

# The News - Banner

www.News-Banner.com

THURSDAY, JUNE 6, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00



### Fun without breaking a few eggs

Kids blew up balloons, wrapped bubble wrap and taped up boxes in an effort to keep an egg from breaking when dropped out of a window on Wednesday. Above, Zeke Ehrhart tapes up a box holding his egg. At right, Isaac Smith cuts some bubble wrap to help protect his egg. Below, Beverly Caley puts her egg into a styrofoam cup. At bottom, Aiden Howe watches as he drops his contraption. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## Centenarian veterans are sharing memories of D-Day, 80 years later

By SYLVIE CORBET and DANICA KIRKA  
Associated Press

BENOUVILLE, France (AP) — World War II veterans from the United States, Britain and Canada are in Normandy this week to mark 80 years since the D-Day landings that helped lead to Hitler's defeat. The Associated Press is speaking to veterans about their role in freeing Europe from the Nazis, and their messages for younger generations.

**RICHARD "DICK" RUNG**

D-Day veteran Dick Rung was 19 when he was assigned to a tank landing craft that landed on Omaha Beach on June 6, 1944. Now 99, the memory is still alive as he recounts time spent hosing down the deck of the blood of those killed.

"Two of the soldiers that got hit — badly hit — we couldn't save them but we covered them with blankets and the blankets soaked up their blood. Finally, the skip-

per said 'we can't leave it like this' so we got out the fire hose and we washed down the deck and the blood sort of disappeared," he recalled Wednesday.

"I was only a kid and most of the crew was too. I wasn't trained for this," he said. Rung's craft stayed in Normandy for almost 5 months transporting troops, supplies and vehicles from larger ships to shore. He then headed to the Pacific Theater where he spent

(Continued on Page 2)

## County considers \$2M radio purchase

By HOLLY GASKILL

Wells County is facing a potential \$2 million bill after the state has ordered that some information be encrypted over the police radio.

Subsequently, Wells County Council President Seth Whicker proposed the council use a portion of the funds received through supplemental local income tax distribution to buy the new radios. Whicker said the total — \$594,024 — could otherwise be moved into the Rainy Day Fund.

These new radios would allow emergency personnel to encrypt their transmissions from the general public. As of June 2023, Indiana Code prohibits social security numbers or juvenile names from being communicated over police radio unless the broadcast is encrypted.

Whicker stated these radios would not necessarily mean general police radio transmissions

would be unavailable, but that specific information would be hidden.

The council ultimately decided to move the funds into the Rainy Day Fund for the time being. In the meantime, Whicker said the county is working on an application for a matching grant for the purchase and would continue discussions with other municipalities about the radio purchase.

"We are up against some deadlines, so it's going to take a little bit of work to get all that done quickly, but the wheels are in motion," Whicker said.

Also during the meeting, the council approved an updated salary ordinance, which includes stipends for the clerk and auditor, adds new county engineer Nate Whitacre's salary, and removes the stipend for the Highway Department secretary.

(Continued on Page 2)

## City nearly finished with EPA required water pipe survey

By JONATHAN SNYDER

According to city officials, the city has surveyed and identified old water pipes containing lead for approximately two-thirds of the city.

This surveying effort comes after the Environmental Protection Agency revised its rules in 2021 regarding lead and copper in water distribution pipes. These rules state that public water systems must identify and maintain an inventory of service line materials, with an initial inventory to be completed before Oct. 16 of this year.

Additionally, any lines with lead or copper in them must be replaced in 10 years. To help with

costs, Indiana's State Revolving Fund is offering a reduced interest rate for any SRF projects including lead line replacement plans. Water Distribution Supervisor Dave Hendricks states that he plans to use SRF funds to help with the replacement costs when the day comes. Hendricks further clarified that the city will replace the line going to the customer shutoff on the customer's home.

"Who replaces it going into the customer's house. Is it the city, state or is it the customers?" And they (the state) are starting to identify more of it as being wrapped up in the state SRF loan that they (the state) are proposing that we use to

(Continued on Page 2)

## Public health dollars fund smoking cessation, infant health initiatives

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

In a few short weeks, \$150 million will be distributed to local public health departments in Indiana's 92 counties in a second wave of funding from the Indiana Department of Health's Health First Indiana program.

For James Vest, who oversees the Howard County Health Department, the funding allowed the agency to expand its operating hours and hire a public health nurse with a focus on child and maternal health.

"That money has allowed us to get staff to increase our hours and have additional employees. It makes it easier for people," Vest said. "The longer this goes on, I think the better it's going to be for the state of Indiana."

We're not going to just grow our health department into a large-

er size. Let's find people who are already doing really good work in our community and help them do even better work.

— Dr. Matt Pflieger, Huntington County Public Health Officer

The next cohort will include every county for the first time after six holdout counties opted into funding last month. Monies are distributed during the fiscal year, rather than the calendar year, meaning the \$150 million will be distributed starting July 1. The 86 counties that participated last year qualified for a combined \$75 million, divvied up according to population and health metrics.

But future funding depends on the whims of the General Assembly, which meets in a few short months to set the 2025-2026 budget.

State Health Commissioner (Continued on Page 2)

### Inside

Local/Area

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

Opinion

Mark Franke . . . . . 4

Also...

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

### Outside



Sunny and warm with wind gusts today

Today	Friday	Saturday
High 78	High 72	High 75
Low 54	Low 54	Low 56

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. 184

THURSDAY  
June 6, 2024

Stay on track with the latest news from the

- Nascar Circuit
- Formula 1
- Indy Car

Every **Thursday & Friday** in the News-Banner

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)



8 04879 07558 5

## County radio purchase

(Continued from Page 1)

Council member Brandon Harnish questioned why Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar was still receiving a stipend since the engineer vacancy was filled. Auditor Lisa McCormick clarified that the council's resolution added a stipend

for Bonar's added responsibilities on county projects as the employee in responsible charge. Commissioner Jeff Springer, who was present Tuesday, said there are five projects Whitacre can't serve as the ERC for because of the overlap during his time with the Indiana

Department of Transportation.

Harnish expressed frustration with this, saying the council intended that stipend to end when an engineer was hired. Council member Todd Mahnensmith also questioned if the five projects would last for a short time or

years.

"It's fresh with us, you've got to give time to figure this out," Stringer responded.

The council agreed to revisit the stipend at their next regular meeting on July 2.

holly@news-banner.com

## Water pipe survey

(Continued from Page 1)

replace these lines." Hendricks said.

Hendricks stated that he is currently heading south throughout the older section of downtown. He is currently on the back end of the Main Street and Wiley Street intersection and will continue to work south until Spring Street. Oman stated that Wessler Engineering is consulting with the city throughout the process and is confident that the city will identify all lead-containing pipes before the deadline.

"From what I've identified ... we're probably pretty close to around about 800 of them (lead-containing pipes) right now," Hendricks said.

After reporting lead-containing pipes and placing them on the Wells

County GIS system, Hendricks stated that the next step is physically inspecting places where lead-containing pipes are believed to be located, but there are no official work orders or other physical documentation to prove there are. Hendricks noted that a grant from the Indiana Finance Authority allows them to pothole the questionable areas.

Potholing is a process where holes are drilled in the ground with water, loosening the dirt near the area. Afterwards, the loose dirt is suctioned up so crews can see the underground infrastructure. Oman stated that this process will not damage said infrastructure.

Once the identification process is completed, Hendricks said that the state and EPA will notify customers

if they have lead-containing pipes. The statement will also give more information about when their lines will be replaced and other future concerns. Hendricks also stated that yearly updates will be given to customers with lead-containing pipes as well throughout the replacement process.

Oman stated that the city is still searching for contractors that could do the replacement work. Oman stated that all local contractors and existing excavators will be called upon with a work proposal. Oman also acknowledged that the 10-year deadline presents a very tight window contractors have to work with.

jonathan@news-banner.com

## Public health dollars

(Continued from Page 1)

Lindsay Weaver highlighted the flexibility of Indiana's program that delivered dollars directly to counties to individualize priorities based on their own metrics.

"Counties can make data driven decisions on where it is most needed to invest in evidence-based initiatives that will improve health outcomes. As I travel across the state, hospital, law enforcement, school, and business leaders are all coming to share what this funding has meant to their community," Weaver said in a statement.

"It will take time to move the needle on Indiana's health outcomes, but the many new partnerships, programs, and initiatives underway are already being felt across the state. I'm excited that all 92 counties have opted into the program for 2025 and look forward to supporting state and local partners as they continue Health First Indiana implementation."

### Projects funded by Health First

Beyond increasing hours for the public — making it easier for Howard County residents to get vaccines and other health services — having a dedicated nurse for child and maternal health will help improve birth outcomes, Vest said.

"That program is just being developed," he said. "We budgeted for things like sleep sacks, car seats, diapers, wipes, etc. ... it's a new one and going to be growing quite a bit to help improve our birth outcomes in our county."

Indiana's infant mortality rate has consistently ranked higher than the national average, meaning more Hoosier babies die of often preventable causes. The Health First site reports that

the statewide infant mortality rate sits at 6.8 deaths per 1,000 live births, a five-year rate calculated by dividing the number of infant deaths by the number of live births for the years 2017-2021.

Howard County's ranking is slightly below the state average, at 6.4 deaths per 1,000 live births. But counties vary widely, from a low of 3.2 deaths per 1,000 live births in Wabash County to 12.8 deaths per 1,000 live births in Pulaski County.

Other areas highlighted in county breakdowns include life expectancy, smoking rates, suicide rates and vaccination rates.

Smoking cessation efforts are also a popular target for Health First dollars, especially anti-vaping efforts that rely on partnerships with local schools.

An estimated 21% of Hoosiers smoke, nearly double the national rate of 11.5%. In counties like Ohio and Switzerland, those numbers tick up to 30.8% compared to just 10.5% in Hamilton County.

For Huntington County, where nearly one in four Hoosiers use tobacco, one of the priorities was partnering with the Tobacco Free Huntington Coalition. Using the Health First dollars, Huntington County purchased 5,000 units of nicotine cessation products at a cost of \$5,000.

"We don't have a high fetal or infant mortality rate, so that's not our focus as much as we know we have a very high tobacco use in our county," said Matt Pflieger, the county's public health officer.

Future initiatives include collaborating with the local Boys and Girls Club to provide vaping prevention programs.

Each county must

account for its spending in a budget breakdown submitted to the state health department and uploaded to Health First's website. Huntington's budget, for example, details its salary and benefits for a public health nurse but also includes a \$100,000 memorandum of understanding with Huntington Area Transportation, which provides medical transit services to residents.

Under the program guidelines, counties must continue to fund departments at the same level but Pflieger said the state investment moved the agency beyond a "piecemeal" approach and streamlined finances. One priority has been to identify and award grants to programs already operating, rather than trying to hire additional personnel to do the work.

"Being a smaller county, some of our resources are less than other larger counties," Pflieger said.

"We've said, we're not going to just grow our health department into a larger size. Let's find people who are already doing really good work in our community and help them do even better work. So we've set up some partnerships with local organizations to expand some of those services out into our county."

### Sharing their work

Indiana's health departments already have several responsibilities spelled out in state statute, such as inspecting and permitting tattoo parlors, identifying health problems during restaurant surveys and mitigating environmental health hazards.

