently resides. He attended Purdue University and graduated with a Bachelor of Science degree in Farm Management and a minor in Crop Science with a certificate in entrepreneurship. Currently, Jason is involved in his community by serving on the Quail For-

ever board, serving on the Norwell FFA advisory board, and is active in his church.

Rick Johnloz, Area Representative, shared with our team, "Of course I'm a proud dad and am ready to see the next chapter for Jason after graduating from Purdue ... Jason joining the Halderman Companies team has been his plan since his early high school days. His experiences he has had, FFA and 4H leadership, interning and shadowing me for 6 years, Purdue Agricultural School, AGR Fraternity, traveling the US and abroad, prepares him well for the profession he has chosen to pursue. Jason is ready to go to work and there is no doubt in my mind that he will be

an asset to the Halderman company and our clients."

"The Halderman Companies continue our family legacy in northeast Indiana as Jason joins his father, Rick, in our Bluffton office," said Howard Halderman, president of The Halderman Companies. "They are our 9th father-son/daughter team. Jason brings to Halderman different skills and capabilities, such as his drone pilot's license, to our northeast Indiana market which will enhance the services we offer our clients. All of the other teams experienced exponential growth in their market and area and we know this team will accomplish the same."

**TYEGER'S PIZZA PARLOUR**  
TYEGERSPIZZA.COM  
260-827-0700  
931 N Main St., Bluffton, IN  
SCAN FOR MENU  
facebook.com/TyegersPizzaParlour

**ONLINE NORTHERN WELLS LAND AUCTION**  
6.79 ACRE POTENTIAL BUILDING SITE  
ONLINE BIDDING OPEN TUESDAY, JUNE 4TH FROM 9:00 AM - 6:00 PM  
PROPERTY LOCATION: 300 WEST, MARKLE, INDIANA 46791

EXPLORE THE POTENTIAL OF THIS PROPERTY!

- 6.79 +/- ACRE TRACT OF LAND IN NORTHERN WELLS
- EASY ACCESS TO I-69
- 435' OF ROAD FRONTAGE ON WELLS COUNTY ROAD
- RARE OPPORTUNITY FOR HOMESITE OR MINI-FARM

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TO REGISTER TO BID VISIT  
STEFFENGRP.COM/AUCTIONS

SELLER: HOLBROOK ESTATE - SALE MANAGER: PATRICK CARTER (260.273.8294)

INSPECTION: FEEL FREE TO WALK THE PROPERTY AT ANY TIME  
CONTACT AUCTION MANAGER PATRICK CARTER FOR MORE INFORMATION

**STEFFEN GROUP** 260.426.3006  
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS STEFFENGRP.COM  
AU19500212 - AC30500053

**FORT WAYNE Box Drop**  
Mattress & Furniture  
260-227-2145

No Credit Needed Financing  
Take it Home Today!

Family Owned & Operated  
Amy & Tracy Houtz  
260-227-2145  
7824 Bluffton Rd.  
Fort Wayne, IN

Best Selection  
Incredible Savings  
By Appointment:  
Tues - Wed - Thurs  
Showroom Open:  
Fri & Sat 11am - 4pm

Follow us on Twitter at...  
[twitter.com/newsbanner](https://twitter.com/newsbanner)

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK! [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) or [www.facebook.com/news-banner](http://www.facebook.com/news-banner)

## Local healthcare news not all that encouraging

Though I often wear many hats for News-Banner coverage, I would probably sum things up as “county coverage.” As such, I hear a lot about different groups’ efforts to care for the community’s finances, infrastructure and future. While there may be disagreements — occasionally quite contentious — they are most often disagreements between people who care about the future of their community and their home.



Holly Gaskill

Because of this, I was incredibly disheartened by Lutheran Health Network’s choice to close the labor and delivery unit of Bluffton Regional Medical Center, as well as the subsequent closure of Meridian Women’s Health Center.

The future of a community undeniably lies in its youth. And while jobs and housing for the next generation are discussed ad nauseum, none of that conversation bears much fruit if we’re not considering the ability of women, mothers and infants to have quality local healthcare.

This is especially troubling considering the county’s recent decision to opt-in to Health First Indiana, a state-funded program to address local health issues through the local health department. One of the program’s “key performance indicators” is maternal and child health — which Wells County has, according to the HFI website, historically been above Indiana’s average.

A press release about the closure from the Lutheran Health Network referenced national fertility rates and their effects on rural hospitals as justification for the unit’s closure. I cannot profess to understand the specific business choices involved in the decision, but I mourn that profit margins outweigh sustaining services for a critical need within a community.

The release did note that the hospital would still serve emergency deliveries, however, I would hardly call that an ideal scenario for the hospital, parents or baby.

Beyond labor and delivery, women’s healthcare is of essential importance toward preventative care and early intervention. It’s not always an accessible option for people to travel for regular appointments, which can dissuade or prohibit vital check-ups and healthcare.

On the heels of RediMed’s closure in February, there appears to be a shift in priorities for local healthcare. Only time will tell the impact, but I fear it won’t be positive.

holly@news-banner.com

## Letters to the Editor

### An unexpectedly high utility bill

For the month of March we received a (city utilities) bill for \$863. Our normal bills run \$250 to \$350. Increase was due to water and sewage. Shocked, we went straight to the utility office. Never had any heads up to this increase.

At that time, we were told it was an error and wait on new bill. It never arrived, but they gave us new meter. A few days later we inquired again. At that time we had printouts of new meter readings. Everything was back to normal.

In the meantime we scoured the house for leaks, never finding any, but the new meter showed periods of zero use, so we knew we didn’t have a major leak.

We were told they no longer had any information on old meter except they had checked it in their shop and it was working fine. Wayne talked to Jon Oman, head of utilities, who said he didn’t know what happened. Wayne was told to go to Board of Works May 14 meeting expecting to have water and sewage bill decreased. They would only discuss giving, he thought they said \$100 off, but we’re

only given \$69 off water. Josh Hunt discussed how fast a water bill can increase with a leak. Wayne came home frustrated as we, truthfully, told them we couldn’t find a leak. They said they believed the water went down our sewer. We have ended up paying an almost \$800 utility bill.

This same scenario happened to Jerry Ripple, in December 2023. Others like Hunt Club and Mt. Fuji were reimbursed for both water and sewage as per minutes of Board of Works meetings during 2023-2024. With our sewage being 1.5 times water usage we are certainly paying large sewer bills. Fort Wayne is one times water bill

Why have we been treated like this by the City of Bluffton? Why should any customer be treated like this? Why are they assuming we are lying, but they assume everything from the city is 100% correct? We live in the 400 block of East Central Ave. We are retired, I am disabled, the budget is tight. Scared we might actually have a major leak.

CINDY MONTICUE  
Bluffton

## Who’s Who

A continuing series on how to contact government officials

### Congressional Representatives

**U.S. Senator Todd Young (R)**, 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington DC, 20510, Phone: 202-224-5623. Fort Wayne office: 1300 S Harrison St., Suite 3161, Fort Wayne IN, 46802; phone (317) 226-6700. E-mail accessible through Sen. Young’s website: young.senate.gov

**U.S. Senator Mike Braun (R)**, 404 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, phone (202) 224-4814 Fort Wayne office: 203 E. Berry St., Suite 702B, Fort Wayne IN 46802; phone (317) 822-8240. Email accessible through his website: braun.senate.gov

**Congressman Jim Banks (R)**, 1713 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515. Phone 202-225-4436. Fort Wayne office: 1300 S. Harrison St., Fort Wayne, IN 46802; 260-702-4750. Email accessible through his website at: banks.house.gov

## The News-Banner

(USPS 059-200)

Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929

### News-Banner Publications, Inc.

George B. Witwer, Chairman of the Board  
Doug Brown, President, Publisher  
Dianne Witwer, Secretary/Treasurer

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN 46714. Published every day except Sundays and principal holidays at 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton IN 46714, Post Office Box 436

Holly Gaskill, Editor  
Mark Miller, Opinion Page Editor

Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.



## Russian gains push White House to revisit some red lines

To combat Russia’s advances in Ukraine, President Biden is considering two tough new countermeasures: punishing China for supplying key technology to Moscow and lifting limits on Ukrainian use of U.S. short-range weapons to attack inside Russia.

These moves would represent a significant escalation of Biden’s carefully calibrated policy of supporting Ukraine while seeking to avoid direct confrontation with Russian President Vladimir Putin or his key ally, China’s Xi Jinping. The fact that such moves are being considered now shows the administration’s growing concern about Ukraine’s vulnerability on the battlefield.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken telegraphed a tougher stance after recent visits to Beijing and Kyiv. While in Beijing, he told the BBC in late April that China was “helping fuel the biggest threat to Europe” since the fall of the Soviet Union and indicated that the United States was weighing new sanctions against Chinese companies and financial institutions.

Blinken then visited Kyiv and heard firsthand accounts of Russia’s recent gains near Kharkiv and elsewhere in eastern Ukraine. What he heard worried him enough that he urged administration colleagues to re-examine the prohibition on Ukraine firing American artillery and short-range missiles into Russia, U.S. officials told me and, separately, other journalists.

The threat of new sanctions against China is especially delicate because it comes at a time when both countries have been trying to stabilize their relationship. But U.S. officials are troubled that Beijing, while technically adhering to its pledge not to supply weapons to Moscow, has become the biggest enabler of Russia’s defense sector and its full-scale invasion of Ukraine.

China’s growing assistance is clear in a report by Nathaniel Sher for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. By analyzing international customs data, Sher found that China was Russia’s largest supplier of 50 “high priority” dual-use items. The customs data also showed that China’s share of Russia’s imports of these goods had risen from 32 percent in 2021 to 89 percent last year.

Blinken told the BBC that these dual-purpose items “are being used to help Russia on what’s an extraordinary crash course effort to make more munitions, tanks, armored vehicles, missiles” — even though China continues to refrain from “provision of actual arms.” The secretary said China was supplying about 70 percent of Russia’s imports of machine tools and 90 percent of its imported microelectronics.

China is also providing Russia with satellite technology that can be crucial for communications and targeting in the Ukraine battlespace, according to the Royal United Services Institute, a British foreign policy think tank.

Xi has maintained his own balancing act since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, less than

three weeks after he and Putin had declared a “no limits” partnership. China publicly called for a cease-fire, but Putin pleaded for weapons. They were ready for delivery when Biden called Xi to warn him that the United States would respond — drawing what officials told me was an angry riposte from Xi asking whether Biden was threatening him.

Since that showdown, Xi has refrained from direct weapons shipments. But U.S. officials said the Chinese leader directed Liu He, former vice premier and one of Xi’s most trusted negotiators with the West, to oversee quiet help for Russia’s war effort. At the same time, China has sent peace feelers to Ukraine and its European backers about an eventual settlement.

Ukraine’s vulnerability has increased partly because of the long delay in U.S. weapons shipments. While House Republicans dithered, Ukraine was forced to consider retreat. And many weapons the United States had hoped would bolster Ukraine — such as M1 Abrams tanks, HIMARS missile systems and F-16 fighter jets — proved vulnerable to Russian drones, electronic jamming and air defenses, respectively.

