

The News - Banner

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SATURDAY, JUNE 8, 2024

BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

\$1.00

Man slain in pedestrian accident downtown

By HOLLY GASKILL
A fatal pedestrian accident took the life of a Bluffton resident early Friday morning. An accident report from the Bluffton Police Department states Clarence Cottrell Jr., 91, was struck by a 2008 GMC Sierra pickup truck in the crosswalk at the

intersection of Main and Washington streets at approximately 7:38 a.m. Cottrell was unresponsive at the scene with "obvious trauma," the report states. The driver, Matthew P. Davis, 36, Bluffton, reported he had stopped at a red light on Washington Street and proceeded left when

it turned green. Davis said he had not seen a pedestrian but heard the collision, backed slightly, and exited the vehicle, where he saw Cottrell. Multiple witnesses confirmed this series of events. Video footage from three nearby locations also showed Cottrell entering the cross-

walk, reacting to the oncoming vehicle, and being thrown backward by the collision. Cottrell was partially pinned under the truck before it backed several feet away. Witnesses and emergency responders rushed to aid Cottrell, who the report states was taken for immediate medical attention.

The investigating officer observed a low rising sun in line with Washington Street and the crosswalk, noting it made it difficult to see eastward. The crash investigation is ongoing, pending a coroner's report and state toxicology reports.
holly@news-banner.com

Puckett charged with robbery and battery days after drug arrest

By SYDNEY KENT
A man from Bluffton received charges of robbery and battery committed with a deadly weapon days after he was arrested for high-level drug charges. Ollie Puckett, 23, was charged with robbery, a Level 3 felony, possession of a firearm by a violent felon, a Level 4 felony, and battery committed with a deadly weapon, a Level 5 felony. According to a probable cause affidavit, a detective from the Bluffton Police Department saw a recent Facebook post from Puckett with a picture of red Jordan sneakers. The detective recognized the sneakers from the traffic stop the day prior. The traffic stop revealed a handgun, a plastic bag of methamphetamine that weighed 18.5 grams, eight bags of various amounts of cocaine totaling 11 grams, a bag of

blue pills that later tested positive for fentanyl weighing 1.64 grams, as well as additional paraphernalia and \$485 in cash. In this case, Puckett was charged with dealing methamphetamine and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 2 felonies, dealing a narcotic drug (cocaine), a Level 2 felony, dealing a narcotic drug (fentanyl) and possession of cocaine, both Level 3 felonies, possession of a narcotic drug and possession of a firearm by a serious violent felon, both Level 4 felonies, and possession of paraphernalia, a Class C misdemeanor. A woman in the car during the traffic stop with Puckett sent police a video of him stealing the sneakers in a video, sent to her the day before the stop. In the approximately three-minute-long recording, Puckett is seen

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Hiring, wage growth picked up last month in sign of economic health

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER
AP Economics Writer
WASHINGTON (AP) — America's employers added a strong 272,000 jobs in May, accelerating from April and a sign that companies are still confident enough in the economy to keep hiring despite persistently high interest rates. Last month's sizable job gain suggests that the economy is still growing steadily, propelled by consumer spending on travel, entertainment and other services. U.S. airports, for example, reported near-record traffic over the Memorial Day weekend. A healthy job market typically drives consumer spending, the economy's principal fuel. Though some recent signs had raised concerns about economic weakness, the May jobs report should help assuage those fears. Friday's report from the government did include some signs of a potential slowdown. The unemployment rate, for instance, edged up for a second straight month, to a still-low 4%, from 3.9%, ending a 27-month streak of unemployment below 4%. That streak had matched the longest such run since the late 1960s. President Joe Biden pointed to Friday's jobs report as a sign of the economy's robust health under his administration. He also charged that congressio-

nal Republicans would worsen inflation by cutting health care subsidies and widening the deficit through tax cuts. The presumptive Republican nominee, Donald Trump, has focused his criticism of Biden's economic policies on the inflation surge, which polls show still weighs heavily in voters' assessment of the economy. At a rally in Phoenix on Thursday, he blamed illegal immigration for causing higher prices, an assertion most economists reject. Economists say the mixed signals from Friday's report — a surge in jobs alongside a slight rise in unemployment — suggest that the job market is normalizing after years of distortions related to the pandemic. After the brutal pandemic recession, when unemployment rocketed to nearly 15%, hiring soared in 2022 and 2023 as the economy recovered. Wages, before adjusting for inflation, also jumped as businesses desperately sought workers. "Employment growth is continuing at a solid pace, but there are ample signs that the heat in the labor market over the past few years largely has been removed," said Sarah House, an economist at Wells Fargo. The number of open jobs, while still elevated, has fallen to a three-year low. Fewer

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Serenading summer

Bluffton's summer concert series at Kehoe Park kicked off Friday night with perfect weather, large crowds and Bayou County on center stage. Lead singer David Trojan is shown at left, and above at right alongside lead guitarist Jim O'Neil (left) and Jim Bonventre (middle) on drums. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

U.S. making its biggest push yet to get Israel and Hamas to halt fighting

Is it succeeding?