But local public health departments can offer so much more, said Amanda Organist, the director of nursing for Bartholomew

County. Traditionally, Organist said the agency encountered residents during vaccine appointments, which offers an opportunity to connect people to local food pantries or tobacco cessation services.

Public health clinic supplies were the largest single line item expense for Bartholomew County, a category that included informational packets on the above.

"Having the extra funding and the limelight of the health department has brought more awareness of the different services we can provide. Some people just think 'oh just go there for your shots' or 'go there for x, y and z' but we're really much more than that," Organist said.

To see county-specific budgets breaking down how public health dollars are spent, visit the Health First Indiana website and select a county.

Vest, with Howard County, agrees. One little known service his department offers is mosquito control, which can mitigate the deadly diseases spread by the pests.

"Going forward, we'll be able to increase other services, like with lead risk assessments. We're looking to be able to pay for those environment assessments or lead inspections on homes," Vest said. "We'll increase our advertising and educational materials so folks will know who we are and what we do here."

But doing that takes money, Vest said, even just to purchase ad space to spread the word. Such projects will require continued, stable funding for health departments.

"Hopefully it continues to be available for years to come," said Organist.

## Weather

Thursday, June 6, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:59 p.m. Wednesday)  
High: 83; Low: 68; Precipitation: 0.24 inches of rain  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.15 feet at 9:45 p.m. Wednesday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 78. West wind 10 to 20 mph, with gusts as high as 30 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 54. West wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Friday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 72. Northwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 54. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Saturday:** A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

**Saturday Night:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 56.

**Sunday:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

**Sunday Night:** A 10% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Partly cloudy, with a low around 53.

**Monday:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 74.

## D-Day

(Continued from Page 1)

the rest of World War II. Describing the brutality of war, Rung concluded: "I'm a peacemaker, I'm not going to do this again."

### ANDY NEGRA

Andy Negra, 100, was born in Pennsylvania and was the first in his family to graduate from high school. He joined the U.S. Army in 1943 and landed on Utah Beach in Normandy on July 18, 1944, with his unit. At that point, he said, German forces were still only 20 miles away from the beach.

"You didn't think of dying. ... You knew what you had to do. And when the time comes, you did it. That's the way I looked at it," he said.

"What could you be scared of if you don't know what you're going to be scared of? That was my philosophy. ... So I was never scared. I had close calls, there was a lot of action. But until you entered into that action. Why be scared?"

Negra this week visited the Normandy American Cemetery of Colleville-sur-Mer and attended a series of D-Day celebrations with a group of about 50 U.S. veterans. The 80th anniversary "is the same as when I went through the towns during WWII," he said. People "were in the windows, in the doorways and they were on the streets. The difference is there were not as many people then as there are now."

Negra said he is still deeply moved by the warm French welcome in Normandy. "The celebration started when we liberated each town because they clapped and they've been clapping and saying nice things all the way from World War II, all the way

until now," he said.

### MARIE SCOTT

On D-day, Marie Scott experienced British forces landing on the Normandy coast through her earphones. As a 17-year-old radio operator in the Women's Royal Naval Service, she relayed messages to the Normandy beaches and waited for the recipient to open his channel and reply.

"I heard everything," Scott, who will soon turn 98, said. "I could hear all the background noise, the machine gun fire, the bombs dropping, aircrafts, men shouting orders, men screaming. It was horrendous."

"But I had the job to do," she explained. "I had no time to be alarmed."

"When you heard that amount of firepower, you knew there had to be casualties ... It was an enormous price to pay. But the price we had to pay," she said.

Scott was awarded the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest order of merit, for her role on D-Day, in 2019.

"Women are very important even in war. They may not be part of the fighting element, but we were very, very small cogs in an enormous wheel. And without those cogs, the wheel doesn't work," she said.

On Tuesday, Scott attended a ceremony at Pegasus Bridge, one of the first sites liberated by Allied forces from Nazi Germany. She said it was important for her to be back for the commemorations, because "it evokes memories of a very special day for me, when I first realized the true horror of war, I suppose. I think, probably, I grew up on that day, so it's important to come back. Very emotional but important."

## Wisconsin warden, 8 staff member charged following probes into inmate deaths

MADISON, Wis. (AP) — Guards at Wisconsin's oldest maximum-security prison failed to provide basic care for inmates who died on their watch, including one who died of dehydration and another who wasn't found for at least 12 hours after he died of a stroke, authorities said Wednesday in announcing charges against the warden and eight members of his staff.

Waupun Correctional Institution's warden, Randall Hepp, is charged with misconduct in public office. The other eight face charges of felony inmate abuse. Three of them are also charged with misconduct.

"We are operating the oldest prison in the state of Wisconsin in a dangerous and reckless manner," Dodge County Sheriff Dale Schmidt, who led the investigation, said at a news con-

ference announcing the charges.

Hepp faces up to 3 1/2 years in prison if he's convicted. He announced last week that he planned to retire at the end of June. He said in an email to Waupun staff that he had helped improve "safety and order" at the prison.

Hepp's attorney, Robert Webb, declined to comment.

Three of the four deaths are subject to federal lawsuits. The state Department of Corrections is investigating the prison's operations, and the governor last year asked the U.S. Department of Justice to look into contraband smuggling at the facility.

Department of Corrections Secretary Jared Hoy said in a statement that more than 20 people remain under internal investigation, at least eight are on leave and nine others were fired or

have retired since the probe began a year ago. Hoy asked the sheriff to keep his probe open and share all of his findings. Schmidt said he could reopen the investigation if the internal probe reveals additional evidence.

The first of the four inmates who died, Dean Hoffman, killed himself in solitary confinement last June. Hoffman's daughter filed a federal lawsuit in February alleging that prison officials failed to provide her father with adequate mental health care and medications.

Tyshun Lemons and Cameron Williams were both found dead at the facility in October. Dodge County Medical Examiner PJ Schoebel said Lemons overdosed on acetyl fentanyl, a potent opioid painkiller, and Williams died of a stroke.

**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

**HIDAY**  
**CHRYSLER**  
Your local Mopar Dealer  
WE HAVE THE PARTS YOU NEED



Looking for New  
**Tires for Your Ride?**  
WE HAVE ALL THE MAJOR BRANDS

**GOODYEAR Firestone**  
**BRIDGESTONE**  
**MICHELIN**




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

~ DISCOVER WHY IT'S BETTER IN BLUFFTON ~

**HIDAY**  
**Chrysler Dodge Jeep**

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



OBITUARIES

James "Jim" Huffman, 69

James "Jim" Edward Huffman, 69 of Mount Zion in Wells County, passed away at his home on Saturday, June 1, 2024.



Jim was born in Bluffton to Herman and Marjorie (Herr) Huffman on Jan. 31, 1955. He graduated from Huntington North High School in 1973 and worked for Franklin Electric for 46 years until his retirement. Jim married Alice (Runion) Huffman on Aug. 3, 1974. Jim thoroughly enjoyed fishing and hunting. He would hunt animals, mushrooms, arrowheads, and was a true hunter-gatherer. Jim had a love for archery and competing.

Jim was preceded in death by his parents, Herman and Marjorie Huffman, and sisters, Mary Miller and Sue Morgan.

Loving survivors include his wife of almost 50 years, Alice Huffman of Mount Zion; children, Shari (Cory) Nettle of Fort Wayne, and Daniel (Angie) Huffman of Bluffton; grandchildren, Brenden, Zoey, Dylan, Macie and Keegan; brother, Ned (June) Huffman; and sister, Marsha Walton.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember from 2-5 p.m. on Thursday, June 6, 2024, at Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home, 203 N. Matilda St. in Warren. A funeral service will begin at 5:30 p.m. with Pastor Steve Nevius officiating.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to: Cancer Services of Northeast Indiana, 6316 Mutual Dr. Fort Wayne, IN 46825 or Southern Wells Archery Club, 9120 S 300 W Poneto, IN 46781.

Arrangements have been entrusted to Glancy-H. Brown & Son Funeral Home in Warren.



Egg farmer John Rust stands near his campaign bus during an October stop in Angola, Indiana. (Photo from Rust's X account)

Rust files to terminate Senate committee, closing door on campaign 'for now'

Rust's final receipts and returns brought his account balance to zero, according to new campaign finance documents

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

U.S. Senate hopeful John Rust, who was kept off the GOP primary ballot in May due to Indiana's two-primary rule, has officially zeroed out his campaign accounts and filed to terminate his committee, according to new federal documents.

Rust's termination report, received by the Federal Election Commission on May 29, shows that the Seymour egg farmer's campaign has zero cash on hand after tallying up his expenses and returning roughly \$6,000 contributions to himself and his brother.

Still pending, however, is a final letter from the FEC granting the request to terminate.

Rust told the Indiana Capital Chronicle that although he "may" run for office again in the future, he opted to "100% close" his Senate campaign.

"I'm not going to say no to something in the future, because you never know," Rust said. "The situations and circumstances may change, and they may not. I may never run for anything ever again. And you know, something may pop up that I think I can serve Indiana well in, and I'll do that."

In the meantime, Rust said he's focusing on promoting his book and "being an advocate" for Hoosiers seeking to make it on the ballot.

"I'm not going to be running as an independent or anything like that. I'm going to bide my time and do right by the party rules. But hopefully I can get a change (to the state's two-primary law) to make it so other people can run," he continued. "I'm going to keep on donating to good, worthy Republican candidates, and just

keep working and trying to get good, hardworking Hoosiers elected again."

Republican Congressman Jim Banks was ultimately unopposed in the May primary and easily secured his party's nomination in the race for Indiana's open U.S. Senate seat. He'll face Democrat Dr. Valerie McCray, a clinical psychologist, as well as Libertarian Andrew Horning in the November general election.

The Senate seat is being vacated by Republican Mike Braun, who secured the GOP nomination in Indiana's gubernatorial race and will now face Democrat Jennifer McCormick and Libertarian Donald Rainwater in November.

There's no deadline on disbanding, according to the FEC. That means it's possible for candidates to delay loan settlements, when applicable, and keep hold of their political contributions for a later campaign run.

It was a notable move by former Democratic governor Evan Bayh, who had \$9.2 million ready to spend in his campaign coffers when he announced his run for U.S. Senate in 2016. Although Bayh hadn't been in office for six years, his previous campaign funds had been left untouched.

Rust's 2024 Senate bid was his first go at political office. Should he decide to run again, Rust will have to form a new campaign committee and restart fundraising efforts.

Zeroing out Rust's account

Rust's latest campaign finance records indicate he self-funded the vast majority of his campaign. His personal contributions totaled \$2,610,898. A little more than \$8,000 was raised from a handful

of individuals — most of which came via a \$6,000 donation from his brother, Anthony Rust.

As of April 1, Rust's campaign had \$97,432.20 cash in hand, according to his FEC report. Rust made a final personal contribution of \$10,898 on April 8, and later credited the committee an additional \$69,000 — to buy back his campaigning RV — bringing his cash total to a little more than \$177,000.

Rust said he's currently storing the RV in a barn at his Seymour farm.

"I'm going to keep my name out there," he said. "I'll still use it to take to Republican events across the state, and as I'm promoting my book in libraries across Indiana."