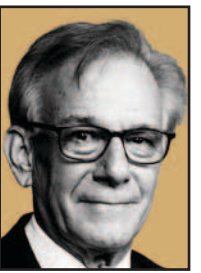
U.S. officials worry that Russia is massing troops and equipment just across the border inside Russia for its assault on Kharkiv and other cities in eastern Ukraine. U.S. artillery and short-range missiles could strike these targets without threatening deep strikes into Russia. But, for now, the United States restricts their use to inside Ukraine, so they aren’t able to strike the big Russian logistical and troop-marshalling centers just over the border. But that may be changing, as other NATO countries press Biden to loosen controls.

The loudest call for strikes inside Russia came this week from NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg. “The front line is more or less the border line, and if you cannot attack the Russian forces on the other side of the front line because they are on the other side of the border, then of course you really reduce the ability of the Ukrainian forces to defend themselves,” Stoltenberg told a NATO parliamentary meeting Monday in Sofia, Bulgaria.

“The right to self-defense includes the right to strike legitimate military targets outside Ukraine,” Stoltenberg added. The NATO parliamentary group meeting in Sofia joined him in endorsing “lifting some restrictions on the use of weapons.”

We might be nearing another inflection point in Ukraine. As China leans harder into its partnership with a newly dominant Russia, Biden is weighing whether to deepen his alliance with Kyiv. This would bring new risks, but it would make sense if it could bolster a wobbly Ukraine and rebalance the negotiating table, which is where this war must eventually be settled.

Follow David Ignatius @IgnatiusPost on X



David Ignatius

## ‘Curiouser and curiouser’

Angelkeep Journals tips the Mad Hatter’s hat to Lewis Carroll, the author something of an inspiration for this column. A tip of a tine to deer who have pondered while looking into the looking-glass of Angelpond. What is real and what is not? Sometimes nature and fiction seem to go hand in hand.

“For, you see, so many out-of-the-way things had happened lately, that Alice had begun to think that very few things indeed were really impossible.” —(Lewis Carroll)

Angelkeep has observed many a time a young deer, from age fawn to yearling, stepping toward Angelpond’s edge for a drink. Instead they encounter another deer looking back at them. At that very instant exactly what goes through the mind of a young doe or buck seeing another one just like themselves emerging from the water?

“Are you not afraid of drowning? How did you learn to swim? Am I supposed to stomp to warn you of my hierarchy? Will you jump onto your hind and box me to prove your dominance over me?” —(Alan Daugherty)

Deer certainly do communicate with each other through movements and gestures. Snorts of different types provide a common language all eventually understand. The thrust of a set of antlers speaks volumes.

“If I had a world of my own, everything would be nonsense. Nothing would be what it is, because everything would be what it isn’t. And contrary wise, what is, it

## Angelkeep Journals

wouldn’t be. And what it wouldn’t be, it would. You see?” —LC

How often Angelkeep has watched a young deer walk up to its mama doe and nuzzle noses, or lick her neck. It had been an ingrained passive sign of family life. Upon recognition, mama and child could dine together on the same pile of corn kernels. This would not necessarily be the case with Cousin Rudolph.

“Mama, teach me to swim. Better yet, Mama, teach me to fly like Rudolph.” —AD

“Why it’s simply impassible!”

“Alice: Why, don’t you mean impossible?”

“Door: No, I do mean impassible. (chuckles) Nothing’s impossible!” —LC

When a young brow-tined buck looks into the crest of Angelpond and views the reflection perhaps misunderstood as another young brow-tined buck, would instinct tell him to fight? To attack? To get aggressive? Or will he simply drink and ignore the other buck drinking from exactly the same spot of pond water?

“Well, now that we have seen each other, . . . if you’ll believe in me, I’ll believe in you.” —LC

Should a female yearling twaddle



Alan Daugherty

to the pond’s edge for a drink and see another of its kind going for exactly the same drops of water, what might she say, if does could speak, and reflections could have ears to hear?

“Contrariwise,” continued Tweedledee, “if it was so, it might be; and if it were so, it would be; but as it isn’t, it ain’t. That’s logic.” —LC

And what might be said if the reflection decided to speak to the doe about to sip upon the liquid mirror?

“And how do you know that you’re mad? ‘To begin with,’ said the Cat, ‘a dog’s not mad. You grant that?’ I suppose so, said Alice. ‘Well then,’ the Cat went on, ‘you see a dog growls when it’s angry, and wags its tail when it’s pleased. Now I growl when I’m pleased, and wag my tail when I’m angry. Therefore I’m mad.’” —LC

“Curiouser and curiouser!” cried Alice (she was so much surprised, that for the moment she quite forgot how to speak good English). —LC

Will this column pass the editor’s pen of Mark Miller? Will he toss a pebble into the looking-glass and ripple away the image pondered? Or will Editor Miller pass the written words and insert them onto page four, his responsible domain. If he does, will he rephrase the Mad Hatter, “Has Angelkeep gone mad?”

Alice stared into the looking-glass reflection and answered. “I’m afraid so. You’re entirely bonkers. But I’ll tell you a secret. All the best people are.” —LC

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

# Gloria spends time with Daniel's grandparents in Ohio

Our time in Ohio is passing on wings. How can days melt so swiftly?

When I first started thinking of coming to Ohio for a couple of weeks it was with the thought of spending ample time with Daniel's grandparents, Tobe and Mary, both in their 90s. Daniel had a close connection with his grandparents and instilled in all of us how precious they really are.

As a teenager, Daniel would go fetch Grandpa's horse on Sunday mornings, harness, and hitch up, then take them to church. At church he would put the horse in the barn so Grandpa would be free. This was in the years that Grandpa would have been well able to do it himself, it was just something Daniel could do for him.

When Daniel and I began courting, Grandpa kindly shared Daniel as he would take me to church instead. A year later Daniel told his grandparents that he is getting married and moving to Illinois. It was no simple change. Not only did they miss Daniel, he missed them as well. After we were married they gifted Daniel with a wheelbarrow (which I still use) as a thank you for the years of taking them to church. How thoughtful!

We enjoyed visiting them whenever we went to Ohio. Daniel would tell me, "There is so

## The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



much we can learn from them; they are older and have so much experience in life."

One of the last times Daniel chatted with his dear grandparents he said, "I am almost jealous of you; if I were your age, I know I wouldn't have that long to wait to go to heaven!"

Little did we know that in less than a year he would be the one with Jesus, knowing the rest of us will soon be coming to join him in heaven's glory-land.

Now packing to leave for Ohio, there was something in me that kept thinking of Tobe Dawdys, as we call them. A couple hours before we left for Ohio, Daniel's mother informed us that her mother (Daniel's grandma), fell and broke her leg. How we hurt for her. That evening when we came to Ohio she was at the hospital where she stayed for the next four days where they did surgery and put in plates and screws.

I was eager to see her come home. I am not Daniel, yet it felt like something I could do for him to spend time with her. The first time I saw her lying there in her hospital bed in the living room, my heart melted.

In our simple minds, you'd

think that this dear sweet lady would not have deserved this. Her attitude was challenging. Her hands motioned with her words, "Everything happens for a reason- everything." It was obvious that she had her focus on her God, not her problems. Later she shared how she enjoys talking to God when she cannot sleep.

Since she is not up and about like she used to be, I get to help sometimes. One day this week I took Austin and Hosanna with me. After the lunch dishes were done Grandpa said he thinks we need to go plant sweet potatoes. Soon it was Grandpa, Miriam, and I working in the garden, now talking about precious times. I smiled to myself. I will probably never again have this opportunity to plant a garden with this avid gardener with decades of experience. No one minded that he did not have the strength he did in years gone by. He walked along side me as I tilled back and forth the length of the garden. Austin was our errand boy and fetched needed items. Hosanna would periodically go in the house and check on Grandma. When we wrapped up our project there was



a row of a dozen sweet potatoes planted on a canvas to keep the weeds down and a fence placed around them to keep the rabbits out.

Grandma has made hundreds or thousands of crinkled molasses cookies. Try the recipe!

- 3/4 cup butter
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 egg
- 1/4 cup sorghum
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 2 teaspoons baking soda dissolved in 1/4 cup milk
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon

- 1/2 teaspoon ginger
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 2 1/4 cups flour

### Instructions

1. Cream together butter and sugar.
2. Add egg and sorghum.
3. Blend together well.
4. Add dry ingredients.
5. Mix well.
6. Put half cup white sugar in a bowl and roll cookies in sugar (rolling in sugar is optional, I don't just to cut down on sugar intake).
7. Place on greased cookie sheet and bake at 350 for 10 - 12 minutes.



### Phyllis Shady memorial awarded

Members of Bluffton's Beta Associate chapter of Tri Kappa were visitors at Grace & Mercy on a recent Friday morning as they arrived to present a \$500 check in memory of Phyllis Shady to site Director Christine Walker, fourth from the right. Left to right are Barbara Barbieri, Cindy Marshall (staff), Norma Sweeten, Jan Babcock, Michelle Sodervick, Walker, Deb Brown (Beta Phi chapter president), Amy Greiner and Carol Yoder. (Photo provided)

## A Talk with Tego



Joey is an eight-month-old, domestic short hair male. This guy is one super sweet, affectionate cat!



Shelby is a 12-week-old, domestic short hair female.



Willow is a 10-week-old, torbie female.



Tego

**Tego's Tips:** Cats sleep a few minutes at a time for an average of sixteen hours per day.

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

# DECATUR SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

**Duke Tumatoe w/Horns**  
June 6, 2024 • 6:00 - 9:00PM

**Hubie-Ashcraft**  
June 13, 2024 • 6:00 - 9:00PM  
Music on Madison Street - Hubie Ashcraft - Sponsored by Custom Car Care - Food Vendors available - Adult beverages supplied by The Mirage.

**E5C4P3 - Journey Tribute Band**  
June 20, 2024 • 7:00 - 9:30PM  
E5C4P3 - Formed by Steve Perry impersonator Jason Kely in 1993, E5C4P3 is the original and still the most authentic tribute to Journey. Food Vendors available - Adult beverages supplied by The Mirage.

**The Broken Hearts (Tom Petty)**  
June 27, 2024 • 7:00 - 9:00PM

**Hairbangers Ball**  
July 11, 2024 • 7:00 - 9:00PM  
Music on Madison Street - Hairbangers Ball - Sponsored by TBA - Food Vendors available - Adult beverages supplied by The Mirage.

**Sweetwater All Star Band**  
August 22, 2024 • 6:00 - 9:00PM  
Music on Madison Street - Sweetwater All Star Band - Sponsored by Custom Car Care - Food Vendors available - Adult beverages supplied by The Mirage.