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER, Associated Press
WASHINGTON (AP) — In Middle East capitals, at the United Nations, from the White House and beyond, the Biden administration is making its most concentrated diplomatic push of the eight-month-old war in Gaza to persuade Israeli and Hamas leaders to take a proposed deal that would bring a cease-fire and release of more hostages. But one week into the U.S. pressure campaign, the world still is waiting for signs that the cease-fire appeal begun May 31 by President Joe Biden was working, by moving Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas leaders toward a negotiating breakthrough. For Israel and Hamas, the U.S. diplomatic press has become a public test of whether either side is ready to stop fighting — at least on any terms that fall short of their professed goals, whether it's the complete crushing of the militant group or the complete withdrawal of Israeli troops from Gaza. For Biden, who describes the proposal as Israeli, it's the latest high-profile test of U.S. leadership in trying to convince ally Israel as well as the militant group to relent in a conflict that is killing tens of thousands of people, inflaming regional tensions and absorbing much of the administration's focus. Here's a look at the U.S.-led push for a Gaza

cease-fire and where it stands:

GOING PUBLIC


It wasn't that the cease-fire proposal Biden outlined in a televised address from the White House a week ago was startlingly new. It was that Biden laid out the terms to the world and put the full weight of the U.S. presidency behind the appeal for both sides to take this deal. The terms that Biden described for the first of three phases sounded much like the deal that U.S., Qatari and Egyptian mediators and Israel and Hamas have been haggling over for months. There would be a six-week cease-fire in which Israeli forces pulled back from populated areas of Gaza. In exchange for Israel releasing hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, Hamas would release some women, older people and wounded among hostages it had seized in the Oct. 7 attacks in Israel that set off the war. The proposal calls for a full release of remaining hostages and an Israeli withdrawal in later phases, although the terms are vague. "Everyone who wants peace now must raise their voices and let the leaders know they should take this deal," Biden said a week ago. But by Friday, neither Israel nor Hamas had said yes. Netanyahu says the terms of the proposal aren't as they have been described publicly and that Israel

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Outside

Cloudy and warm today,
showers likely tonight

Today Sunday Monday
High 78 High 78 High 72
Low 58 Low 54 Low 48
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Vol. 95 No. 186
SATURDAY
June 8, 2024

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Robbery and battery

(Continued from Page 1)

repeatedly beating and kicking a victim — often with a gun in his hand. After several minutes of assaulting the man, Puckett ordered him to stand up, empty his pockets and take off his shoes.

Puckett allegedly told the victim that if continued to speak, he would not be leaving his residence alive. The victim and Puckett reportedly

argued over the victim saying that drugs supplied by Puckett were of low quality.

Towards the end of the video, Puckett again told the victim to stand up and began beating him until he appeared to fall to the ground and have a seizure. Puckett ordered the person recording to shut the phone off. Multiple unnamed men were spotted in the video watching the assault.

The victim told police that the video was not a reenactment and that he was actually assaulted. He advised that he is an addict and was attempting to purchase drugs from Puckett when he was ambushed.

Puckett is scheduled for a pre-trial conference in the matter at 1 p.m. on June 26 in the Wells Circuit Court.

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Hiring and wage growth

(Continued from Page 1)

workers are quitting jobs. Many employers say it's become easier to find workers to fill positions.

But growth in hourly paychecks accelerated last month, a welcome gain for workers but one that could contribute to stickier inflation. Wages rose 4.1% from a year ago, above the inflation rate. Some companies may raise their prices to offset their higher wage costs.

The Federal Reserve's inflation fighters would like to see the economy slow as they consider when to begin cutting their benchmark interest rate. The Fed sharply raised rates in 2022 and 2023 after the recovery from the pandemic recession ignited the worst inflation in 40 years.

Friday's report will likely underscore Fed officials' intention to delay any cuts to their key rate while they monitor inflation and economic data. Most economists expect no Fed rate reductions before September at the earliest. Once the cuts do begin, lower rates on many consumer and business loans, including for mortgages and autos, should follow.

Though Chair Jerome Powell has said he expects inflation to further ease, he has said the Fed's policymakers need more

confidence that inflation will fall back to their 2% target before they would reduce borrowing costs. Annual inflation has declined to 2.7% by the Fed's preferred measure, from above 7% in 2022.

"This report is going to complicate the Fed's job," said Julia Pollak, chief economist for ZipRecruiter. "No one's getting those very clear signals that they were hoping for that a rate cut is appropriate in July or September."

Last month's hiring occurred broadly across most of the economy. But gains were particularly robust in health care, which added 84,000 jobs, and restaurants, hotels, and entertainment providers, which gained 42,000.

Governments added 43,000 positions. Professional and business services, which include managers, architects and information technology, grew by 33,000.

One company that is steadily hiring is Recovia, a health provider based in Phoenix that treats mental health, substance abuse and chronic pain. CEO Lance Fritz said the company plans to open three clinics in the next 12 months, each of which will employ 12 to 14 people.