Campaign expenses recorded between April 1 and May 28 totaled about \$171,000, per the FEC report. Among the charges were \$45,000 paid to the Illinois-based Victory Research firm for survey research; roughly \$27,400 to Lekse Harter LLC, in Greenwood, for legal consulting; and \$22,000 spent on campaign advertising, mostly provided by New Jersey-based Lamar Advertising.

And to bring his account down to zero, Rust used the remaining funds to issue \$6,086.73 in refunds; \$2,700 to his brother, and \$3,386.73 to himself.

Over the course of his campaign, Rust did not give or accept any loans to the campaign, meaning there were no outstanding dollars needing to be settled before filing for termination.

A failed fight for the ballot

Rust sought for months to challenge Banks for the GOP U.S. Senate nomination, but a state law requires a candidate's two most recent primary

votes align with their preferred party — a bar Rust doesn't meet.

Rust voted Republican in 2016 and Democrat in 2012. The law allows an exception, should the county's party chair grant it. Jackson County Republican Party Chair Amanda Lowery elected not to do so in this case.

He sued to gain access to the Republican ballot, saying the measure barred the vast majority of Hoosiers from running under their preferred party.

Marion County Superior Court Judge Patrick J. Dietrick found in December that the two-primary requirement is unconstitutional. But the state appealed, and the Indiana Supreme Court expedited the case as a matter of "significant public interest."

Both the Indiana Supreme Court and Indiana Election Commission separately found him ineligible in February rulings. The commission cited the law, which the Supreme Court upheld in a ruling — prompting Rust to file for a rehearing.

Rust has vowed to appeal all the way to the U.S. Supreme Court. But because ballots were already printed for the May primary and early voting was underway, Rust's options were limited.

He said he still believes the Indiana Supreme Court's decision "is in error," and that he expects to file with the nation's highest court by the end of the month.

"That's the most important thing for me — to win the right for 81% of Hoosiers to run for political office again," Rust said. "Because right now, we're back to the kangaroo system, where the state party gets to choose the candidates, really. And that's not right."

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

**County:**  
Tuesday, 12:16 p.m., Wells County Jail. Transported subject from Allen County jail to local jail.

Tuesday, 5:04 p.m., 7500 North 200 West, Uniondale. Report of an abandoned vehicle.

Tuesday, 6:59 p.m., East 7500 South and S.R. 1, Bluffton. Report of horses in roadway.

Tuesday, 11:55 p.m., North Main Street and East Dustman Road, Bluffton. Driver cited driving while suspended.

Wednesday, 6:22 a.m., 3000 West 1100 North, Markle. Mailbox murdered

strikes again, caller reported their mailbox was blown up overnight. No leads at this time.

**Ossian:**  
Tuesday, 7:23 p.m., Silo Farms. Caller reported subjects throwing things and hitting callers vehicle.

**ARRESTS**  
Htun Oo, 38, Fort Wayne; operating a vehicle with an ACE of .15 or more, a Class A misdemeanor, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor.

Ashley Rena Jarrett, 36, Bluffton; driving while suspended - prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Rep Jim Banks calls a foul on treatment of Caitlin Clark

By MIA HILKOWITZ, Indiana Capital Chronicle

Indiana Third District Congressman Jim Banks wants answers from the Women's National Basketball Association on how it will protect Indiana Fever rookie Caitlin Clark from "excessive physical targeting."

In a Tuesday letter to WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert, Banks said Clark has experienced "resentment and repeated attacks from fellow players" during her first season with the Fever.

Banks specifically mentioned how Chicago Sky player Chenedy Carter knocked Clark to the ground during a game against the Fever on June 1, a foul which the WNBA eventually upgraded to a Flagrant 1. He said another Sky player, Angel Reese, celebrated the foul. Video footage of the game shows Reese cheering moments after the foul, but some say it's unclear what she was celebrating. Carter and Reese refused to comment on the foul, and Reese received a \$1,000 fine for not being available to reporters after the game.

"Indiana is a basketball state," Banks wrote. "We don't wince at aggressive defense, but this was not an example of playing 'tough'; it was a cheap shot that could have resulted in an injury and should not be tolerated."

Banks asked Engelbert to answer four questions by June 14. First, he asked what steps the league is taking to "curb excessive physical targeting" of specific players. He also asked if individual teams and organizations will be held accountable for allowing players to target competitors, and if Engelbert believed players "diminishing the talents of their fellow players is beneficial to the leagues' overall success." Additionally, he asked if seeing Clark targeted is "inspiring" to young female athletes.

"Every data point shows, when Caitlin Clark plays, more people watch and what they are seeing right now is a league that refuses to hold hostile players accountable and enforce their own rules of sportsmanship," Banks wrote.

Sports commentators have spent the week analyzing the issue and whether issues of race play a role. The two Sky players are Black women and Clark is white. Former Indianapolis Colts punter Pat McAfee also received backlash this week during his ESPN show by calling Clark a "white b——" He later apologized.

Obituary Policy

The News-Banner and Ossian Journal publishes "basic" obituaries free of charge for "local" deaths. "Basic" obituaries will include the deceased's name, age, community of record, date and place of death, basic genealogical information, the date, time and location of calling hours and services and the name of the funeral home handling arrangements.

If additional information and/or a photo is desired to be included, or if the deceased does not meet the definitions of a "local" person, there is a charge.

Area funeral homes will provide details on the policy and will coordinate obituary publication.

Surprisingly great rates right around the corner.

I'm your one-stop shop for the service you deserve at a price you want. Call me for surprisingly great rates and Good Neighbor service right in your neighborhood.

Like a good neighbor, State Farm is there.

Individual premiums will vary by customer. All applicants subject to State Farm underwriting requirements.

Erin Daugherty, Agent  
1085 N Main Street Suite B  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Bus: 260-827-0527  
erin@myblufftonsfagent.com

State Farm  
Bloomington, IL  
2001878

ONLINE ONLY PERSONAL PROPERTY AUCTION

VEHICLE - WOODWORKING TOOLS - MODERN FURNITURE - HOUSEHOLD

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 5<sup>TH</sup> - WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12<sup>TH</sup>

PREVIEW LOCATION: 1338 MANOR DR, BLUFFTON, IN 46714

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE • PLAN NOW TO PARTICIPATE!

2003 Chevy Impala • Well Cared For Modern Furniture • Holiday Decor • Glassware • Household • Woodworking Tools • Air Compressor • Hand & Power Tools • Lawn & Garden • Glassware Toro Snowblower • Toro Push Lawn Mowers • Much More!

VIEW COMPLETE CATALOG AT STEFFENGRP.COM

SELLER: HUSTON WATTERS • SALE MANAGER: BRANDON STEFFEN (260.710.5684)

AUCTION PREVIEW & ONLINE BIDDING ASSISTANCE:  
MONDAY, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup> FROM 4:00 - 6:00 PM

STEFFEN GROUP 260.426.0633  
REAL ESTATE & AUCTIONS STEFFENGRP.COM  
AU19600168 - AC30500053

TELL US WHAT YOU THINK!  
www.news-banner.com or www.facebook.com/newsbanner

Yergy's BBQ

Prime Rib Dinner  
Every Friday after 4pm  
Includes Green Beans & Baby Potatoes with Bread

Locally Owned Restaurant in Wells County!  
260-824-4950

1415 South Main Street, Bluffton, IN 46714

Follow us on Twitter at...  
twitter.com/newsbanner

# The mathematics of voting

Now that the primary election season has passed but the November campaigning cycle is not yet up and running, there is time for detached reflection on how our democracy works. Or doesn't.

The past month was an unusual one for us residents of my hometown, Fort Wayne. In the Republican primary there were eight candidates for the Third District House of Representatives seat to replace incumbent Jim Banks, who was running in the Senate primary to replace Mike Braun, who was running in the gubernatorial primary to replace Eric Holcomb, who was retiring due to term limits. Are you keeping up?



Mark Franke

## Hoosier Opinions

What set my mind wondering and wandering was how does the electorate correctly indicate its favorite candidate when there are more than two choices?

Indiana's voting rules require a simple plurality to win, what's known as the "first past the post" system. The horse-race metaphor is appropriate in that the successful candidate need only finish ahead of each of the rest, regardless of how few votes he gets. A mathematical majority, 50 percent plus one, is not required. The advantage of this system is that there will be a winner on the first round.

Compare this with the Fort Wayne mayoral caucus which required a true majority among seven candidates, therefore needing a second round of voting after eliminating the first-round candidates with the fewest votes. The advantage of this system is that eventually you do get to someone who polls a majority of votes but it might take some time. Witness the 2022 senatorial election in Georgia which required a second round of voting a month later.

Which system is better? Or is there another methodology that surpasses both?

It may be serendipity but while I was musing over this question, I happened across a book directed toward this very issue. "Numbers Rule: The Vexing Mathematics of Democracy, from Plato to the Present" by mathematician George G. Szpiro examining various alternatives.

Szpiro selects about a dozen philosophers and mathematicians through history to trace what one would hope to be a developmental path for discovering the perfect model to assure the most favored candidate wins. His earliest models, that proposed by Plato in "The Republic" and that of Pliny the Younger for Roman jury decision-making, set a foundation for future model-making. One of the medieval motivations to get this right was the papal elections and their frequent inability to come to a satisfactory decision.

One idea was to set each candidate against each other, one on one, and then count the win-loss record of each. Think of a typical athletic league's method of determining its regular season champion. While we are using sports metaphors, another proposal was to use an NCAA March Madness approach, in which one-on-one winners advance to the next round.

Both of these systems will produce a winner but only after an extended period of time and tremendous expense when thinking of modern-day political spending. Each has its methodological flaws in that neither can assure that the most favored candidate is elected. Is the NCAA basketball tournament always won by the best overall team?

The problem is the lack of transitivity between successive votes. Let me try to simplify. If a voter prefers A to B and B to C, then it can be assumed that the voter prefers A to C. But now consider rock-scissors-paper. There is no transitivity in the above two methodologies, leaving the outcome suspect with either.

Eventually the idea of ranked-choice voting was proposed. This model has been resurrected by several contemporary election reform groups which see our current two-party system as systemically flawed. In this approach each voter ranks all the candidates from top to bottom. Votes are only cast once but counted multiple times as the last place candidate is thrown out and his first-place votes allocated to that voter's second choice.

At first blush this system appears to address the issue of non-majority candidates winning and the need for runoff elections. It is also supposed to reduce the influence of the extreme wings of our two national parties, making room for more moderate and third-party candidates.

But does it achieve Szpiro's goal of assuring that the most favored candidate will always win? He thinks not as it opens the election to strategic voting, where voters intentionally rank their favorite candidate's closest opponent as last. If this is properly, or should I say improperly, coordinated at a macro level, it can have a deleterious effect.

So if none of the alternatives work, is the answer to limit each ballot to only two candidates? Is our electoral system hardwired for a two-party system?

What none of these systems can guarantee is that the most favored candidate gets on the ballot. Voter dissatisfaction during the last several presidential elections is proof of that.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.



# Measuring the Trump conviction factor in the 2024 race

If you've been keeping up with the news, you've probably heard a lot of speculation about the effect former President Donald Trump's felony conviction will have on the 2024 presidential race. Here's the real answer, so far: We don't know.

The first thing to remember about momentous events and public opinion is that it takes a while for people to process the full import of truly consequential developments. With the Trump verdict, of course partisan zealots on both sides know exactly how they feel. But other, more normal people are not entirely sure. They want to think about it and see how things work out before they settle on what they think.