July 4 - To Be Announced - 7 - 9 pm  
July 11 - To Be Announced - 7 - 9 pm  
July 18 - To Be Announced - 7 - 9 pm  
July 25 - To Be Announced - 7 - 9 pm

Aug 1 - To Be Announced in July - 7 - 9 pm  
Aug 8 - To Be Announced - 7 - 9 pm  
Aug 15 - To Be Announced - 7 - 9 pm  
Aug 24 - To Be Announced - 6 - 9 pm  
Aug 29 - To Be Announced - 6 - 9 pm

**DDS**  
Decatur • Geneva • Bluffton • Berne • Warren  
**Decatur Dental Services, Inc.**  
Decatur Dental Services, Inc. • 724-8746 Berne Dental Clinic • 589-2110  
Bluffton Dental Clinic • 824-5940 Geneva Dental Clinic • 368-7500  
Warren Family Dentistry • 375-2246  
**decaturdentalin.com**

**INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS**  
AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING  
1421 Manchester St., Decatur  
260.724.2276 • www.icav.us

130 W. Monroe St. Decatur, IN Info: 260-724-SHOW  
**ABCINEMA**  
Follow Us On Facebook @ ABCinemaInc  
Corey & Barb Affolder (Owners)

**FCC** Join Our Team  
Apply using the QR Code or finding us on Indeed  
**FCC (Adams), LLC**  
Berne, IN

**NB Digital**  
A DIVISION OF NEWS-BANNER PUBLICATIONS, INC.  
Websites • Mobile Responsive Design • SEO  
Business Page Creation • Social Media Creation  
Social Media Networks • Reputation Monitoring  
Online Advertising & Marketing  
**nb-digital.com | 800.579.7576**

**Eichhorn Jewelry, Inc.**  
In the Heart of Downtown Decatur  
800-589-2621  
eichhornjewelry.com

Celebrate with Diamonds  
f o p x

**FCC (Adams), LLC**  
Berne, IN

# Jurors in Trump hush money trial end first day of deliberations

NEW YORK (AP) — The jury in Donald Trump's hush money trial ended its first day of deliberations without a verdict Wednesday but asked to rehear testimony from key witnesses about the alleged hush money scheme at the heart of the history-making case.

The 12-person jury was sent home around 4 p.m. after about 4 1/2 hours of deliberations. The process is to resume Thursday, when jurors are expected to rehear the requested testimony and at least part of the judge's legal instructions meant to guide them on the law.

The notes sent to the judge with the requests were the first burst of communication with the court after the panel of seven men and five women was sent to a private room just before 11:30 a.m. to begin weighing a verdict.

"It is not my responsibility to judge the evidence here. It is yours," Judge Juan M. Merchan told jurors before dispatching them to begin deliberations, reminding them of their vow during the selection process to judge the case fairly and impartially.

It's unclear how long the deliberations will last. A guilty verdict would deliver a stunning legal reckoning for the presumptive Republican presidential nominee as he seeks to reclaim the White House while an acquittal would represent a major win for Trump and embolden him on the campaign trail. Since verdicts must be unanimous, it's also possible that the case ends in a mistrial if the jury cannot reach a consensus after

days of deliberations.

Trump struck a pessimistic tone after leaving the courtroom following the reading of jury instructions, repeating his assertions of a "very unfair trial" and saying: "Mother Teresa could not beat those charges, but we'll see. We'll see how we do."

He remained inside the courthouse during deliberations, where he posted on his social media network complaints about the trial and quoted legal and political commentators who view the case in his favor. In one all-caps post, he proclaimed that he didn't even "know what the charges are in this rigged case," even though he was present in the courtroom as the judge detailed them to jurors.

He did not testify in his own defense, something the judge told jurors they could not take into account.

Trump is charged with 34 counts of falsifying business records at his company in connection with an alleged scheme to hide potentially embarrassing stories about him during his 2016 Republican presidential campaign.

The charge, a felony, arises from reimbursements paid to then-Trump lawyer Michael Cohen after he made a \$130,000 hush money payment to porn actor Stormy Daniels to silence her claims that she and Trump had sex in 2006. Trump is accused of misrepresenting Cohen's reimbursements as legal expenses to hide that they were tied to a hush money payment.

Trump has pleaded not guilty and contends the Cohen payments were for legitimate legal services. He has also denied the alleged extramarital sexual encounter with Daniels.

To convict Trump, the jury would have to find unanimously that he created a fraudulent entry in his company's records, or caused someone else to do so, and that he did so with the intent of committing or concealing another crime.

The crime prosecutors say Trump committed or hid is a violation of a New York election law making it illegal for two or more conspirators "to promote or prevent the election of any person to a public office by unlawful means."

While the jury must unanimously agree that something unlawful was done to promote Trump's election campaign, they don't have to be unanimous on what that unlawful thing was.

The jurors — a diverse cross section of Manhattan residents and professional backgrounds — often appeared riveted by testimony, including from Cohen and Daniels. Many took notes and watched intently as witnesses answered questions from prosecutors and Trump's lawyers.

Jurors started deliberating after a marathon day of closing arguments Tuesday. A prosecutor spoke for more than five hours, underscoring the burden the district attorney's office faces in needing to establish Trump's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt.

The Trump team need not

establish his innocence to avoid a conviction but must instead bank on at least one juror finding that prosecutors have not sufficiently proved their case.

While giving the jury instructions in the law Wednesday morning, Merchan offered some guidance on factors the panel can use to assess witness testimony, including its plausibility, its consistency with other testimony, the witness' manner on the stand and whether the person has a motive to lie.

But, the judge said, "there is no particular formula for evaluating the truthfulness and accuracy of another person's statement."

The principles he outlined are standard but perhaps all the more relevant after Trump's defense leaned heavily on questioning the credibility of key prosecution witnesses, including Cohen.

Jurors asked in the afternoon to rehear at least part of those instructions. They also asked to revisit select key episodes in the trial, though it was not clear why.

The requests covered testimony from Cohen and former National Enquirer publisher David Pecker about an August 2015 meeting with Trump at Trump Tower where the tabloid boss pledged to be the "eyes and ears" of his fledgling presidential campaign.

Pecker testified that the plan included identifying potentially damaging stories about Trump so they could be squashed before being published. That, prosecutors say, was the beginning of the "catch-and-kill" scheme at the heart of the case.

Jurors also want to hear Pecker's account of a phone call he said he received from Trump in which they discussed a rumor that another outlet had offered to buy former Playboy model Karen McDougal's story alleging that she had a yearlong affair with Trump in the mid-2000s. Trump has denied the affair.

Pecker testified that Trump told him, "Karen is a nice girl" and asked, "What do you think I should do?" Pecker said he replied: "I think you should buy the story and take it off the market." He added that Trump told him he doesn't buy stories because they always get out and that Cohen would be in touch.

The publisher said he came away from the conversation thinking Trump was aware of the specifics of McDougal's claims. Pecker said he believed the story was true and would have been embarrassing to Trump and his campaign if it were made public.

The National Enquirer's parent company, American Media Inc., eventually paid McDougal \$150,000 for the rights to her story in an agreement that also included writing and other opportunities with its fitness magazine and other publications.

The fourth item jurors requested is Pecker's testimony about his decision in October 2016 to back out of an agreement to sell the rights to McDougal's story to Trump through a company Cohen had established for the transaction. Such an agreement is known as an "assignment of rights."

# Alito rejects calls to quit cases on Trump, Jan. 6 because of flag controversies

By MARK SHERMAN  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Justice Samuel Alito is rejecting calls to step aside from Supreme Court cases involving former President Donald Trump and Jan. 6 defendants, saying his wife hoisted the two controversial flags that flew above their homes.

"My wife is fond of flying flags. I am not," Alito wrote Wednesday.

In letters to members of Congress, Alito said his wife, Martha-Ann, was responsible for flying both an upside-down flag over their home in 2021 and an "Appeal to Heaven" flag at their New Jersey beach house last year. Both flags were like those carried by rioters who violently stormed the Capitol in January 2021 while echoing Trump's false claims of election fraud.

Neither incident at Alito's homes merited his recusal, wrote the justice, who has rejected calls from Democrats in the past to recuse on other issues.

"I am confident that a reasonable person who is

not motivated by political or ideological considerations or a desire to affect the outcome of Supreme Court cases would conclude that the events ... do not meet the applicable standard for recusal," he wrote. "I am therefore required to reject your request."

Supreme Court justices decide for themselves whether to sit out a case and the only potential consequence for refusing to step aside is impeachment by the House of Representatives and removal from office by the Senate. That has never happened in American history.

Trump, who was in New York while jurors deliberated in his hush money criminal trial, congratulated Alito for "showing the INTELIGENCE, COURAGE, and 'GUTS'" in refusing to step aside. "All U.S. Judges, Justices, and Leaders should have such GRIT," Trump posted on his Truth Social platform.

Some Senate Republicans also quickly took to social media Wednesday to praise Alito for staying involved in the cases.

The court is considering two major cases related to the Jan. 6, 2021, attack by a mob of Trump supporters on the Capitol, including charges faced by the rioters and whether Trump has immunity from prosecution on election interference charges.

The New York Times reported that an inverted American flag was seen at Alito's home in Alexandria, Virginia, less than two weeks after the attack on the Capitol. The paper also reported that an "Appeal to Heaven" flag was flown outside the justice's beach home in New Jersey last summer.

The "Appeal to Heaven" flag has in recent years come to symbolize sympathies with the Christian nationalist movement and the false claim that the 2020 presidential election was stolen from Trump.

According to American-flags.com, the pine tree on the flag symbolized strength and resilience in the New England colonies while the words "Appeal to Heaven" stemmed from the belief that God would deliver the colonists from tyranny.

An upside-down American flag has come to be a symbol associated with Trump's bogus fraud claims. Dozens of the pro-Trump rioters were carrying similarly inverted flags and chanting slogans like "Stop the Steal" on Jan. 6, 2021. The U.S. Flag Code states that the American flag is not to be flown upside down "except as a signal of dire distress in instance of extreme danger to life or property." The inverted flag has been used as a protest symbol on both the left and the right on a range of issues over the decades.

Alito said he was unaware that the upside-down flag was flying above his house until it was called to his attention. "As soon as I saw it, I asked my wife to take it down, but for several days, she refused," he wrote in nearly identical letters to Democrats in the House and the Senate.

He had previously explained to the newspaper that his wife put up the flag as part of a nasty neighborhood dispute.

The flag at his beach house was also hoisted by his wife, Alito wrote, noting that the house is in her name and was bought with money she inherited from her parents.

Alito said he was unfamiliar with the "Appeal to Heaven" flag when it was flown, but he noted it dates back to the American Revolution. "I was not aware of

any connection between this historic flag and the 'Stop the Steal Movement' and neither was my wife," Alito wrote.

He said Martha-Ann Alito did not fly that flag to associate herself with the rioters or the effort to overturn the results of the 2020 election, which Trump, a Republican, lost to Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Calling her an independently-minded private citizen, Alito wrote, "She makes her own decisions and I honor her right to do so."

Alito also described the sacrifices his wife has made because of her husband's service on the Supreme Court, including "the insult of having to endure numerous, loud, obscene and personally insulting protests in front of our home that continue to this day and now threaten to escalate."

# Nurse honored for compassion fired after referring to Gaza 'genocide'

NEW YORK (AP) — A nurse was fired by a New York City hospital after she referred to Israel's war in Gaza as a "genocide" during a speech accepting an award.

Labor and delivery nurse Hesna Jabr, who is Palestinian American, was being honored by NYU Langone Health for her compassion in caring for mothers who had lost babies when she drew a link between her work and the suffering of mothers in Gaza.

"It pains me to see the women from my country going through unimaginable losses themselves during the current genocide in Gaza," Jabr said, according to a video of the May 7 speech that she posted on social media. "This award is deeply personal to me for those reasons."

Jabr wrote on Instagram that she arrived at work on May 22 for her first shift back after receiving the award when she was summoned to a meeting with the hospital's president and vice president of nursing "to discuss how I 'put others at risk' and 'ruined the ceremony' and 'offended people' because a small part of my speech was a tribute towards the grieving mothers in my country."

She wrote that after working most of her shift she was "dragged once again to an office" where she was read her termination letter and then escorted out of the building.

A spokesperson for NYU Langone, Steve Ritea, confirmed that Jabr was fired following her speech and said there had been "a previous incident as well."

"Hesna Jabr was warned in December, following a previous incident, not to bring her views on this divisive and charged issue into the workplace," Mr. Ritea said in a statement. "She instead chose not to heed that at a recent employee recognition event that was widely attended by her colleagues, some of whom were upset after her comments. As a result, Jabr is no longer a NYU Langone employee."

Ritea did not provide any details of the previous incident. Jabr defended her speech in an interview with The New York Times and said talking about the war "was so relevant" given the nature of the award she had won.

"It was an award for bereavement; it was for grieving mothers," she said.

Gaza's Ministry of Health says that more than 36,000 people have been killed in the territory during the war that started with the Oct. 7 Hamas attack on Israel. Around 80% of Gaza's population of 2.3 million has been displaced and U.N. officials say parts of the territory are experiencing famine.

**AND THE ADVENTURE begins**

**Celebrating the Seniors Working to Help our Community!**

**Congratulations**

*Jerry Flack & Associates*

101 N. Main St. • Bluffton, IN  
Corner of Main & Market

**ATTENTION!**

We are NOW certified to Sell Market Place Health Insurance Products for People Under 65!

ONE-ON-ONE PRIVATE CONSULTATION  
Life Insurance, Annuities and Long-Term Care  
Call to Set an Appointment

You Can Buy an Annuity at Age 90 to 99!  
**ASK US HOW!**

260.824.1618

SUPERIOR PRODUCTS SERVICE SOLUTIONS

99.98% CLEANER AIR

Clean air starts with better airflow.

Ask us about installing AccuClean™, Humidifiers, Dehumidifiers, or UV Lights.

*American Standard*

HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

**MOSER & SON**

Heating & Air Conditioning  
824-0228

219 E. Perry St. Bluffton

260\*824\*0228 • www.moserandsonheatingandair.com

If only my teeth were as white as my legs!

We Offer Professional Strength

Crest Whitestrips

Stop by Any of Our Locations

# Colleges worried with direct pay for athletes looming

By JOHN ZENOR  
AP Sports Writer

Iowa State has already scrapped plans for a new wrestling facility. Texas A&M laid off a dozen or so athletic staffers. That could be the tip of the iceberg when millions in college revenue starts going directly to the athletes and away from escalating coaching salaries, facilities and growing athletic department staffs.

A revenue-sharing model outlined in last week's \$2.8 billion antitrust settlement proposal from the NCAA and the five largest college conferences would allow schools to each provide up to \$21 million annually to athletes or up to 22% of the average power league school's annual revenue. That means budget wrangling and an untold number of potentially difficult decisions are looming for athletic departments across the country.

"At the end of the day, this is an economic earthquake within the system," said Andrew Zimbalist, economics professor emeritus at Smith College. "And the system is in a very uncertain and risky and volatile state right now."

Realignment, the transfer portal and the explosion in name, image and likeness (NIL) compensation have already changed virtually everything about college athletics. Settling the antitrust claims over the next decade brings even more upheaval and signals the end of an amateur athletics model that dates to the NCAA's founding in 1906.

Football and basketball powerhouses will still rake in huge annual revenue numbers, but it will now be allocated differently; the where and how is to be determined in the coming months.

"When you have a shift of revenue up to 22% things won't remain the same," SEC

Commissioner Greg Sankey said at the league's spring meetings in Destin, Florida. "That predicts that people will have to make decisions. That may be any number of wide range of issues that I haven't even begun to consider, some of which I can imagine, some of which I'm certain will look at this week and in the weeks that follow."

Mississippi athletic director Keith Carter said some money going to the donor-backed NIL collectives "in theory will shift over to the athletic department" to boost revenue. Carter also said schools must find ways to cut costs, including putting facilities projects on hold even with new money arriving this year from the SEC's latest ESPN contract and new \$7.8 billion deal between ESPN and the College Football Playoff.

"It's going to be hodgepodge of finding new revenues and eliminating some expenses," Carter said. "It's going to be definitely different at each institution and how they do it."

## MAKING CHANGES

Schools like Iowa State and Texas A&M have already made changes proactively.

Iowa State athletic director Jamie Pollard scrapped plans for the new wrestling facility, which had been scheduled to open in the fall of 2025. He cited the "\$20 million question" of how to account for direct compensation to athletes.

"It's going to be a drastic change and that change isn't going to happen overnight," Pollard told reporters in early May. "We have a \$100 million budget. We don't have a \$120 million budget."

New Texas A&M athletic director Trev Alberts has already laid off about a dozen staffers. Alberts made it clear at the time the

layoffs weren't related to the \$76.8 million buyout for fired football coach Jimbo Fisher, instead saying it was a "reorganization related to existing and emerging threats to our business model."

Hefty buyouts and massive coaching contracts -- like the \$13 million annual salary recently awarded to Georgia's two-time national champion coach Kirby Smart -- mean there won't be a pity party considering athletes' long battles to get a piece of the economic pie.

"I think it's easy to justify \$10 million for a top coach if you're not paying the athletes, but a couple of extra million for a coach might be money you're not paying athletes," said Richard Paulsen, a sports economist at the University of Michigan. "In the NFL and the NBA, the athletes are getting paid a lot more than the coaches."

Times had already started changing once athletes were cleared to start making money off endorsements in July 2021. Big-name coaches like now-retired Nick Saban at Alabama and sparkling facilities were no longer necessarily the biggest draw for recruits and thus the most important investments for athletic programs.

"Now, if the question is you can get X dollars from one school and Y dollars from another, those things might not matter as much," said Paulsen, whose school lost coach Jim Harbaugh to the NFL after a national championship.

## CUTS ON THE WAY?

Zimbalist said athletic departments could be facing more cutbacks in staffs and changes in how much money they can keep spending on facilities.

"Some of the bigtime programs have staffs of 250-300 people and have very

modern facilities and have been building more of them," Zimbalist said. "Now there's no way they're going to be able to afford that."

And that's the wealthier college athletic departments. The impact on programs with more modest budgets remains to be seen, but Charlotte athletic director Mike Hill and his counterpart at Montana, Kent Haslam, have serious concerns. After all, Group of Five leagues (where Charlotte plays football) and those in the FCS (home of the Grizzlies) collectively are on the hook for nearly a quarter of the settlement.

"Having worked in the SEC, Conference USA and The American, I understand that this is a complex issue for our enterprise to resolve," Hill said. "However, I cannot reconcile Charlotte and similarly resourced programs forfeiting millions in revenue that should be used to support our current student-athletes so former student-athletes -- 90% of whom come from Power Five leagues whose revenue dwarfs everyone else's -- can be compensated."

"There is a reason the autonomy conferences were specifically named in the lawsuit and not the other 27 Division I leagues. As members of the NCAA, which is also named in the suit, we knew that there could be an impact on us -- but that it is disproportionate and disheartening."

Haslam agreed. "The early numbers show us losing roughly \$200,000 in our distributions from the NCAA, and that's significant for us," Haslam told MTN Sports last week. "That's got to be made up through ticket sales, through donations, though cost-cutting. So it's real and it's hitting everybody and it's certainly frustrating."

## All-conference baseball awards announced for Tigers, Raiders

The Allen County Athletic Conference released its selections for baseball award-winners on Wednesday.

The Bluffton Tigers, who finished second in the conference with a 5-1 record, had three players represented on the list. Two of them were on the first team: Braxton Betancourt as an out-

fielder and Brody Lewis as a catcher. Eli Garrett earned second-team as an infielder.

Southern Wells had two players on the list, finishing 0-6 in the conference. Brothers Caleb Johnson (outfield) and Landon Johnson (at-large) made it on the second team.

## Carpenter, Gorman homer, Cardinals reach .500 for 1st time since April with win vs. Reds

By GARY SCHATZ  
Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP)

— Matt Carpenter hit a go-ahead home in the third inning, Nolan Gorman also went deep and the St. Louis Cardinals reached .500 for the first time in six weeks with a 5-3 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday.

Carpenter hit his first home run for the Cardinals since April 30, 2021, as St. Louis (27-27) won for the 12th time in 15 games.

The Cardinals had not been at .500 since they were 9-9 before play on April 17 and they had dropped to 15-24 before their turnaround. They have won five straight series.

"We're playing good baseball," Carpenter said. "Our offense is coming full circle and getting close to what we thought we were at the beginning of the year."

A 38-year-old three-time All-Star who played for the Cardinals from 2011-21, Carpenter hit a third-inning drive off Frankie Montas (2-4). Carpenter is batting .250 with four RBIs in 36 at-bats.

Gorman hit his 10th home run of the season, an eighth-inning drive off Brent Suter, and also had an RBI double that boosted the lead to 2-0 in the fourth.

Andre Pallante (1-1) allowed three hits in six scoreless innings in his first start since July 31, 2022. He struck out four and walked three.

"Pallante did a really nice job," Cardinal manager Oliver Marmol said. "To have an outing like that it was impressive. He got a lot of weak contact."

St. Louis had used Matthew Liberatore as its fifth starter after Steven Matz strained his lower back in early May. Pallante went to the minor leagues to compete for a spot in the rotation.

"It was definitely what I was hoping for when I got sent down at the beginning of this year," Pallante said. "I always felt of myself as a starter, and the more pitches I

throw, the better I get. I hadn't been pitching well enough to be up here. Pouting was not going to where I want to be."

Ryan Helsley allowed Tyler Stephenson's sacrifice fly in the ninth before Elly De La Cruz hit into a game-ending forceout that gave Helsley his major league-leading 18th save in 19 chances.

Montas (2-4) gave up three runs and six hits in six innings, dropping to 0-4 in his last eight starts.

"To be honest, I'm never going to be focused on wins and losses," Montas said. "I'm trying to go out and do my best to try to give my team a chance to win. I just get shaky for one inning, not executing the pitches, and then I'm good after that. I'm way better than the way I'm pitching, for sure."

Brendan Donovan and Masyn Winn had three hits each. Winn extended his hitting streak to 18 games.

"He continues to take professional at bats. He's not trying to do too much. Whatever the game presents he's willing to give it a good shot. Today was another example of that," Marmol said.

Jonathan India had an RBI single in the seventh and right fielder Dylan Carlson made a run-scoring throwing error in the eighth after replacing Lars Nootbaar, who left the game with an injury.

De La Cruz had two hits and is hitting .216 in May with 37 strikeouts. He has 74 strikeouts in 201 at-bats this season, tying teammate Will Benson for the major league lead through Wednesday afternoon's games.

## UP NEXT

Cardinals: RHP Miles Mikolas (3-5, 5.64) will start Friday at Philadelphia. RHP Aaron Nola (6-2, 3.04) takes the mound for the Phillies.

Reds: RHP Graham Ashcraft (4-3, 4.67) starts Friday at the Chicago Cubs.

## Major leaguers praise inclusion of Negro Leagues statistics into Major League Baseball records

By JAY COHEN  
AP Baseball Writer

CHICAGO (AP)

— Buck Leonard, Charlie "Chino" Smith, Turkey Stearnes.

Baseball players and fans alike are learning more about the Negro Leagues after the statistics for

more than 2,300 players — historic figures like Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston, Satchel Paige and Mule Suttles — were incorporated into the major league record book following a three-year research project.

"You get to learn about a lot of names and a lot of people that we may not have heard about," Pittsburgh Pirates outfielder Andrew McCutchen said Wednesday. "Now that Josh Gibson is at the top of OPS and batting average and a few other cat-



egories, it's great news. But it's more than just that and the numbers. It's great that you now get to learn about the players in the Negro Leagues. ... I'll be able to do some more deep diving into some names that I may

not have heard of."