That's where polls come in. The first survey out of the gate came from Morning Consult. The verdict was announced at about 5 p.m. Eastern Time on Thursday, and by early Saturday morning, Morning Consult reported that a majority of those surveyed, 54%, approved of the guilty decision, and that 15% of Republican voters wanted Trump to drop out. A day later, a CBS News poll found that 57% said the jury reached the "right verdict," but that not many people had changed their minds about the big picture of the 2024 race. Then an ABC/Ipsos poll found that 50% said the verdict was correct, 27% said it was not correct, and 23% don't know if the verdict was correct or not.

What does that mean? Clearly, this is going to take a while to sort itself out. And the most important question is not "What do you think of the verdict?" or "Do you think Trump is guilty?" The question is, "If the election were today, would you vote for Biden or Trump?" That's the same question pollsters have been asking for more than a year.

There are two places to look -- national polls and swing-state polls. Nationally, the race has been close for a year and half, since the moment Trump declared his candidacy in November 2022. Trump has been ahead of President Joe Biden in the RealClearPolitics average of polls since last September, but by very narrow margins. His biggest edge was 3.5 points in mid-December 2023. Now, Trump's lead is 0.5 points, meaning the race is essentially tied.

Trump's national lead when his Manhattan trial began was 0.3 points, meaning the seven-week, heavily covered, much-discussed trial made little difference in the national race. But you couldn't say so until the trial had

been going for a few weeks. Now, it will take a few weeks to see if the verdict will have a significant effect on the national race.

Then there are the swing-state polls. They are critical to the race. Think about it this way. If Trump is able to win the states he won in 2020, which he can probably do, he then needs to win the Sun Belt states of Georgia and Arizona -- Nevada would be a bonus but is not critical to this calculation. If he does that, he has to win just one of the northern tier of states, Pennsylvania, Michigan or Wisconsin, to win the presidency. That Electoral College math is what caused Democrats to freak out last November when the New York Times published a poll showing Trump leading in five of the six states.

Trump's lead has been stable for months now. In the RealClearPolitics average, he is up by 4.8 points in Georgia, 4 points in Arizona and 5.4 points in Nevada. So he's doing quite well in the Sun Belt. Up north, he is up by 2.3 points in Pennsylvania, 0.5 in Michigan and 0.1 in Wisconsin. Much, much closer.

Who wins the swing states will determine who wins the presidency. So that will be an important place to look for any change after the Trump verdict. Right now, anecdotal reports suggest not much is different. But, of course, not much has changed -- the verdict just happened. Digesting it all will take some time.

For months, we have seen polls suggesting that a small number of voters who might be inclined to vote for Trump would reconsider, or decide that they will not vote for him, if he is convicted of a felony. Now he has been found guilty on 34 felony counts. As has been written here many times, the case against Trump was weak and politically motivated. But guided by a prosecutor who pledged to pursue Trump, a judge who is a donor to Biden and top Biden Justice Department official who joined the prosecution for purpose of trying Trump, a jury in deep-blue Manhattan convicted Trump on all counts. Perhaps that will be overturned on appeal long after the election. Perhaps not. But the next decision in the case will be made by voters.

© 2024 BYRON YORK



Byron York



# Procreation, but not "the birds and the bees" story

A bazillion jokes and stories have been written about the moment in time when truth needs to be passed on to growing children about "the birds and the bees." Some parents attacked straightforwardly, full speed ahead, no mincing of the words and terms, full disclosure, so to speak. Other's danced around terms about the process of creating offspring, being all too embarrassed about the entire affair. Farm kids witnessed the process: before, during, and after farm animal births.

Then there was the oldest childhood sex education experience of all time, "show me yours and I'll show you mine."

From Ted Nugent to Bon Jovi to Tony Bennett, "that's the story of, that's the glory of love."

Thank you from the bottom of my heart to all those News-Banner readers who are still with me in today's Angelkeep Journals' topic.

Nature has another love affair that doesn't involve "the birds and the bees." End results are very similar. Nature involves "the blooms and the bees."

Honeybees are one of the early signs of spring at Angelkeep. Until the cold winter winds begin to blow they remain a constant, needed, appreciated part of outdoor life. Honeybees seldom sting. Maybe it's because they know their life depends upon it. One sting and they die. One "shot in the dark," so to speak. Most save that one stinger poke for using when their queen or hive is threatened.

"Busy as a bee" evolved from the activity of the honeybee dashing

## Angelkeep Journals

about from one bloom to another collecting nectar and pollen for hauling back to the hive. Sure, it's all about a bee's method of "birds and the bees."

Their story sweetens the lives of humans as well. Honey. Honeybutter. "Honey, I'm home."

Javi Vera wrote an entire song titled "Honeybutter" without ever using the word in the lyrics. Fort Wayne has a fantastic Jesus Music pioneer named Honeytree. Anyone who has watched the must-see British TV series, Foyle's War, knows how sweetly Honeybuckle Weeks played her "Sam" role. Wow, a triple-digression in one paragraph. Sweet!

Blooms and bees depend upon each other for survival and future generations. If one did not have the other both would become extinct. Honeybees dart from one bloom to the next, gather the yellow pollen and sip nectar, packing pollen on their hind legs until they look like Pop-eye's forearms. Then it's off to the hive to produce honey, food for the next generation. Also food for many a cornbread lover, a Hoosier staple.

The blooms visited are blessed by the honeybee by spreading the pollen from one flower to the next. Close up photos of bees on a bloom show all of the specks of yellow pollen coating all bee parts. Honeybee's nectar lust can't help but spread the pollen



Alan Daugherty

procreation-magic dust while they work. It's a win-win. For sweet tea lovers it's a win-win-win.

"Honey, do you want honey to sweeten your tea, Sweetheart?"

Angelkeep must be fair to the myriad of insects that also fulfill the role in nature as pollinators. A sweat bee, butterfly, and a host of others perform the same task of moving pollen dust from one bloom to another. It's the form of kisses and lovemaking in the flora world that rewards the fauna in generations to come. It's not pornographic, but it is nature's necessary form of sexual promiscuity.

Bluffton enjoys world acclaim for significant iris hybridizers. Locals took on the role of pollinator to produce amazing floral blooms never before seen in the world. E. B. and Mary Williamson mixed pollen to apply to blooms for a happenstance new variety, this process originated by honeybees. Paul Cook collected pollen from one specific bloom and applied it to one specific alternate bloom in a pre-calculated expectation of creating a bloom never witnessed anywhere on earth. Both pollinations worked. New irises born in Wells County, Indiana, has touched the world ever since.

Field corn hybrids, similarly created, desire the primary goal of advancing quantity and quality. Success gets handed down as Quaker cornmeal. Resultant cornbread gets the honey treatment. The cycle of life.

Full disclosure: Cornbread cooked in a waffle iron and smothered with ham & beans create the honey treatment. The cycle of life.

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

Submit your Letters to the Editor via:  
 • Our website link (Submit your Letter)  
 • E-Mail: email@news-banner.com  
 • Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714  
 • Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton

All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

## THE NEWS-BANNER

(USPS 059-200)  
 Evening News est. 1892 • Evening Banner est. 1899 • Consolidated 1929  
 Telephone Number 260-824-0224  
 George B. Wilwer, Chairman of the Board  
 Doug Brown, President, Publisher  
 DiAnne Wilwer, Secretary/Treasurer  
 Holly Gaskill, Editor  
 Fax Number 260-824-0700

Periodicals Postage Paid at Bluffton, IN. Published every day except Sundays and Principal Holidays at 125 N. Johnson Street, Bluffton, IN, 46714, Post Office Box 436.

*Affordable Living Surrounded by Elegance*

**LaFontaine Center**  
An RHF Community

208 W. State St.  
Huntington, IN  
260.356.9099  
TDD: 1.800.545.1833 x359

The services below have been designed to comply with the nondiscrimination requirements contained in the Department of Housing and Urban Development's regulations implementing section 504 (a) (4) CR, part 8 dated June 2, 1988 (45 CFR 801.106-106.504). Call (800) 545-1833 ext. 359.

**MOSER & SON**  
Heating & Air Conditioning

CALL US TODAY 824-0228

With 50+ years of Experience and 4th Generation Serving Bluffton Since 1933

*American Standard*  
HEATING & AIR CONDITIONING

**Myers FUNERAL HOMES**...of the Family

Dignity

Markle • 758-2121 | Huntington • 356-2400  
www.myersfuneralhomes.com

**WAYNE METALS**

400 East Logan St., Markle, IN  
260-758-3121

**CHRISTIAN CARE** Retirement Community

720 East Dustman Road | Bluffton, IN 46714  
www.christiancare.org | 260-565-3000

Enriching senior living with Christian values and compassionate quality service.

**DDS** Decatur Dental Services

Decatur • Geneva • Bluffton • Berne • Warren  
260-724-8746  
decaturdentalin.com

**A-1 U-Stor** Safe & Secure Self Storage

Bluffton • 824-1846

**2 CONVENIENT LOCATIONS**

**BLUFFTON MONROE**  
1/2 mile north of Walmart on St. Rd. 1  
North of 124 & 27 on 100W  
**1-800-747-4925**

Find Your Dream Website Built to Impress

WEB PRESENCE ONLINE ADVERTISING WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT

**Special Offer on New Websites!**

**NB Digital** A DIVISION OF THE NEWS-BANNER

**Sign up NOW!**  
Get the 1<sup>st</sup> Year's Hosting Package Free!  
1975<sup>00</sup> Value Swing

125 N. Johnson St. • Bluffton  
260.824.0224 • www.nb-digital.com

**Expert Transmission & Automotive**

2883 E State Road 124  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-4929  
(929 - 2029)

**More Than Just Transmissions**  
Heating/AC • Tune-Ups • Brakes  
Computer Diagnostics and More!  
In Bluffton since 1979  
www.experttrans.com

**THE MONUMENT CENTER**

Office of Bluffton Cemeteries  
www.themonumentcenter.com

Brian Steffen  
Call 824-2832



# Thank You

## For Keeping Our Community Safe To Protect & Serve



**OUTDOOR CONCEPTS**

260-824-5189  
2275 N. MAIN ST.  
BLUFFTON, IN 46714

OUTDOORCONCEPTS.COM

**171 YEARS** Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home

Wells County's Only Family Owned & Operated Funeral Home.