A 17-person committee chaired by John Thorn, Major League Baseball's official historian, met six times as part of the meticulous process of examining statistics from seven Negro Leagues from 1920-1948. Nearly 75% of the available records have been included, according to MLB, and additional research could lead to more changes to the major league leaderboards.

(Continued on Page A2)

## Multiple college hoops stars withdrawing from NBA draft

Two of last year's Final Four teams are returning key pieces for next season.

UConn forward Alex Karaban is heading back to campus for a try at a third straight national title and Alabama guard Mark Sears also will be back after withdrawing from the NBA draft Wednesday.

The 6-foot-8 third-year sophomore has started in 77 of his 78 games since joining the Huskies. He averaged 13.3 points and 5.1 rebounds last season as UConn went 37-3 and became the first team with consecutive NCAA Tournament titles since Florida in 2006 and 2007.

No program has won three in a row since UCLA won seven straight from 1967-73.

"While I've enjoyed the draft process, Storrs is home," Karaban, from Southborough, Massachusetts, posted on social media. "Let's run it back!"

Sears was a second-team AP All-American last sea-

son after becoming the first Division I player in the last 31 seasons to have 795 points, 150 rebounds, 145 assists and 95 three-pointers in a season. The 6-1 guard was a finalist for the Bob Cousy Award as the nation's top point guard following a 2023-24 season in which he averaged 21.5 points, 4.2 rebounds, 4.0 assists and 1.6 steals per game.

Sears averaged 24.2 points, 5.2 rebounds and 3.6 assists per game during the NCAA Tournament while helping lead the Crimson Tide to the Final Four for the first time.

Sears announced his decision on social media with a post saying: "last dance #rolltide."

Arizona also got a big boost with shooting guard Caleb Love's decision to withdraw from the NBA draft to rejoin the Wildcats.

An explosive 6-4 guard, Love was the Pac-12 player of the year and a Naismith Award semifinalist after

leading Arizona with 18 points per game and 92 made 3-pointers.

Love arrived at Arizona prior to last season after spending the previous three at North Carolina, where he built a reputation as a big-shot maker during the Tar Heel's run to the 2022 national title game.

The Wildcats announced Love's return with a social media post declaring: "He's back. #OneLove."

Also withdrawing was Clemson guard Chase Hunter, who helped the Tigers reach the Elite Eight last season.

Hunter, a 6-foot-4 senior from Atlanta, averaged 12.9 points a game and led the Tigers with 116 assists. He had declared for the NBA draft last month, but was not invited to the league's draft combine.

Hunter played a big role in Clemson's run to the Elite Eight, where he averaged 17.8 points in four games and was named to the All-West Region team.



Bronny James

his reaction on his social media accounts, including one Instagram story that had the

simple caption: "BRONNY STAYING IN DRAFT!" The decision was not unexpected, given that Bronny James had given no sign in recent weeks that he would exercise his option of returning to college and postponing his NBA plans.

Bronny James played one year of college basketball at Southern California and averaged 4.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.1 assists per game last season. He played in 25 games, missing the start of the season after needing a procedure last year to fix what was diagnosed as a congenital heart defect, which was found after he went into cardiac arrest during a summer workout.

A panel of doctors cleared James for NBA play earlier this month.

"I'm just trying to put in the work and see where it takes me," Bronny James said at the NBA draft combine after getting that

(Continued on Page A2)

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASKETBALL

### NBA CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

**Tuesday, May 21**  
Boston 133, Indiana 128, OT

**Wednesday, May 22**  
Dallas 108, Minnesota 105

**Thursday, May 23**  
Boston 126, Indiana 110

**Friday, May 24**  
Dallas 109, Minnesota 108

**Saturday, May 25**  
Boston 114, Indiana 111

**Sunday, May 26**  
Dallas 116, Minnesota 107

**Monday, May 27**  
Boston 105, Indiana 102, Boston wins series 4 - 0

**Tuesday, May 28**  
Minnesota 105, Dallas 100, Dallas leads series 3 - 1

**Thursday, May 30**  
Dallas at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.

**Saturday, June 1**  
x-Minnesota at Dallas, TBA

**Monday, June 3**  
x-Dallas at Minnesota, TBA

### FINALS

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

**Thursday, June 6**  
Team TBD at Boston, 8:30 p.m.

### WNBA EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Connecticut	6	0	1.000	—
New York	5	2	.714	1½
Atlanta	3	2	.600	2½
Chicago	2	3	.400	3½
Indiana	1	7	.125	6
Washington	0	7	.000	6½

### WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Las Vegas	4	1	.800	—
Minnesota	4	2	.667	½
Dallas	3	2	.600	1
Seattle	4	3	.571	1
Phoenix	3	4	.429	2
Los Angeles	2	4	.333	2½

**Tuesday's Games**  
Connecticut 70, Phoenix 47  
Los Angeles 88, Indiana 82  
Seattle 77, Chicago 68

**Wednesday's Games**  
New York 81, Phoenix 78  
Atlanta 73, Washington 67  
Las Vegas 80, Minnesota 66

**Thursday's Games**  
Seattle at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
Los Angeles at Chicago, 8 p.m.

**Friday's Games**  
Dallas at Connecticut, 7:30 p.m.  
Las Vegas at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.  
Washington at New York, 7:30 p.m.  
Phoenix at Minnesota, 9:30 p.m.

**Saturday's Games**  
Chicago at Indiana, 12 p.m.

### HOCKEY

### NHL CONFERENCE FINALS

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)

**Wednesday, May 22**  
Florida 3, N.Y. Rangers 0

**Thursday, May 23**  
Edmonton 3, Dallas 2, 2OT

**Friday, May 24**  
N.Y. Rangers 2, Florida 1, OT

**Saturday, May 25**  
Dallas 3, Edmonton 1

**Sunday, May 26**  
N.Y. Rangers 5, Florida 4, OT

**Monday, May 27**  
Dallas 5, Edmonton 3, Dallas leads series 2 - 1

**Tuesday, May 28**  
Florida 3, N.Y. Rangers 2, OT, series tied 2 - 2

**Wednesday, May 29**  
Dallas at Edmonton, late

**Thursday, May 30**  
Florida at N.Y. Rangers, 8 p.m.

**Friday, May 31**  
Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

**Saturday, June 1**  
N.Y. Rangers at Florida, 8 p.m.

**Sunday, June 2**  
x-Dallas at Edmonton, TBA

**Monday, June 3**  
x-Florida at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

**Tuesday, June 4**  
x-Edmonton at Dallas, TBA

## BASEBALL

### MLB AMERICAN LEAGUE

#### East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	37	19	.661	—
Baltimore	35	19	.648	—
Boston	28	28	.500	9
Tampa Bay	27	29	.482	10
Toronto	26	29	.473	10½

#### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	37	18	.673	—
Kansas City	35	22	.614	—
Minnesota	30	25	.545	—
Detroit	27	28	.491	—
Chicago	15	42	.263	—

#### West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	30	26	.536	—
Texas	27	29	.482	—
Houston	24	31	.436	—
Oakland	23	34	.404	—
Los Angeles	21	33	.389	—

**Tuesday's Games**  
Boston 8, Baltimore 3  
Oakland 3, Tampa Bay 0  
Texas 4, Arizona 2  
Minnesota 4, Kansas City 2  
Toronto 7, Chicago White Sox 2  
Cleveland 13, Colorado 7  
Seattle 4, Houston 2  
L.A. Angels 4, N.Y. Yankees 3  
Pittsburgh at Detroit, ppd.

**Wednesday's Games**  
Detroit 8, Pittsburgh 0, 1st game  
Texas 6, Arizona 1  
Pittsburgh 10, Detroit 2, 2nd game  
Baltimore 6, Boston 1  
Tampa Bay 4, Oakland 3  
Kansas City 6, Minnesota 1  
Toronto 3, Chicago White Sox 1  
Cleveland at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees at L.A. Angels, late  
Houston at Seattle, late

**Thursday's Games**  
Kansas City (Singer 4-2) at Minnesota (Paddock 4-2), 1:10 p.m.  
Oakland (TBD) at Tampa Bay (TBD), 1:10 p.m.  
Houston (Arrighetti 2-5) at Seattle

(Gilbert 3-2), 4:10 p.m.  
Detroit (Maeda 2-1) at Boston (Pivetta 2-3), 7:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees (Rodon 6-2) at L.A. Angels (Sandoval 2-7), 9:38 p.m.  
Friday's Games

Tampa Bay at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.  
Detroit at Boston, 7:10 p.m.  
Texas at Miami, 7:10 p.m.  
Washington at Cleveland, 7:10 p.m.  
Oakland at Atlanta, 7:20 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.  
Minnesota at Houston, 8:10 p.m.  
San Diego at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

#### East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	39	18	.684	—
Atlanta	31	22	.585	—
Washington	25	29	.463	12½
New York	22	33	.400	16
Miami	20	37	.351	19

#### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	32	23	.582	—
Chicago	28	28	.500	4½
St. Louis	27	27	.500	4½
Pittsburgh	26	30	.464	6½
Cincinnati	24	32	.429	8½

#### West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	36	22	.621	—
San Francisco	29	28	.509	6½
San Diego	30	29	.508	6½
Arizona	25	30	.455	9½
Colorado	19	35	.352	15

**Tuesday's Games**  
L.A. Dodgers 5, N.Y. Mets 2, 10 innings, 1st game  
St. Louis 7, Cincinnati 1  
Atlanta 2, Washington 0  
L.A. Dodgers 3, N.Y. Mets 0, 2nd game  
Texas 4, Arizona 2  
Chicago Cubs 6, Milwaukee 3, 10 innings  
Cleveland 13, Colorado 7  
San Diego 4, Miami 0  
San Francisco 1, Philadelphia 0, 10 innings  
Pittsburgh at Detroit, ppd.

**Wednesday's Games**  
Detroit 8, Pittsburgh 0, 1st game  
St. Louis 5, Cincinnati 3  
Texas 6, Arizona 1  
Pittsburgh 10, Detroit 2, 2nd game  
Philadelphia 6, San Francisco 1  
Miami 9, San Diego 1  
L.A. Dodgers 10, N.Y. Mets 3  
Milwaukee 10, Chicago Cubs 6  
Washington 7, Atlanta 2  
Cleveland at Colorado, late

**Thursday's Games**  
Chicago Cubs (Taillon 3-2) at Milwaukee (Rea 4-2), 1:10 p.m.  
Arizona (Gallen 5-4) at N.Y. Mets (Scott 0-2), 7:10 p.m.  
Washington (Williams 4-0) at Atlanta (Lopez 2-2), 7:20 p.m.

**Friday's Games**  
Cincinnati at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.  
St. Louis at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.  
Pittsburgh at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.

# Negro League statistics

(Continued from Page A1)

"It is really exciting," Cincinnati Reds pitcher Hunter Greene said. "I'm going to have to do a little bit more research and understand some of the history to kind of rewire my brain on some of the best players."

Gibson became the majors' career leader with a .372 batting average, surpassing Ty Cobb's .367. Gibson's .466 average for the 1943 Homestead Grays became the season record, followed by Smith's .451 for the 1929 New York Lincoln Giants.

The mighty Gibson also became the career leader in slugging percentage (.718) and OPS (1.177), moving ahead of Babe Ruth (.690 and 1.164).