Jeff and Jamie

**INNOVATIVE CONCEPTS** AUDIO VIDEO SECURITY NETWORKING

1421 Manchester St., Decatur  
260.724.2276 • www.icav.us

Kerry Gentis, Manager

**BLUFFTON TIRE INC.**

4308 S. Main St.  
Bluffton, IN  
(260) 824-0418

**Collier's** COMFORT SERVICES INC.

Heating • Air Conditioning • Geothermal

260-622-6622  
www.ColliersComfort.com

**The News-Banner** Bluffton, Indiana

**The Asian Journal**

WWW.NEWS-BANNER.COM

**THANK YOU**

To the officers who risk their lives to keep our community a safe place

**DH DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK** LAWYERS

30 Premier Avenue  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Fort Wayne, IN 46814  
(260)824-5566 www.dhblaw.com

**Wells County Veterans' Service Office**

223 W Washington St. Suite #102  
Bluffton, IN 46714

Mon-Thurs: 8am-1pm  
Phone: (260) 824-6403 • Fax: (260) 824-9942  
Email: veterans@wellscounty.org  
Dewey Randall Service Officer

*Goodwin - Cole & Harnish* MEMORIAL CHAPEL  
A Tradition of Caring

Locally Owned and Operated Since 1922

*Douglas L. Cole & Mitchel P. Harnish* Owner

3220 St. Rd. 124 East, Bluffton • 824-3852

MEDICARE • INSURANCE • INVESTMENTS

*Jerry Flack & Associates*

TRUSTED AND QUALIFIED EDUCATORS

WE REPRESENT MANY - MANY - MANY INSURANCE COMPANIES

WE HAVE ALL THE MEDICARE AND MEDICAID OPTIONS AVAILABLE

Life Insurance - Long Term Care Insurance  
Investments - Individual and Small Group Health  
Dental - Vision - Hearing Cancer Insurance

WE CAN MEET: IN OUR OFFICE  
IN YOUR HOME - IN A FAVORED LOCATION

In the 1882 Building at Main & Market with the mural on the outside wall • 260-824-1618

**The News-Banner** Bluffton, Indiana

**The Asian Journal**

WWW.NEWS-BANNER.COM



**To the men and women who serve and protect with courage & dedication, We say...**

*Thank you!*

**Bluffton Police Department** Chief Kyle Randall • Deputy Chief Andrew Ellis • Sergeant Josh Smith • Sergeant Brent Archbold • Sergeant Jason Baker • Detective Cliff Thomas • Detective Marjlean Heckel • Officer Greg Steele • Officer Geoff Gilbert • Officer Travis Ford • School Resource Officer Phillip Kurut • Officer Jeffrey Belda • Officer Benjamin Griner • Officer Justin Pitman • Officer Amanda Johnson • Officer Ethan Daggett • Officer Trae Jojola • Officer Tyler Lambert • Officer Eyan Holliday • Officer Trevor Werst - *County Sheriff's Department* Sheriff Scott Holliday • Chief Deputy Randy Steele • Sgt. Detective Farrell "Chip" Swindell • Detective Quinton Greer • Sgt. Deputy Andrew Campbell • Deputy Sgt. Austin Springer • Deputy Sgt. James Agler • Deputy Jeff McClish • Deputy Ryan Mounsey • Deputy Chad Bradley (Southern Wells School Resource Officer) • Deputy Kurtis Brooksher • Deputy Curt Hunt (Norwell School Resource Officer) • Deputy Maciej Zaklikiewicz • Deputy Jeremy Heckel • Deputy Nicholas Conrad • Deputy Desmond Carter • Deputy Alex Monce (K9 Officer) - *Ossian Police Department* Chief Kurt Jack • Officer Brian McClish • Officer Samantha Jo Oliver • Officer Joshua Ware • PT Officer Larry Butler • PT Officer Russ Mounsey - *Markle Police Department* Chief John Markley • Officer Jeremy Goff • Officer Craig Neuenschwander • Officer (Part-time) Eric Sands • Officer (Part-time) David Jackson • Officer (Part-time) Cody Jones

## Browns give Stefanski, Berry contract extensions

By TOM WITHERS  
AP Sports Writer  
CLEVELAND (AP)

— For most of two decades, the Browns were an NFL laughing-stock — often dysfunctional, rarely relevant.

Kevin Stefanski and Andrew Berry helped change Cleveland.

And they're not going anywhere.

The Browns rewarded Stefanski, the reigning AP Coach of the Year, and Berry, one of the league's bright, young general managers, with multiyear contract extensions on Wednesday after they brought success and stability to an organization that had little before their arrival.

The extensions have been expected for months and were announced as the Browns were on the practice field.

Terms of the deals were not immediately known. Both Stefanski and Berry had one year left on five-year deals signed in 2020.

Before Stefanski and Berry were hired, the Browns had two winning seasons, one postseason appearance, a 101-234-1 record — including an 0-16 finish in 2017 — in 21 years since their 1999 expansion rebirth.

They've been a perfect pairing, and after so much trial and error, Browns owners Dee and Jimmy Haslam wanted to guarantee they'd be around for longer.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have Kevin Stefanski and Andrew Berry leading the Cleveland Browns," the Haslams said. "Since the day they were hired, each has worked tirelessly to help the Cleveland Browns win. We are proud of what they and the team have achieved, but Kevin and Andrew would be the first to say that Browns fans deserve even more.

"Their leadership, collaborative approach, and ability to overcome obstacles bode well for the future of this franchise."

Stefanski led the Browns to an 11-6 record and a playoff appearance last season despite a rash of injuries, including losing quarterback Deshaun Watson with a shoulder injury after six starts. Cleveland started — and won — with four different QBs.

Stefanski was voted the league's top coach for the second time following the season. The 41-year-old is 37-30 with two playoff appearances in four seasons.

He had never been a head coach before getting to Cleveland, spending 13 years working his way up the ladder in Minnesota. Stefanski had to navigate around the COVID pandemic in his first season, when the Browns ended a long playoff drought.

## 10K world record holder Rhonex Kipruto banned 6 years for doping

MONACO (AP) — Kenyan runner Rhonex Kipruto has been stripped of his world record in men's 10-kilometer road racing and banned for six years in a doping case.

A disciplinary panel ruled that abnormalities in Kipruto's blood samples pointed to "a deliberate and sophisticated doping regime" and Kipruto likely had help from unknown third parties. At the time, he was aiming to qualify for the last Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

The panel imposed a six-year ban because of what it deemed the "aggravating circumstances" in the case, up from a standard four-year doping ban.

Kipruto was disqualified from all of his

results since September 2018, meaning he loses a world championship bronze medal in the 10,000 meters from 2019 and his 10k road record from 2020.

That record is set to pass to Ethiopian runner Berihu Aregawi. He ran 26 minutes, 33 seconds in the 10k last year, nine seconds slower than Kipruto's time.

No banned substance was found in Kipruto's system and the case rested on data from his biological passport, which tracks athletes' blood samples over time to detect irregularities and changes that point to blood doping.

The panel said Kipruto's defense sought to blame illnesses, irregular training habits

(Continued on Page A2)



However, Stefanski wasn't with the team for its wild-card win in Pittsburgh after testing positive with the virus.

Last season, Stefanski had to adapt on a weekly basis due to injuries, especially to his QBs.

After Watson broke his shoulder and had surgery, Stefanski won

with journeyman P.J. Walker and rookie Dorian Thompson-Robinson starting. Stefanski then adjusted his offense to suit veteran Joe Flacco, who was signed by Berry and came off his couch to lead the Browns to the playoffs with a remarkable final stretch.

"They are two of the brightest people we know, and selfless people who only care about what is best for the Cleveland Browns," the Haslams said.

Stefanski addressed getting the extension in typical stoic fashion, saying he and Berry won't rest on their successes.

"It's a partnership where we take our job seriously," he said. "We understand the jobs we have in this town. We understand our fans and what they want this team to be. So, we're just going to focus on working every waking minute to get this thing where we want it

"For the organization to trust Andrew and I speaks to what we've been able to do, but we have plenty of work to do."

Berry has rebuilt Cleveland's roster in his second stint with the team.

One of the NFL's only Black GMs, the 36-year-old Berry returned to the Browns in 2020 after spending one season as Philadelphia's vice president of football operations. He was Cleveland's vice president of player personnel from 2016-18.

Although the Browns trade for Watson hasn't paid off the way they hoped to this point, Berry has made several other astute moves to make Cleveland competitive and now a contender in the balanced AFC North.

Berry signed Myles Garrett, the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year, to a long-term contract extension and locked up Pro Bowl running back Nick Chubb, cornerback Denzel Ward, guards Joel Bitonio and Wyatt Teller and tight end David Njoku to multi-year deals.

He acquired wide receiver Amari Cooper in a trade with Dallas and fortified the roster with some solid draft picks, highlighted by linebacker Jeremiah Owusu-Koramoah, corner Martin Emerson Jr. and tackle Dawand Jones.

## Colts' representative Ryan Kelly says he's opposed to the NFL season expanding to 18 games

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis Colts center Ryan Kelly made one thing perfectly clear Wednesday: He's opposed to an 18-game season in any form.

The NFL's Players Association executive committee member wasted no time explaining his concerns following the second day of this week's three-day minicamp at Colts headquarters. Kelly's biggest concern is player safety.

"I think there's a reason they're already putting that out there in the media, right? Start talking about it, next thing you know people will think it's going to happen," the four-time Pro Bowler said. "I hope not. I think you start looking, 16 was a lot for a lot of guys and 17 is even more, right? It's a lot too on your body, but this is a business and it's about making money."

Murmurs of adding another game to the league's already long season began in earnest after commissioner Roger Goodell addressed the issue on "The Pat McAfee Show" in April.

Since then, the debate has only ramped up.

On Tuesday, Colts defensive end Kwity Paye made it clear he expected any deal brokered between the league owners and union leaders to include at least an extra game paycheck if an 18th game is added.

Kelly took it a step further, suggesting it may require ownership to give players a 50-50 share of the NFL's total revenue base or possibly lifetime medical insurance — two things he doesn't believe are really possible.

Still, he knows what it would mean



Ryan Kelly

— more money in the owners' pockets and likely more money in players' pockets. He's just not sure the risk is worth the cost.

"The fans, and rightfully so, shouldn't know all the injuries we go through, but they don't know what it takes to play on Sundays," said Kelly, Indy's first-round pick in 2016. "I think it's just too many games."

The Colts announced Tuesday that safety Daniel Scott suffered his second straight season-ending injury during Indy's offseason workouts. Scott, a fifth-round draft pick in 2023, was trying to return from a torn anterior cruciate ligament in one of his knees. Last week, coach Shane Steichen said Scott tore an Achilles tendon.

Kelly also noted that there has been discussion about changing the way offseason workouts are conducted in the future. One potential change would be allowing players to start ramping up in-town workouts in early July as they prepare for training camp, rather than going back and forth between their homes and the team complex.

"We throw, we do all these things and then we don't see each for two months," Kelly said, referring to the current schedule. "So it's like, is that best and most effective way to train and to really get the most out of it? I think the counter argument is that you add a month in the beginning of the season, it makes the season feel even longer when the league's pushing for 18 (games) and we're already playing 17. So I think there's going to be some back and forth and I don't think there's going to be a perfect solution."

## High School Calendar

THURSDAY, JUNE 6

BOYS GOLF: (Regional) Bluffton, Norwell at The Players Club in Muncie, 8 a.m.

## Expanded CFP will begin with 1st-round game on Dec. 20

By JOE REEDY  
AP Sports Writer

The first year of the 12-team College Football Playoff will kick off with a first-round game on Dec. 20 and conclude with the title game one month later in Atlanta.

The CFP announced its entire schedule on Wednesday. The four first-round games will be on Dec. 20 and 21. ABC and ESPN will televise games on Friday and Saturday night with an 8 p.m. EST kickoff, while TNT will have the Dec. 21 afternoon games at 12 p.m. and 4 p.m. The afternoon games will go up against a pair of NFL games with Houston-Kansas City at 1 p.m. and Baltimore-Pittsburgh at 4:30 p.m.

Mike Mulvihill, Fox president for insights and analytics, thinks there will be room to accommodate both audiences. Fox has the Ravens-Steelers game as it goes up against a CFP late afternoon matchups.

"I think it will be fine for the NFL and college football to coexist on that date. I think both events will rate just fine," he

said.

The four first-round games, which will be played on college campuses, will be announced on Dec. 8. TNT has a pair of games through a sublicense with ESPN.

ESPN's \$7.8 billion deal with the CFP, which was announced in March, allowed it to sublicense games to other networks. Financial terms of the sublicense were not announced.

The quarterfinals, semifinals and championship will air on ESPN.

The top four conference champions will receive first-round byes. The quarterfinals will begin on Dec. 31 with the Fiesta Bowl at 7:30 p.m. New Year's Day will kickoff with the Peach Bowl at 1 p.m. followed by the Rose Bowl in its traditional 5 p.m. spot and the Sugar Bowl at 8:45 p.m.

The semifinals are the Orange Bowl on Jan. 9 and Cotton Bowl on Jan. 10. Both have 7:30 p.m. start times before the championship game takes place on Jan. 20 in Atlanta.

ESPN will announce its schedule for most of the bowl games on Thursday.

## Pro athletes know gambling on their games is non-negotiable

By JIMMY GOLEN  
AP Sports Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Professional athletes get the lecture at the start of every season, and see the warnings any time they walk into their locker room or clubhouse: If you gamble on your games, the consequences are severe.

And, every once in a while, there is a more personal reminder.

When Major League Baseball banned San Diego Padres infielder Tucupita Marcano for life — following the NBA's permanent exile of Toronto Raptors forward Jontay Porter in April — it reinforced the message that the talk about gambling isn't just talk.

"What you do in the dark will come to light, I guess," Pirates outfielder Andrew McCutchen said this week after Marcano, his former teammate, was banished. "And you've got to deal with the consequences of poor choices."

A 24-year-old Venezuelan with 149 games of major league experience, Marcano was the first active baseball player in a century banned for life for gambling. MLB said he placed hundreds of bets totaling more than \$150,000 on baseball in 2022 and 2023 — including wagers on the Pirates while he was on Pittsburgh's big

league injured list.

"I don't know if it's anywhere closer to home than here, because a lot of these guys were his teammates," Pirates manager Derek Shelton said. "We're talking about a 24-year-old kid that's been banned for life. I think that'll resonate extremely hard in our clubhouse."

Baseball dodged an even bigger scandal when two-way Japanese star Shohei Ohtani was found to be blameless in connection with the millions of dollars in bets placed by his former interpreter. Ipe Mizuhara admitted stealing nearly \$17 million from the unsuspecting athlete's bank account to fund his gambling addiction; he pleaded guilty to bank and tax fraud on Wednesday — the same day MLB banned Marcano and suspended four other players, who bet on major league games while in the minors, for one year.

Porter, who played 37 career NBA games for Memphis and Toronto over the last four seasons, went even further — sharing inside information with bettors and taking himself out of games early to help deliver the under on prop bets.

Other players said they should have known they were gambling

with their careers.

"The rules are very clear, and everybody knows what not to do," Dallas Mavericks swingman Tim Hardaway Jr. said Wednesday at media day before the opener of the NBA Finals. "We have countless, countless meetings in the summer and during preseason and throughout the season."

Gambling has long been a scourge of professional sports, at least since the 1919 Chicago White Sox threw the World Series and brought to the forefront the risk of players giving less than their full effort. For decades after, any connection with gambling was forbidden.

"The reason is simple: We have to protect the integrity of this game," said Torey Lovullo, who managed one of the suspended players, pitcher Andrew Saalfrank, for parts of this season and last.

But leagues more recently opened their minds — and wallets — to some forms of gambling, once they realized they could get a piece of the action. What started with an acceptance of fantasy sports became a widespread embrace of full-on sports gambling since 2018, when the U.S. Supreme Court cleared the way for it in most states.

Still, gambling on one's own sport remains a no-no.

The fear is that players — especially those at the lower end of the salary scale — could be swayed by gamblers offering them a cut if they shave a few points or make a timely error or pull themselves out of a game before a milestone is hit, as Porter did. (Porter made \$1.9 million in 2021-22 but was earning around \$400,000 on a two-way contract this season.)

"I'd like to think there's too much integrity within our fraternity to do that, but honestly I know money can sway a lot of people. I hope that's not the case at all," Detroit Tigers player representative Casey Mize said Wednesday. "And, yes, the fact that it's taken three or four years for this to come out is, you can't help but think maybe there will be more the past few years."

Baseball Rule 21 — many players and managers can cite it by number — says: "Any player, umpire, or Club or League official or employee, who shall bet any sum whatsoever upon any baseball game in connection with which the bettor has a duty to perform, shall be declared permanently ineligible." It's posted in every clubhouse in English and Spanish.

Shelton called it the "one non-negotiable rule we have in our sport. ... The gold standard."

"They just make it so clear that 'Fine, go bet on the other things, but don't bet on your sport,'" Mets outfielder and union representative Brandon Nimmo said before New York's game against the Nationals on Wednesday. "For me, it's such a clear-cut line that you know you are doing wrong when you are doing it."

As Nimmo spoke, the 4,000 square-foot BetMGM Sportsbook in the left field concourse was efficiently separating fans from their money. A BetMGM sign just to the right of the batter's eye in center field reminded those in the stands that their next bet was no farther away than their smartphone.

"But also just because they are selling beers here doesn't mean I want to have a beer before the game," Nimmo said. "There are things that we have to abstain from that are available at the park."

No matter what rules and safeguards are in place, Nimmo said, someone will try to find a way around them.

But not him.

"I am just not that greedy," he said. "For me, the juice isn't worth the squeeze."

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASKETBALL

### NBA FINALS

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)  
**Thursday, June 6**  
 Dallas at Boston, 8:30 p.m.  
**Sunday, June 9**  
 Dallas at Boston, 8 p.m.  
**Wednesday, June 12**  
 Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
**Friday, June 14**  
 Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.  
**Monday, June 17**  
 x-Dallas at Boston, TBA  
**Thursday, June 20**  
 x-Boston at Dallas, TBA  
**Sunday, June 23**  
 x-Dallas at Boston, TBA

### WNBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Connecticut	9	0	1.000	—
New York	8	2	.800	1½
Atlanta	4	3	.571	4
Chicago	3	5	.375	5½
Indiana	2	9	.182	8
Washington	0	9	.000	9

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	6	2	.750	—
Las Vegas	5	2	.714	½
Seattle	6	3	.667	½
Phoenix	4	6	.400	3
Dallas	3	5	.375	3
Los Angeles	2	6	.250	4

#### Tuesday's Games

Connecticut 76, Washington 59  
 New York 88, Chicago 75  
 Seattle 80, Phoenix 62

#### Wednesday's Games

Las Vegas 95, Dallas 81  
 Minnesota at Los Angeles, late

#### Thursday's Games

Chicago at Washington, 7 p.m.  
 New York at Atlanta, 7:30 p.m.

#### Friday's Games

Indiana at Washington, 7:30 p.m.  
 Dallas at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Phoenix, 10 p.m.  
 Seattle at Las Vegas, 10 p.m.

#### Saturday's Games

New York at Connecticut, 1 p.m.  
 Atlanta at Chicago, 5 p.m.

## HOCKEY

### NHL FINALS

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

#### Saturday, June 8

Edmonton at Florida, 8 p.m.

#### Monday, June 10

Edmonton at Florida, 8 p.m.

#### Thursday, June 13

Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

#### Saturday, June 15

Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

#### Tuesday, June 18

x-Edmonton at Florida, TBA

#### Friday, June 21

x-Florida at Edmonton, TBA

#### Monday, June 24

x-Edmonton at Florida, TBA

## BASEBALL

### MLB

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	44	19	.698	—
Baltimore	39	21	.650	3½
Boston	31	31	.500	12½
Tampa Bay	31	31	.500	12½
Toronto	29	32	.475	14

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	40	20	.667	—
Kansas City	36	26	.581	5
Minnesota	33	28	.541	7½
Detroit	31	31	.500	10
Chicago	15	47	.242	26

##### West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	35	27	.565	—
Texas	30	32	.484	5
Houston	28	35	.444	7½
Oakland	24	38	.387	11
Los Angeles	23	38	.377	11½

#### Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 8, Kansas City 5  
 Atlanta 8, Boston 3  
 N.Y. Yankees 5, Minnesota 1  
 Tampa Bay 9, Miami 5  
 Baltimore 10, Toronto 1

#### Wednesday's Games

Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 6  
 Detroit 3, Texas 1  
 Houston 8, St. Louis 5  
 L.A. Angels 4, San Diego 2  
 Seattle 4, Oakland 3

#### Thursday's Games

Boston 9, Atlanta 0  
 St. Louis 4, Houston 2  
 Tampa Bay 5, Miami 3  
 Toronto 3, Baltimore 2  
 N.Y. Yankees 9, Minnesota 5  
 Texas 9, Detroit 1

Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 6

San Diego at L.A. Angels, late  
 Seattle at Oakland, late  
 Kansas City at Cleveland, p.p.d.

#### Thursday's Games

Baltimore (Poyth 0-0) at Toronto (Kikuchi 2-5), 1:07 p.m.  
 Kansas City (Singer 4-2) at Cleveland (Bibee 4-1), 1:10 p.m.

Seattle (Woo 2-0) at Oakland (Sears 4-4), 3:37 p.m.  
 Minnesota (López 5-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Stroman 5-2), 7:05 p.m.

Boston (Houck 5-5) at Chicago White Sox (Woodford 0-1), 8:10 p.m.

#### Friday's Games

Milwaukee at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.  
 Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.

Cleveland at Miami, 7:10 p.m.  
 San Francisco at Texas, 8:05 p.m.  
 Boston at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.

Seattle at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.  
 Houston at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.  
 Toronto at Oakland, 9:40 p.m.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	44	19	.698	—
Atlanta	34	25	.576	8
Washington	27	34	.443	16
New York	27	35	.435	16½
Miami	21	41	.339	22½

##### Central Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	36	26	.581	—
Chicago	31	31	.500	5
St. Louis	29	31	.483	6
Pittsburgh	29	32	.475	6½
Cincinnati	29	33	.468	7

##### West Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	38	25	.603	—
San Diego	32	32	.500	6½
San Francisco	30	33	.476	8
Arizona	29	33	.468	8½
Colorado	21	40	.344	16

#### Tuesday's Games

Pittsburgh 1, L.A. Dodgers 0  
 N.Y. Mets 6, Washington 3  
 Atlanta 8, Boston 3  
 Tampa Bay 9, Miami 5  
 Philadelphia 2, Milwaukee 1, 10 innings

Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 6

Cincinnati 4, Colorado 1  
 Houston 8, St. Louis 5  
 L.A. Angels 4, San Diego 2  
 Arizona 8, San Francisco 5

#### Wednesday's Games

Boston 9, Atlanta 0  
 St. Louis 4, Houston 2  
 N.Y. Mets 9, Washington 1  
 Philadelphia 2, Milwaukee 0  
 Cincinnati 12, Colorado 7  
 San Francisco 9, Arizona 3  
 Tampa Bay 5, Miami 3  
 Pittsburgh 10, L.A. Dodgers 6  
 Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 6

San Diego at L.A. Angels, late  
 L.A. Dodgers (Buehler 1-3) at Pittsburgh (Falter 3-2), 6:40 p.m.  
 Atlanta (López 3-2) at Washington (Parker 4-3), 6:45 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Assad 4-1) at Cincinnati (Greene 3-2), 7:10 p.m.  
 Colorado (Quattrill 4-4) at St. Louis (Gray 7-3), 7:45 p.m.