"Baseball history is a part of U.S. history, and I think (the) major leagues acknowledging and incorporating the Negro Leagues is a huge step in kind of bringing all the parts of baseball history together," said Tyrus Cobb, Ty Cobb's great grandson. "And I think it's actually pretty exciting that there's a new statistical batting average leader."

After he saw the news, Tyrus Cobb, 32, of San Jose, California, said he took a closer look at Gibson's career.

"I made sure to look up him and Oscar Charleston and some of the other guys who finished up near the top of the list," said Cobb, who works in commercial real estate. "So I think it's a really exciting thing for baseball history."

The incorporation of Negro League statistics also changed the numbers of handful of players known more for their major league career.

Willie Mays added 10 hits from the 1948 Birmingham Black Barons, increasing his total to 3,293. Minnie Minoso was credited with 150 hits for the New York Cubans from 1946-1948, boosting his total to 2,113. Jackie Robinson, who broke the majors' color barrier with the 1947 Dodgers, was credited with 49 hits with the 1945 Kansas City Monarchs that increased his total to 1,567.

"It is a good thing for the game," Washington Nationals pitcher Josiah Gray said. "For

the Negro League players in the past who were exceptional for what they did, it is good to be drawn into the light. It is really cool to see Josh Gibson, Oscar Charleston and a lot of other names that baseball fans can learn about and for them to see there was more than major league baseball back then."

The change comes with the majors experiencing a decline in Black players. A study by The Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at Central Florida found Black or African American players represented 6.2% of players on opening-day rosters in 2023, down from 7.2% in 2022. Both figures were the lowest since the study began in 1991, when 18% of MLB players were Black.

The St. Louis Cardinals and San Francisco Giants play a tribute game to the Negro Leagues on June 20 at Rickwood Field in Birmingham, Alabama.

"I think it's a pretty cool thing that you show recognition," Giants pitcher Jordan Hicks said. "It was two different leagues, but it's still baseball at the end of the day, and then whenever they came together, you saw the guys that stood out in the Negro Leagues really performed in MLB. So I think it's fair that if they were still the same guy in the Negro Leagues as they were in MLB, those stats should match up, especially if it was in the same era."

Brett Tinker, 56, of Nyack, New York, heard stories about the Negro Leagues from his grandfather, Harold "Hooks" Tinker, a Birmingham, Alabama, native, who played for the Pittsburgh Crawfords. Harold Tinker shared his love for the sport. He told his grandson about how they often had to stay on the team bus because they couldn't go into a hotel, and he also showed off his memorabilia collection.

When Brett Tinker heard about the incorporation of the Negro League statistics, he was moved to tears.

"It's an honor. It's overdue, not just for my grandfather, but a lot of those players who never had that chance to have that recognition," he said.

# James stays in NBA Draft

(Continued from Page A1)

clearance and taking part in workouts.

Bronny James — who was listed at 6-foot-4 on USC's roster but measured at 6 feet, 1 1/2 inches at the combine — announced his intention of entering the draft in April, with the caveat that he was also going into the transfer portal and maintaining his college eligibility. Early entry candidates for the draft had until 11:59 p.m. Eastern on Wednesday to decide whether they would stay in or return to college.

The draft is June 26-27. LeBron James, who can become a free agent this summer, will be entering his 22nd NBA season this fall. If Bronny James plays

in the NBA next season, they would be the first father-son duo in the league simultaneously as players. There have been about 100 instances in NBA history of players joining the league after their fathers played, but none at the same time.

LeBron James said many times in recent years that he would like to play in the league alongside his son, and it certainly remains a possibility that a team that drafts Bronny James might do so with hopes of luring his father to that roster.

"The kid has to do what he wants to do — and I don't even want to say kid no more — the young man will decide what he wants to do and how he wants his career to go," LeBron James said when the Lakers' season ended earlier this spring.

# Stewart-Haas Racing to close NASCAR teams at the end of 2024 season

**By JENNA FRYER**  
**AP Auto Racing Writer**  
CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — Stewart-Haas Racing, a two-time NASCAR championship team with 69 Cup Series victories since its 2009 formation, will close its organization at the end of this season.

Co-owners Tony Stewart and Gene Haas announced the decision after nearly a year of rumors that their four-car Cup team was looking to sell its charters and either scale back or exit the stock car series completely. The news was delivered to the nearly 300 SHR employees late Tuesday afternoon.

"It is a decision that did not come easily, nor was it made quickly," the owners said. "Racing is a labor-intensive, humbling sport. It requires unwavering commitment and vast resources, with a 365-day mindset to be better than everyone else. It's part of what makes success so rewarding. But the commitment needed to extract maximum performance while providing sustainability is incredibly demanding, and we've reached a point in our respective personal and business lives where it's time to pass the torch."

SHR this year fields Cup cars for Josh Berry, Chase Briscoe, Noah Gragson and Ryan Preece. Berry and Gragson are in their first seasons with the team. SHR holds the 2025 option on Briscoe and he has not been permitted to discuss future employment options even as rumors have swirled that SHR would close.

"Stewart Haas has been home to my family and I for the last 7 years and at the end of the year myself and the entire organization will be looking for a new home and new opportunities in the Cup series," Briscoe posted on social media. "I have amazing partners behind me and can't wait to get them back in victory lane."

The move will also shutter the SHR Xfinity Series team, whose two cars are driven by Cole Custer and Riley Herbst.

Gene Haas founded Haas CNC Racing in 2002 and the California businessman lured Stewart in as a co-owner ahead of the 2009 season. Stewart had won two Cup championships for Joe Gibbs Racing at the time but couldn't turn down an equity stake and opportunity to help a small team contend for titles.

Stewart in his 2009 debut season gave the rebranded team its first Cup victory — he won four races that year — and its first Cup title in 2011. Kevin Harvick added a second championship in 2014.

Stewart, Harvick and Clint Bowyer have all retired from NASCAR driving and SHR since then has been in a grueling rebuild. The organization's last Cup Series win was in 2022 with Harvick a year before he retired. SHR didn't win a Cup race last season.

The team also is set to lose some of its support from Ford at the end of the season, although Mark Rushbrook, the global director of Ford Performance, told The Associated Press last week he had no idea what

SHR's plans are beyond this year.

SHR also lost major sponsorship this season when Smithfield Foods exited NASCAR and Anheuser-Busch moved to Trackhouse Racing.

Haas spends most of his time with his Formula 1 team and Stewart is driving a full NHRA schedule, making both absentee owners at NASCAR events. The 71-year-old Haas was also ill for much of last year.

The NASCAR team is primarily run by Joe Custer, the chief operating officer and longtime Gene Haas confidant. His son, Cole, won the Xfinity championship last year for SHR.

Among SHR's accomplishments are the two Cup titles, two Xfinity championships and victories that include crown-jewel events such as the Daytona 500, Brickyard 400 and Southern 500.

"We're proud of all the wins and championships we've earned since joining together in 2009, but even more special is the culture we built and the friendships we forged as we committed to a common cause — winning races and collecting trophies," Stewart and Haas said. "We have tremendous respect and appreciation for all of our employees, and we will work diligently to assist them during this transition to find new opportunities beyond the 2024 race season."

Part of Haas' F1 team is run from the Kannapolis-based shop and it is unclear if that will continue or if Haas has plans to also depart from F1.

It's also not clear what happens to the four charters SHR holds that guarantee entry into the field every week. Spire Motorsports last year bought a charter for \$40 million, but the actual charter value fluctuates annually.

Teams are in a bitter fight with NASCAR over charters, which are set to expire at the end of this season. The teams want them made permanent and not renewable but NASCAR has refused to budge on the issue.

Should SHR be able to sell the charters, it appears there is interest from Front Row Motorsports, 23XI Racing and Trackhouse. There is also speculation that Joe Custer may retain one of the charters and run a car for his son.

Where SHR's drivers land is unknown. Briscoe should be able to start talking to other teams now about his future. The team also held an option for next year on Berry, who doesn't bring much personal sponsorship and got the break of his career when SHR hired him ahead of this season.

Gragson's contract was announced as a multi-year deal and has backing from Bass Pro Shops to take to another team. Preece is in a contract year with SHR so was already free to shop around the series.

Cole Custer could end up in a car in either Cup or the Xfinity Series with backing of Haas' CNC Automation company, while Herbst has significant financial backing from Monster Energy that should give him options.



### NASCAR CUP SERIES

#### Enjoy Illinois 300

**Site:** Madison, Illinois.  
**Schedule:** Saturday, practice, 9:30 a.m., and qualifying, 10:15 a.m.; Sunday, race, 3:30 p.m. (FS1).  
**Track:** World Wide Technology Raceway.  
**Last race:** Christopher Bell won the Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte when the race was called because of wet weather with 151 laps remaining.  
**Fast facts:** The race had been red-flagged for more than two hours following a steady downpour. ... Bell led a race-high 90 laps in his eighth career victory and became the fourth multiple race winner through 14 races this season.

### NASCAR XFINITY SERIES

#### Pacific Office Automation 147

**Site:** Portland, Oregon.  
**Schedule:** Saturday, practice, 11:30 a.m., qualifying, noon, and race 4:30 p.m. (FS1).  
**Track:** Portland International Raceway.  
**Last race:** Chase Elliott saved a set of new tires for the final run at the 1.5-mile track at Charlotte, grabbed the lead after a lap 183 restart and held it the rest of the way.  
**Next race:** June 8, Sonoma, California.

### FORMULA ONE

**Last race:** Ferrari driver Charles Leclerc won in Monaco after ending three-time defending season champion Max Verstappen's season-long hold on the pole position. Leclerc's victory was his first since Austria in July 2022 and the sixth of his career with Ferrari.  
**Next race:** June 9, Montreal, Canada.

### INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS

AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING

**UTV**

**Marine**

**Motorcycle Sound Systems**

**Jockford Fosgate**

**(260) 724-2276**  
1421 Manchester St., Decatur  
1/2 block west of U.S. 27 North  
[www.icav.us](http://www.icav.us)

### PRECISION SERVICE

Family, Farm and Fleet Vehicle Repair  
**FLEET ACCOUNTS AVAILABLE**  
**0520 S. Decker Dr. Bluffton**  
"The Quality Service You Deserve!" **FREE Estimates**  
**260-824-9149**

### Bluffton Tire Inc.

1308 S. Main St. Bluffton

# 10% OFF

Discontinued Closeout Tires  
**1-260-824-0418**

## HIDAY CHRYSLER

Looking for New Tires for Your Ride?  
WE HAVE ALL THE MAJOR BRANDS  
BRIDGESTONE GOODYEAR MICHELIN Firestone

See Us for All Makes and Models of **WeatherTech**

**CHRYSLER DODGE Jeep**

1791 North Main • Bluffton • 260.824.1931  
[www.hidaychryslerdodgejeep.com](http://www.hidaychryslerdodgejeep.com)

## Service with a Smile!

**Barry Scott** Service Manager  
**Tyler Shaffer** Parts Manager  
**Marion Wells** Service Consultant

# Hiday Motors

1743 N. Main St., Bluffton • 824-0900



Grandparental guidance

Dear Annie: I'm 72, and my husband is 80 years old. We have our own home, three acres, and we attend most of our grandkids' plays, contests, games and practices.

Today's parents go overboard when it comes to sports and extracurricular activities. They are unable to find time outside of school to be kids. Parents refuse to cook the family a nutritious meal because it's easier to feed everyone unhealthy takeout.