Arizona (Ceconi 1-4) at San Diego (Vásquez 1-3), 9:40 p.m.

#### Friday's Games

Milwaukee at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.  
 Minnesota at Pittsburgh, 6:40 p.m.  
 Atlanta at Washington, 6:45 p.m.  
 L.A. Dodgers at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.

Chicago Cubs at Cincinnati, 7:10 p.m.  
 Cleveland at Miami, 7:10 p.m.  
 San Francisco at Texas, 8:05 p.m.  
 Colorado at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.  
 Arizona at San Diego, 9:40 p.m.

## Midwest League

### High-A Midwest League Glance

#### East Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Lake County	30	22	.577	—
Great Lakes	28	25	.528	2½
Lansing	28	25	.528	2½
West Michigan	28	25	.528	2½
Dayton	26	27	.491	4½
Fort Wayne	23	30	.434	7½

#### West Division

	W	L	Pct.	GB
Wisconsin	34	19	.642	—
Cedar Rapids	31	21	.596	2½
Beloit	24	27	.471	9
Quad Cities	23	30	.434	11
South Bend	23	30	.434	11
Peoria	18	35	.340	16

#### Tuesday, June 4

Cedar Rapids 5, Great Lakes 2  
 Lansing 9, Dayton 2  
 South Bend 7, West Michigan 3  
 Peoria 6, Fort Wayne 5  
 Lake County at Beloit, p.p.d.

Wisconsin 9, Quad Cities 5

Wisconsin 6, Quad Cities 5  
 Great Lakes 10, Cedar Rapids 3  
 Dayton 4, Lansing 1  
 West Michigan 3, South Bend 2  
 Peoria 7, Fort Wayne 3  
 Beloit 4, Lake County 3

#### Thursday, June 6

Lake County at Beloit, 2, 5 p.m.  
 Cedar Rapids at Great Lakes, 7:05 p.m.  
 Lansing at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.  
 West Michigan at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.

Peoria at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.  
 Quad Cities at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m.

#### Friday, June 7

Cedar Rapids at Great Lakes, 7:05 p.m.  
 Lansing at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.  
 West Michigan at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.

Peoria at Fort Wayne, 7:05 p.m.  
 Quad Cities at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m.

#### Saturday, June 8

Peoria at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m.  
 Cedar Rapids at Great Lakes, 7:05 p.m.  
 Lansing at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.  
 West Michigan at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.

Lake County at Beloit, 7:35 p.m.  
 Quad Cities at Wisconsin, 7:40 p.m.

#### Sunday, June 9

Cedar Rapids at Great Lakes, 1:05 p.m.  
 Lansing at Dayton, 1:05 p.m.  
 Peoria at Fort Wayne, 1:05 p.m.  
 Lake County at Beloit, 2:05 p.m.  
 West Michigan at South Bend, 2:05 p.m.

Quad Cities at Wisconsin, 2:10 p.m.

#### Monday, June 10

No games scheduled

#### Tuesday, June 11

Wisconsin at West Michigan, 6:35 p.m.  
 Fort Wayne at Lake County, 6:35 p.m.

Great Lakes at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.  
 Cedar Rapids at Lansing, 7:05 p.m.  
 Beloit at Quad Cities, 7:30 p.m.  
 South Bend at Peoria, 7:35 p.m.

## TRANSACTIONS

### Wednesday's Transactions

#### BASEBALL

##### Major League Baseball

##### American League

BOSTON RED SOX — Reinstated OF Tyler O'Neill from the 10-day IL. Optioned C Tyler Heineman to Worcester (IL).

Placed RHP Chris Martin on the 15-day IL, retroactive to June 2. Recalled RHP Zack Kelly from Worcester.

##### DETROIT TIGERS —

Placed RHP Alex Faedo on the 15-day IL. Recalled RHP Mason Englert from Toledo (IL).

##### HOUSTON ASTROS —

Optioned LHP Parker Mushinski to Sugar Land (PCL). Selected the contract of RHP Nick Hernandez from Sugar Land.

Transferred RHP Jose Urquidy to the 60-day IL from the 15-day IL.

##### KANSAS CITY ROYALS —

Agreed to terms with 3B Kevin Padlo on a minor league contract.

##### OAKLAND ATHLETICS —

Reinstated RHP Joe Boyle from the 15-day IL and optioned him to Las Vegas (PCL).

##### TAMPA BAY RAYS —

Reinstated RHP Zach Eflin from the 15-day IL. Optioned RHP Justin Sterner to Durham (IL).

##### TEXAS RANGERS —

Sent 2B Justin Foscue to Arizona Complex League (ACL) Rangers on a rehab assignment.

##### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS —

Sent SS Gerardoardo Perdomo to Reno (PCL) on a rehab assignment.

##### MILWAUKEE BREWERS —

Recalled LHP Aaron Ashby and RHP Tobias Myers from Nashville (IL). Placed LHP Robert Gasser on the 15-day IL, retroactive to June 2. Optioned RHP Janson Junk to Nashville.

## FOOTBALL

### National Football League

#### CLEVELAND BROWNS —

Announced head coach Kevin Stefanski and general manager Andrew Berry received contract extensions. Signed S Brady Breeze. Waived K Lucas Havrisik.

#### KANSAS CITY CHIEFS —

Signed draft pick WR Xavier Worthy.

#### LOS ANGELES CHARGERS —

Released C Corey Linsley.

#### NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS —

Signed draft pick G Layden Robinson.

#### PITTSBURGH STEELERS —

Signed DBs Cameron Sutton and Grayland Arnold. Waived WR Izaiah Gathings.

#### TENNESSEE TITANS —

Signed draft pick DT T'Vondre Sweat.

## HOCKEY

### National Hockey League

#### LOS ANGELES KINGS —

Signed LW Andre Lee to a one-year, two-way contract.

# Kipruto banned

(Continued from Page A1)

and his alcohol use, which it said had increased during the COVID-19 pandemic. Kipruto also sought to dispute the validity of some blood samples in the case.

A statement on Kipruto's website dated Tuesday and attributed to unnamed legal counsel indicated he is considering an appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport. "Despite exhaustive efforts to present comprehensive medical evidence and expert tes-

timonies, the ruling failed to consider crucial aspects of Rhonex's health and circumstances," the statement said.

It is the latest in a long series of doping cases involving Kenyan distance runners.

Fellow Kenyan runner Rodgers Kwe-moi, who placed fourth behind Kipruto in the world championship 10,000 in 2019, was banned for six years last month in a similar case based around blood sample data.

# Arenado homers, Mikolas' start gives Cardinals win over Astros

By KRISTIE RIEKEN

### AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON (AP) — Nolan Arenado homered, Alec Burleson added an RBI



My husband's career is turning me into a single parent

Dear Annie: My husband, "John," and I have been married for eight years, and we have two young children. Recently, he's been working late almost every night and spending weekends at the office. When I ask him about it, he says he's trying to secure a promotion that will benefit our family in the long run.

I've always admired his work ethic and ambition, but I feel like a single parent. Our kids miss him, and I'm lonely and overwhelmed handling everything on my own. I want to support his career, but I'm worried about the toll it's taking on our family. I'm not sure how to bring this up without it sounding like I don't support his goals. — Basically a Single Parent

Dear Single Parent: It sounds like John has the best interests of your family in mind, which means that, ultimately, you should be making this choice together. Start by expressing how much you admire his work ethic, and then move on to how much he is missed at home, both by you and your children.

It might be worth asking how long this period of late nights and working weekends is expected to last. Does he need to power through for one more month, or will this be the "new normal" once his promotion is secured? Once you have a better idea of his timeline, you can work on carving out some designated family time.

Dear Annie: I am 34 with a 10-year-old son from a previous relationship. My boyfriend is 38. He was raised by a drunk who did a poor job taking care of her kids. He likes to

be up all hours of the night and have his music blasting, and it seems like he doesn't care that my son and I are up in the morning for school and whatnot. I feel like I am the only responsible one all the time. I tried to talk to him and explain things. He just tells me I am not thinking of him and his feelings and makes me feel like the bad guy, when all I'm doing is thinking of my son. I feel so lost. — Help

Dear Help: You are correct that your son should be your No. 1 priority. Explain to your boyfriend that while you care about his feelings, a healthy environment for your son is nonnegotiable. If he continues to disregard your needs, it may be time to reconsider this relationship. You deserve a partner who respects and supports what is best for your family.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creator-publishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com.

© 2024 CREATORS.COM

My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Cults never deliver what they promise

Question: I'm a baby boomer who survived the turbulent '60s and I'm thankful to the Lord. But I'm not blind to the devastation we're still watching as a result of the "free love" cult that emerged out of the rebellion. An article from UC Berkeley explored why people are so obsessed with cults. There's the out-of-control cult of self. It seems that people live in a state of chaos and crisis! Is there a Biblical answer to the "cult boom" that is so pervasive in the 21st century — even in some churches? Is this a sign of the times — the last days? — C.B.

Answer: Cults never deliver what they prom-

ise. They will all fail because they aren't based on God's Word. There's a price to pay for the fallout of the recklessness of the freethinking '60s. Think of the health classes taught in public schools that emerged in the 20th century — even before kids reached high school! The material presented would have been considered pornographic a generation before. Just because society slips it under the umbrella of education does not change the fact that all sacredness to personal relationships has been destroyed. No wonder young people have no shame. They have no idea what a standard of sacred respectability is. And this has become an epi-

dem in many churches. There is but one power available to redeem the course of events — the power of prayer and the proclamation of the Gospel of God's redemption for man's sins. From one end of the Bible to the other, there's the record of those whose prayers were answered — lives changed — by God's power. The Gospel is a message of life and hope for all the world and it will not be snuffed out even in the last days. What a glorious truth!

(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.

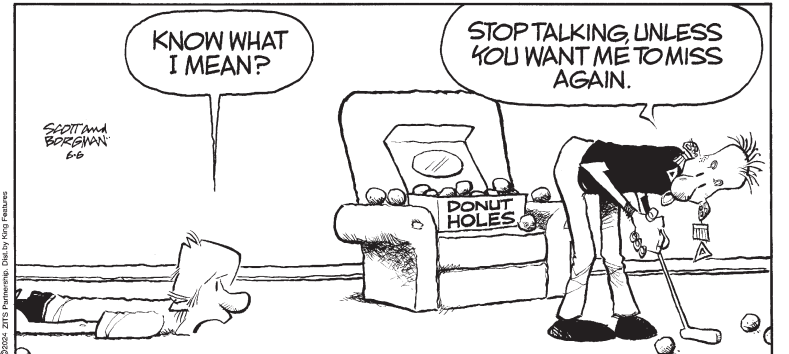
BEETLE BAILEY



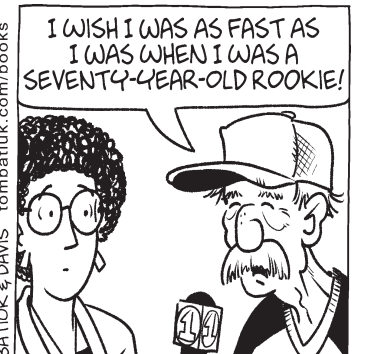
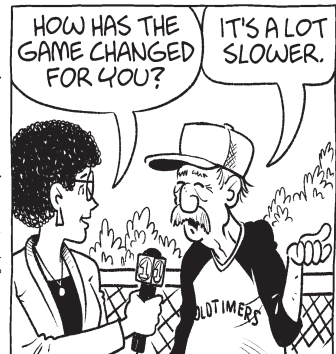
BLONDIE



ZITS



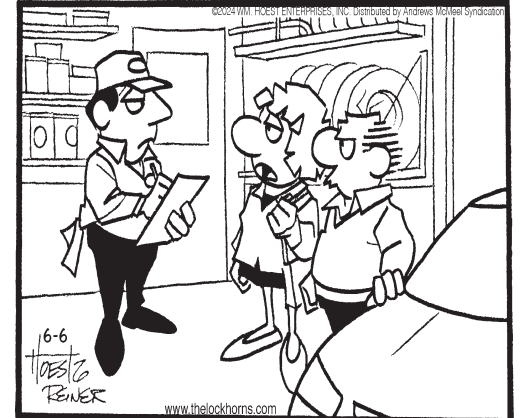
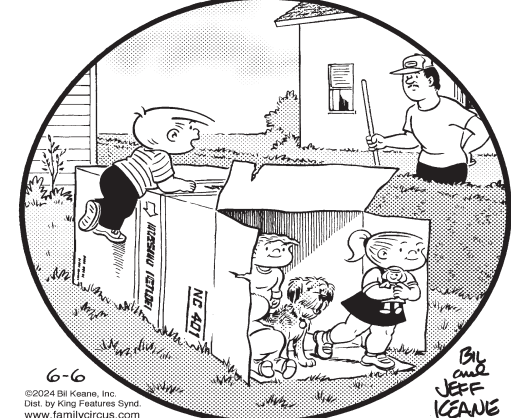
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



"Mommy got a new washer, and we got a new clubhouse."

"WHENEVER MY HUSBAND IS DRIVING, THE CAR STOPS WITH A JERK."

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 and solution time: 24 mins. Includes 'Yesterday's answer' section.

Television schedule table with columns for time slots (06:06 to 12:30) and rows for various channels (WINM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, etc.).

# 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

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

Difficulty: ★★★

6/6

©2024 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

## 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/migworden](http://grouptoursite.com/tours/migworden)

(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)

## VEHICLES Auto/Trucks

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

## SERVICES

### Services

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

### THE ODD JOB

Outdoor projects (such as landscaping, painting, planting, etc.), house keeping (such as laundry, dishes, sweeping, dusting, painting, etc.). Feeling stressed with house work or indoor & outside projects?? Give us call to become one of our clients! You give us a list & we negotiate the price & get the job done! Hope to hear from you! A&T Odd Jobs, 260-820-2680.

### ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICES!

A 20 word, line classified in the Bluffton News-Banner for two months is \$97. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224 or submit online to [www.news-banner.com](http://www.news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

**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)

## Services

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

**GET DISH SATELLITE TV** + Internet! Free Install, Free HD-DVR Upgrade, 80,000 On-Demand Movies, Plus Limited Time Up To \$600 In Gift Cards. Call Today! 1-855-551-9764 (I)

**LIVE PAIN FREE** with CBD products from AceWellness. We guarantee highest quality, most competitive pricing on CBD products. Softgels, Oils, Skincare, Vape & more. Coupon Code: PRINT20 Call Now 833-226-3105 (I)

**DIRECTV- ALL YOUR** entertainment. Nothing on your roof! Sign up for Directv and get your first three months of Max, Paramount+, Showtime, Starz, MGM+ and Cinemax included. Choice package \$84.99/mo. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-885-8931 (I)

## Lottery Numbers

### Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

**Cash 5** — 13-15-19-22-23  
**Lotto Plus** — 04-10-27-36-39-43  
**Cash4Life** — 24-34-36-38-52, Cash Ball: 02  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 08-09-11-13-16-17-19-21-23-24-34-36-40-42-46-47-56-73-74-78, BE: 16  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 04-02-06, SB: 09  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 01-00-03, SB: 04  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 05-01-04-07, SB: 09  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 03-04-09-01, SB: 04  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 02-09-14-16-22-25-27-33-35-38-39-49-50-57-58-60-65-66-70-71, BE: 39  
**Hoosier Lotto** — 08-20-29-36-40-42  
**MEGA MILLIONS**  
 Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$20 million  
**POWERBALL**  
 19-29-35-36-45 Powerball: 16; 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.

# June GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

**LANCASTER Senior Apartments**  
 1800 S. Wayne St. | Bluffton

- 1 & 2 Bedrooms
- Maintenance Free
- All Ground-level
- Private Entrances
- Water Included

260 824-5280

TDD: 7-1-1 For those 62+ or disabled, regardless of age.

**HIDEAWAY BEER & BOURBON**

**THURSDAY - Dollar Off Drinks (Excludes Pop)**

**WEDNESDAY - KARAOKE**

**FRI. & SAT. - Live Music**

Follow us on for our Events.  
 123 S JOHNSON ST. • 824-0455

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

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 we all deserve.

—OSSIAN—  
 1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A  
 Ossian, IN 46777  
 Attorney Gerret J. Swearingin

**SWEARINGIN ELDER LAW**

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

(260) 888-9256  
 FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION!

**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

**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

**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)

**Zap Electric, Inc.**  
 260-824-2927  
 Commercial-Industrial-Residential  
 24 Hr. Emergency Service  
 Charles Miller-Electrician  
 1233 W. Cherry St., Bluffton  
 FREE Estimates

**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

**Jerry Flack & Associates**  
 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

**LAWN CARE**

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

SCHEDULE TODAY!  
 FREE ESTIMATES  
 260-223-5884

**Genesis Pest Services**  
 Locally Owned by Geoffrey Horner  
 260-227-0742  
[geoff@genesispestservices.com](http://geoff@genesispestservices.com)

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

**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

**STOR-N-GO STORAGE UNITS**  
 2740 E. 200 N. • Bluffton, IN • 260.273.8345  
 with Security Cameras

**YOUR BUSINESS IN THE NEWS-BANNER Every Day!**

For as little as ...  
**\$187**  
 PER ISSUE

Plus The Ossian Journal Every Week!  
 ... you can keep your name in the public eye!  
 Increase your business with regular advertising!

Call 824-0224 or 622-4108  
 July deadline is Tues., June 25!

**AUCTIONS**

**Auctions**

**414 N MERIDIAN ST.** 3 RING AUCTION ON JUNE 8TH AT THE BRICKER AUCTION HOUSE Ring 1 @ 9:00 Farm Items - Live Only Ring 2 @ 10:00 Multi Estate Simulcast Auction - Bid live or Online - Trailers, Trucks, Scissor Lift, House Hold Items, Firearms, and more! Ring 3 @ 11:00 - Live & Online Small Animals such as chickens, rabbits, reptiles, etc. Bid by going to [bidbricker.com](http://bidbricker.com) Jun. 08 9:00 AM-6:00 PM Rain or Shine

**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 [glacierpure@outlook.com](mailto:glacierpure@outlook.com)

**This Week's Garage Sales**

Clip & Save

**5975 N. 600 E.,** Tocsin, June 7 & 8, 9-5. Dolls and collectibles, household, pet supplies, 25' motorhome cover, much more.

**LARGE MULTI-FAMILY UNIQUE** yard sale, 823 Parkway Dr. (Riverview Addition), Thurs. 3-7, Fri. 8-6, Sat. 8-noon. Toys, name brand quality citing, decor, and antiques.

**JUNE 6, 7, 8, 9** to 5, 15018 Lothamer Dr., Fort Wayne. 26' Flagstaff camper, tools, large air compressor, Vera Bradley, books, clothes (infant-adult), toys, craft items, household, misc.

**JUNE 6 & 7, 9-4,** office of Valley Parks Apartments, 300 block of West Dustman Rd. Women's clothes 1, 2, & 3X, size 16 jeans, men's shirts large-3X, some kids clothes, bras 2X-4X, some new.

**550 CHANNING WAY** (Bell Brook), Bluffton, Fri., June 7, 8am-6pm, Sat., June 8, 8am-4pm. Anything & everything you need for a baby boy up to size 12. Tons of nice boys clothes (newborn through size 12), shoes, lots of toys (indoor & outdoor), ball house, Little Tykes basketball goal, ride on toys, play car, high chair, pack n play, strollers, car seats, baby gates, crib that converts into toddler bed. Some seasonal decor & random items.

**GARAGE SALE** 808 HEATHERWOOD LANE OSSIAN Jun. 6 3-8pm, Jun. 7 8am-4pm, Jun. 8 8am-12pm. Boys clothes up to size 6. Girls clothes up to size 10. Kids shoes, toys, bike, scooter. Womens S-L. Mens M-L. Household items.

Receive a free garage sale kit when placing a three day, line classified ad.

## Public Sale Calendar

**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! Pick up June 10, 2-6 p.m., 4854 N 400 W, Decatur. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**JUNE 10-JUNE 17 - Online only firearm - Buroff and others, owners.** Rifles, shotguns & handguns. Marlin, Winchester, Remington, Browning, Bush Master, Colt, Walther. Review all registration information before bidding. Auction preview & online bidding assistance June 12, 4 p.m.-6 p.m., 215 E Market, Bluffton, IN. Sale Manager Isaac Stoller, 260-413-3515, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com).

**BIDDING ENDS JUNE 12 - (Online Only Personal Property Auction) - Huston Watters, seller.** 2003 Chevy Impala, well cared for modern furniture, holiday decor, glassware, household, woodworking tools, air compressor, hand & power tools, lawn & garden, Toro snowblower, Toro push lawn mowers, much more! Auction preview & online bidding assistance: June 10 from 4-6 p.m., 1338 Manor Dr., Bluffton, IN. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-426-0633.

**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 Riviera 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., Ossian, IN. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

**BIDDING STARTS CLOSING JUNE 20 - 10 a.m. - Steve and Dave Bell, owners.** Bell's Auto & Truck Sale retirement liquidation! Antiques/primitives, automobile advertising, tool chests, rod iron, vintage enameled signs, Ford tractor, Mercedes convertible, John Deere mowers, pedal cars/tractors, skid loader, fire hydrants, traffic lights, thermometers, automobiles, automotive tools, shop equipment, more! Preview June 18, 3-5 p.m., 1420 Goshen Ave., Fort Wayne. Pick up June 21, 10 a.m.-3 p.m., June 24, 1-5 p.m., June 25, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.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.

**JUNE 23 - 4 p.m. - Multiple consignors, owners.** Online only consignment auction! 1,000+ lots! Huge amount of hand tools, large assortment of household items, camping supplies, gun safe, dollhouses, lodge cookware, hunting items, photography accessories, guitar, kitchen items, exercise equipment, restaurant equipment and much more! Preview June 20, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur, IN. Pick up June 24, 1-6 p.m. and June 25, 9 a.m.-noon. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**SUDOKU ANSWER**

9/9 ★★★

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