We've made comments about how we are running everywhere with all the activities for our grandchildren, including running to practices on days when they don't have games, swim lessons, tennis, taking their dogs for walks, etc.

We finally drew a line. We cannot afford to stay in hotels to watch our granddaughter play softball in another state. She's only 12! Clubs are addicting to parents, and they convince the kids they are joining.

How dare they say to us, "We're millennials and that's what we do. You're retired, so what do you have to do?" Really! Well, we raised our children with a sense of balance. We ate a MEAL at the table at 6 p.m. — no takeout! We allowed only ONE sport and ONE in-school activity at a time. Weekends were for family — not traveling to a match. We took care of our family instead of gaslighting why we couldn't. We offered to help them instead of them helping us. We had BALANCE in our lives.

Millennials — you can't hold a candle to us. We've earned this time to relax, and guilting us is unacceptable and shows your lack of character. We were lucky to make it through numerous rounds of Covid that we caught from sitting at basketball games. Yet we still cut tree limbs down, carry bags of salt to the softener, we hoe the garden by hand because the tiller tossed us around like puppets on a string. Asking for help is like talking to a rock. We're tired and sore. We are exhausted. Sitting and relaxing is welcomed. But many evenings we're walking in the house at 9 p.m. after a match, and we wonder how much stress these millennial parents are putting on these children?

If being rude and complacent to others' needs is what a millennial is, you failed Humanity 101 and excelled at Gaslighting 400!

Please note, many folks we know 60 and up are as confused as we are. A few have moved away as an excuse to not feel guilty into being Millennial Grandparents.

We love family, but we'd love it more if they truly understood what family meant versus being the family coach and manager. Am I wrong for not wanting to attend my grandchildren's games? — Retired and Busy

Dear Retired and Busy: You are correct that today's youth is overscheduled and overprogrammed by helicopter parenting. In fact, there is evidence that children actually need to be bored a little to become more creative and explore life.

Being bored can strengthen kids' and adults' creative muscles and imaginations. There is nothing wrong with your grandchildren having activities so long as they take the time to recharge their brains. One of the best ways to do that is by being bored. When they are bored, encourage your kids to go on a nature walk or even just to take a long shower. Anywhere where they can find peace.

You sound resentful at going to attend your grandchildren's games. If you don't want to go, then don't go, but know that you will be missing out on something they enjoy. Try not to be so harsh and judgmental on your "millennial" children. They are doing the best they can. It is a different time than when you were raising your children. Sports are better than just sitting around and playing video games all day. Try to look at the good parts of their parenting. Seeing the glass as half full will lead you to more joy and satisfaction in life.

Send your questions to Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com © 2024 CREATORS.COM

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Without conviction and repentance, there's no love for Jesus

Lord, shall enter the kingdom of heaven ... Many will say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not ... done many wonders in Your name?' And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!'" (Matthew 7:21-23, NKJV).

It isn't important what people claim to believe, but rather what a person believes and puts into practice. The Bible is the book of two pathways; only one leads to life eternal. People may think they're on the right road — but going the wrong way.

The famous story of the 1929 Rose Bowl illustrates this. Talented football player Roy Riegels picked up a fumble and ran 64 yards

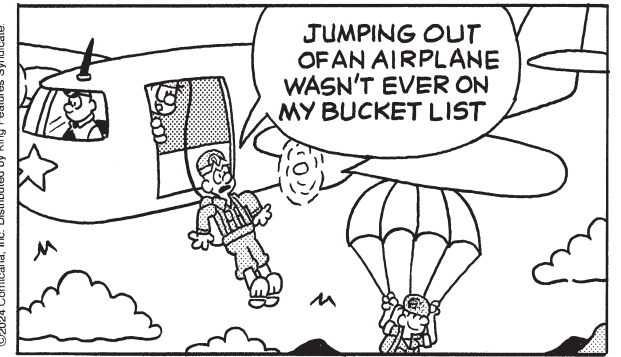
while 70,000 people cheered him on. He was determined to win the game, but he ran the wrong way to a miserable defeat.

What must we do? Say yes to Christ. We must humble ourselves before God. Our intellect, emotions, and will — our total personality — must yield to Christ by faith in Him. Because people are active in church doesn't mean they're going the right way. Church membership does not save. When we love Jesus, we will desire to obey His commandments (see 1 John 5:1-2).

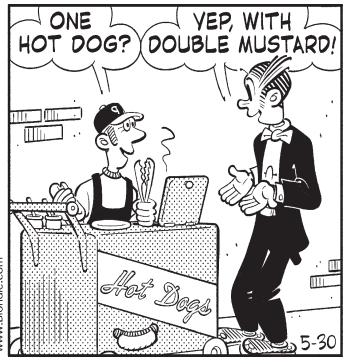
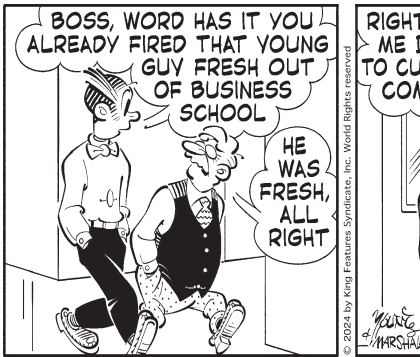
(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

©2024 Billy Graham Literary Trust. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

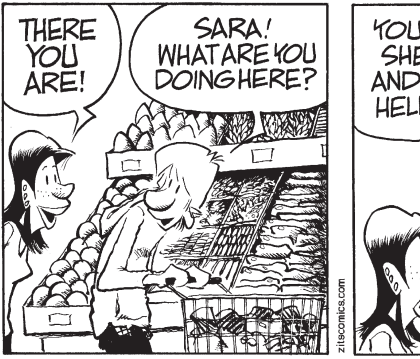
BEEBLE BAILEY



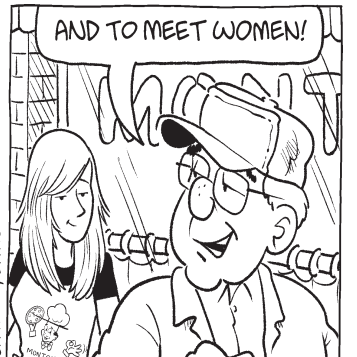
BLONDIE



ZITS

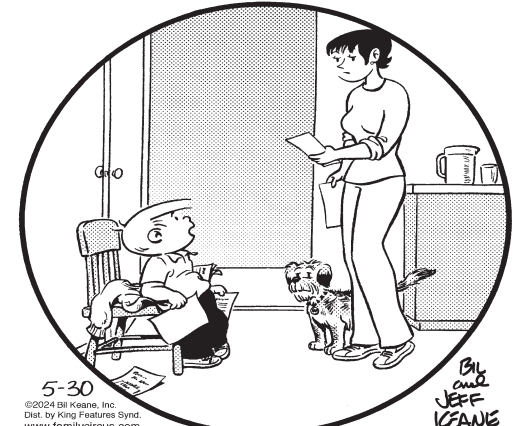


CRANKSHAFT



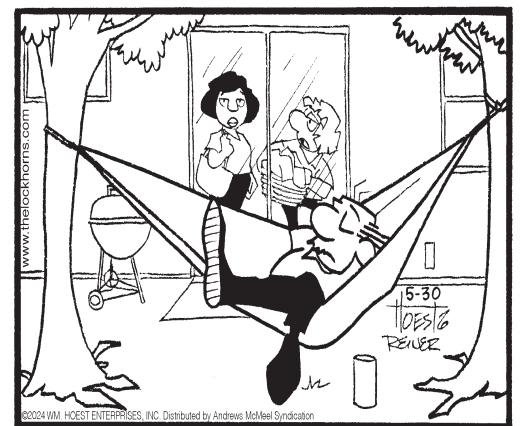
THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



©2024 Bil Keane, Inc. Dist. by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

The LOCKHORNS



©2024 King Features Synd. Inc. Dist. by Tribune Content Agency, LLC

BUY IT SELL IT RENT IT FIND IT FILL IT GET IT DO IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS! Place Your Ad 24/7/365! www.news-banner.com

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes solution time: 24 mins. and Yesterday's answer 5-30.

TV schedule table with columns for time slots (5 PM to 12:30) and rows for various channels (WIMM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, etc.).

Grid for Yesterday's answer 5-30 crossword puzzle.

# The Classifieds

Place Your Ad 24/7: GO TO [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) AND CLICK ON "Classifieds"

OR CALL 824-0224 MON-FRI 8-5 • TOLLFREE 800-579-7476 • FAX 824-0700

WE ACCEPT



SEE your ad published every day in Wells County homes ...

All ads are searchable at [classifieds.news-banner.com](http://classifieds.news-banner.com)...

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

5/30

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

### This Week's Garage Sales

Clip & Save

SATURDAY, JUNE 1, 8-2, 704 S. Johnson St. Weber gas grill, Canon MX490 printer, electric roaster, oak hall tree. No children's clothing.

### SERVICES

#### Services

**MARV'S CONSTRUCTION**  
Room additions, fix old saggy floors, all types remodeling. Redo bathrooms, old foundation repairs. Marv Schwartz: 260-525-8877.

**TROPHY CONSTRUCTION.**  
ALL types of construction: Pole barns, roofing, remodeling, concrete, seamless gutters, etc. Free estimates. (260) 223-4835.

**HANDYMAN SERVICES.**  
NO job too big or too small, 260-353-9339.

**FREE HIGH SPEED internet** for those that qualify. Government program for recipients of select programs incl. Medicaid, SNAP, Housing Assistance, WIC, Veterans Pension, Survivor Benefits, Lifeline, Tribal. 15 GB internet service. Bonus offer: Android tablet FREE with one-time \$20 copay. Free shipping & handling. Call Maxisp Telecom today! 1-866-981-3302 (I)

**DENIED SOCIAL SECURITY Disability? Appeal!** If you're 50+, filed for SSD and denied, our attorneys can help get you approved! No money out of pockets! Call 1-855-995-4758 (I)

### RENTALS

#### Office Space Rental

**GREAT LOCATION**  
MAKE YOUR AD stand out for extra attention! Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5 or a border for an additional \$1. Contact The Bluffton News-Banner office, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or submit online at [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

## Lottery Numbers

### Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 16-17-20-24-44  
Lotto Plus — 05-12-16-20-27-36  
Cash4Life — 15-19-20-43-45, Cash Ball: 01  
Quick Draw Midday — 05-09-10-20-22-23-25-28-31-37-38-40-54-55-57-67-68-71-72-75, BE: 22  
Daily Three-Midday — 05-03-07, SB: 05  
Daily Three-Evening — 09-06-09, SB: 03  
Daily Four-Midday — 08-05-05-07, SB: 05  
Daily Four-Evening — 04-04-04-02, SB: 03  
Quick Draw Evening — 06-07-19-22-23-28-29-32-39-40-41-47-48-55-59-61-63-64-65-75, BE: 47  
Hoosier Lotto — 03-10-11-18-19-44  
MEGA MILLIONS  
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$522 million  
POWERBALL  
17-34-56-60-61 Powerball: 09; Power Play: 2X

### LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.  
Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 4 p.m.  
Saturdays: Friday by noon

## HOT DEAL!

20 Words, 10 Days  
just \$25  
ADD A PHOTO  
for just \$5 more  
One item per ad

## GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum) Private party only, one-item in ad. Limited to "For Sale" and "Automotive" categories (Real Estate excluded)

20 words \$39  
Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

## ADD A PHOTO!

Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44

## Mark your Calendar for this event

**ITALY TOUR PRESENTATION** Thurs, June 6, 6:15pm. Bluffton Wells Library. Discover highlights/facts of this 2025 trip. All Welcome! Terri Worden [grouptoursite.com/tours/mig-worden](http://grouptoursite.com/tours/mig-worden)

(Using WCPL meeting facility does not constitute WCPL's endorsement/sponsorship of the program or organizer's policies/beliefs.) [saratworden@gmail.com](mailto:saratworden@gmail.com)

## FOR SALE

### Miscellaneous

**EVEREST VX3 ICE & WATER VENDING MACHINE** This Everest VX3 water/ice vending machine is the perfect addition to any business looking to boost their profits. With the ability to dispense both water and ice, this unit is sure to be a hit with customers. The machine is in great working condition and has been slightly used, making it a cost-effective option for those looking to invest in a vending machine. This unit is made in the United States and comes with a unit quantity of 1. Included is an all season insulation package, ice shield ozone disinfection, and cold fusion energy recovery. It is perfect for placement in other beverage and snack vending locations, as well as in restaurant and food service settings. Don't miss out on the opportunity to make extra money with this Everest VX3 vending machine. \$45,000.00 260-273-7020 [glacierepure@outlook.com](mailto:glacierepure@outlook.com)

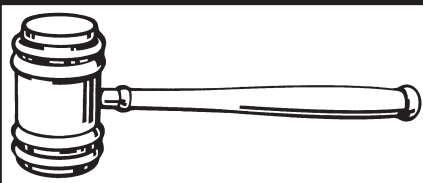
### VEHICLES

**2008 BUICK LUCERNE** in excellent condition. Leather interior, heated and electric seats, 148,600 miles, \$5,700, 260-273-2224.

## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

**THE CITY OF Bluffton** is accepting applications for Paid-On-Call Firefighters and Part Time Firefighters. Both positions require a high school diploma or equivalent and a Driver's License. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E. Market St, Bluffton, Mon-Fri from 8a-4:30p or online at [www.blufftonindiana.net](http://www.blufftonindiana.net). Applications due June 14th.



## Public Sale Calendar

**JUNE 1 - 8:30 a.m. - E & M Blacksmith Shop.** 2404 W 350 S, Berne, IN. 13th annual consignment auction. Horses, ponies, horse-drawn machinery, produce equipment, buggies, harness, carts, new tack, saddles, shop tools, lawn & garden tools, sausage grinders & stuffers, new & used furniture, washing machines, hay, straw & firewood. Accepting consignments all day May 30, and May 31 from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. **Troyer Auctions, LLC.** 260-768-7246, ext. 3.  
**JUNE 1 - 9 a.m. - Multiple consigners.** 6632 N. 500 W., Decatur. Personal property: Jewelry (gold, silver, costume), toys, collectables, furniture, household, antiques, trailer, Flow Blue, glassware, Star Wars. Preview May 31, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. **Wiegmann Auctioneers,** [wiegmannauctioneers.com](http://wiegmannauctioneers.com), 260-447-4311.  
**JUNE 1 - 11:30 a.m. - Ardith Smith estate, Cheryl Herl estate & Sonja Bartlett, sellers.** 320 Sparks St., Markle, IN. Live on-site. One story, two bedroom home on 1.6 acres, 1,144 sq. ft., 10x18 detached garage. Steve Ness, auction manager, 260-417-6556, [SteveNess@NessBros.com](mailto:SteveNess@NessBros.com), **Ness Bros. Realtors & Auctioneers,** [www.NessBros.com](http://www.NessBros.com).  
**BIDDING ENDS JUNE 2 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of John F. Holbrook, seller.** 200+ pcs. Roseville, Rookwood, Hull, McCoy, Van-Briggle, antique & modern furniture, 1950 Ford Sedan, Coca Cola vintage signs & collectibles, antique tools, 2-pc. Oak kitchen cabinet, JFK political buttons and advertising, vintage toys. Auction preview: May 30 from 3-6 p.m., 10421 W. Yoder Rd., Roanoke, IN. Patrick Carter, sale manager **The Steffen Group Inc.,** [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.  
**JUNE 4 - (Online Only Auction) - Bidding Opens at 9**

a.m. and will close at 6 p.m. - **Holbrook estate, seller.** 300 W, Markle, IN. Explore the potential of this property! 6.79+/- acre tract of land in Northern Wells, Union Township, easy access to I-69, 435' of road frontage on Wells County Road, rare opportunity for homesite or mini-farm. Inspection: Feel free to walk the property at any time. Patrick Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, **The Steffen Group Inc.,** [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.  
**JUNE 5-JUNE 12 - (Online Only Auction) - Huston Walters, seller.** Well cared for modern furniture, wood working tools, household, 2003 Chevy Impala, lawn and garden equipment, outdoor furniture. Open House June 10 from 4 p.m. to 6 p.m., 1338 Manor Dr., Bluffton, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.,** 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).  
**BIDDING STARTS CLOSING JUNE 9 - 6 p.m. EST - Berry estate, owner.** Online only real estate & personal property! 6 p.m. real estate: 1 1/2 story craftsman style home w/covered porch, 1,700+/- square ft. w/ornate woodwork throughout, partial basement, 3-4 bedrooms, 2 1/2 bath, detached 24x24 two-car garage, several older outbuildings all sitting on 6+/- acres, Adams Central School District. 6:30 p.m. personal property: Antique tractors, farm machinery, tools, antiques, primitives, vehicles, furniture, household items, more! Preview May 30, 5-6 p.m., 4854 N 400 W, Decatur. Pick up June 10, 2-6 p.m. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC,** 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).  
**JUNE 15-JUNE 22 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Glen Bowen, seller.** Clean 2005 Buick Lesabre Custom with 77,000 miles, 2004 Toyota Sienna mini van, 1987 Riv-

iera Cruiser 24' pontoon, 2004 Yamaha XLT jet ski, floating WaveRunner dock, modern furniture, tools. Open House: June 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.,** 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).  
**JUNE 16-JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - The Estate of Marilyn McQueary, seller.** 2023 GMC Terrain Denali, AWD Edition with 2,130 miles (like new), clean like new modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, tools, jewelry, designer purses, much more. Open Houses: June 18 and June 20 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossián, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.,** 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).  
**JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - Bowen Family, sellers.** Well cared for 2 bedroom lake cottage of Jimmerson Lake with 36' of frontage, three season room, 1 car garage, deck with outstanding views of Jimmerson Lake/Part of the Lake James Chain. Open House: June 9 from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. and June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. **The Steffen Group Inc.,** [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

### SUDOKU ANSWER

0/5						***		
1	9	8	7	6	5	4	3	2
4	7	6	9	1	8	5	2	3
2	9	6	8	7	5	1	4	3
7	2	7	6	9	1	8		
6	1	9	7	8	2	4	5	3
8	5	9	2	1	9	6	7	
8	4	1	6	9	2	7	5	
9	7	2	9	8	6	4	1	
5	6	2	1	7	3	8	9	

# May GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

As a resident of the Wells County community for decades, Attorney, Gerret J. Swearingin, has devoted his legal practice to assisting clients in preserving the family assets from the high cost of Nursing Home and In-Home Healthcare.

As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingin Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care all we deserve.

-OSSIAN-  
1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A  
Ossián, IN 46777

Attorney  
Gerret J. Swearingin

**SWEARINGIN ELDER LAW**

- Medicaid Planning
- Durable Power of Attorney
- Estate Planning & Deeds
- Special Needs Trusts
- Long Term Care Planning
- In-Home Healthcare Planning
- Wills, Living Wills, & Advance Healthcare Directives

(260) 888-9256  
FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

### Home Remodel and Repair

Locally Owned

- Repair Bowed Basement Walls
- Foundations repaired
- Floor joist repair or replaced
- Concrete • Doors
- Windows • Painting
- Tile • Small Jobs Welcome

Text me at 260-301-1269  
Jim Baker

### Genesis Pest Services

Locally Owned by Geoffrey Horner

260-227-0742  
[geoff@genesispestservices.com](http://geoff@genesispestservices.com)

### LAWN CARE

- MOWING
- YARD CLEANUP
- LANDSCAPING
- STONE / GRAVEL
- WEED CONTROL

SCHEDULE TODAY!  
FREE ESTIMATES  
260-223-5884

### Jerry Flack & Associates

Jerry Flack & Julie Myers  
Retirement Advisors  
A Senior Citizen Answers Our Phone!

OFFICE 260-824-1618 • Corner of Main & Market • Bluffton, IN

ASSISTING IN:

- FREE Medicare Supplement Comparison
- Life Planning
- Safe Money Ideas
- Dental - Vision - Hearing

## STOR-N-GO STORAGE UNITS

2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345  
with Security Cameras

### AMISH CREW

will do roofing, siding, remodeling, pole barns. Specializing in redoing old barns. Free estimates. Call 260-438-2508

### HIDEAWAY BEER & BOURBON

THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)  
WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE  
FRI. & SAT. - Live Music

Follow us on [f](https://www.facebook.com/hideawaybluffton) for our Events.  
123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

### Zap Electric, Inc.

260-824-2927  
Commercial-Industrial-Residential  
24 Hr. Emergency Service  
Charles Miller-Electrical  
1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton  
FREE Estimates

### A-1 U-Stor

Safe & Secure Self Storage

824-1846

- Safety Lighting • Clean Units
- 24 Hr. Access
- Video Cameras

[www.a1-ustor.com](http://www.a1-ustor.com)  
After hours & Saturdays  
Call 273-9678 or 824-4782  
In Monroe at corner of U.S. 27 and S.R. 124  
Office at 1180 N. Main, Bluffton

### COUNTRY PLACE Apartments

408 Countryside Drive, Ossián

- 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- Laundry Facilities On-Site
- All Ground-level
- Private Entrances
- Equipped Kitchen

260 622-6429  
Virtual Tours Offered  
TDD: 7-11  
[OssiánApartments.com](http://OssiánApartments.com)

### Primary Contracting, LLC

Specializing in Building & Remodeling

OWNER: Edwin Wickey  
Call for Spring Scheduling Today!  
Free Estimates - 260-233-4276

- Pole Barns
- Garages
- Vinyl Siding
- Metal Roofing
- Poly Decks
- Storm Damage

### JC'S GARAGE DOOR SALES & SERVICE

All makes & models • broken springs & cables  
Owner: James Fisher • Sales: Carl Fisher  
"50 Years of Combined Experience"  
Call us at 824-3262

We Carry Prevagen and CBD Oil!

**R Warren Pharmacy**  
(260)375-2135  
Nature's Sunshine Distributor  
222 N. Wayne St., Warren • 1-800-895-7035  
Terry Daniels, Pharmacist • Melinda Daniels, RN

### Sure-Flo Seamless Gutters

5" & 6" Continuous Gutters  
Leaf Protection Systems  
Large Color Selection - FREE Estimates  
260-888-5062  
[www.seamlessgutter.net](http://www.seamlessgutter.net)

YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!  
For as little as ...  
**\$187** PER ISSUE  
Plus The Ossián Journal Every Week!  
Call 824-0224 or 622-4108  
June deadline is Tues., May 28!  
... you can keep your name in the public eye!  
Increase your business with regular advertising!