It's become easier, Fritz said, to hire administrative workers. But competition

is still high for the nurses, physical therapists, and other clinicians they need. And his employees have pushed for — and received — higher pay to offset the effects of inflation and Phoenix's high housing costs.

"We're paying more for people than we used to, that's for sure," Fritz said.

The company is considering using artificial intelligence, he said, to automate some administrative tasks so its employees can spend more time with patients.

One potential sign of weakness in the May employment report was a drop in the proportion of Americans who either have a job or are looking for one; it fell from 62.7% to 62.5%. Most of the drop occurred among people 55 and over, many of whom are retiring baby boomers.

A surge in immigration in the past three years has boosted the size of the U.S. workforce and has been a key driver of the healthy pace of job growth.

With companies posting fewer job openings, many are also hiring more gradually. A key reason why the economy is still showing a net gain in jobs is that layoffs have reached one of their lowest levels in the past two decades.

"Employers are being slow to hire, and slow to fire," Pollak said. "Workers are being slower to switch jobs."

Shane Bombara has seen first-hand the more gradual pace of hiring by many companies. A 32-year-old Pittsburgh resident, Bombara began seeking a new job in January, after business at the life sciences firm where he worked as a sales manager plummeted after COVID. He ramped up his job search after being laid off in April.

There are now fewer jobs in his field than there were in January, he said, and more competition: There are up to 200 applicants on LinkedIn for jobs he has applied for.

Bombara, who has an MBA and nearly seven years' experience in his field, has been frustrated by the impersonal response of many employers. He's applied for 104 jobs and received three interviews. Only one employer has actually turned him down. The two others simply haven't followed up.

"It's kind of demoralizing when you just get these canned emails where it's like, 'OK, we're not going to pursue you,'" Bombara said. "And you see enough of those pile up and you're like, 'OK, what's wrong here?'"

Weather

Saturday, June 8, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:14 p.m. Friday)

High: 79; Low: 59; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 2.45 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly cloudy, with a high near 78. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Today Night: A 30% chance of showers before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 58. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph becoming west after midnight.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 78. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

Monday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 72.

Monday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 48.

Tuesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76.

Tuesday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 56.

Wednesday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Wednesday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

Israel and Hamas

(Continued from Page 1)

will never cease fighting until "the destruction" of Hamas' military and leadership.

In effect, said Nimrod Novik, a former senior adviser to the late Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres, Biden "decided to 'out' Netanyahu and let the Israeli public know how serious the potential for bringing all hostages out."

The U.S. aim: "So Israel would say 'yes' to its own proposal," said Novik, now the Israel fellow at the Washington-based Israel Policy Forum.

KEEPING UP THE PRESSURE

The Biden administration isn't letting up in its drive to get Hamas and Israel on board.

"The U.S. is going to do everything it can in some formulation to keep pushing this. Until there's no place to go any more," said Jonathan Panikoff, a former U.S. intelligence official. He's now the director of the Scowcroft Middle East

Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council's Middle East program.

At the U.N., U.S. diplomats are asking the Security Council to adopt a resolution demanding a permanent cease-fire between Hamas and Israel in Gaza, over Israel's objections. Biden is sending Secretary of State Antony Blinken back to the Middle East next week for his eighth visit since the war began, a lightning tour of Middle East capitals to promote the cease-fire proposal.

CIA director Bill Burns and Biden Middle East adviser Brett McGurk also have traveled to the region to garner support for the deal and show key players how it could work.

The Group of Seven leading global economies endorsed the proposal. So have countries with hostages held by militants in Gaza. Biden, Blinken and other U.S. officials are working the phones to rally support among Arab governments from Egypt and Qatar to Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

DR. GARY CHAPMAN

THE 5 LOVE LANGUAGES

Join us for a banquet dinner with our guest, Dr. Gary Chapman, a well-known speaker and author of *The 5 Love Languages*, which has sold more than 20 million copies and is currently on *The New York Times* best-seller list. Dr. Chapman will teach us how to strengthen our relationship with God and others in order to experience deeper love.

TUESDAY, JUNE 25, 2024

Event & Dinner 6:00 - 8:00 PM

Wells Co. 4-H Building

1240 4-H Park Road / Bluffton, IN

PURCHASE TICKETS BY JUNE 17th AT:

loving-shepherd.org/garychapman or 260.824.9000

Thank you to Family Ford & National Oil for sponsoring this event and our media partner, Bott Radio Network.



OBITUARIES

Agatha June Miller, 88

Agatha June Miller, 88, of Warren, passed away on Friday, June 7, 2024, at Heritage Pointe of Warren.

Agatha was born on June 27, 1935, in Huntington County to Ralph and Opal (Shelton) Highley. She married James Miller on Aug. 21, 1955. James preceded her in death on Jan. 27, 2015.

Agatha was preceded in death by her parents, Ralph and Opal Highley; husband, James Miller; daughter, Cathy Kay Miller; son-in-law, Bob Haley; and brother, Clarence Highley.

Survivors include her children, Cindy Haley of Huntington; Connie Miller of

Warren; and Garry (Lisa) Miller of Warren; six grandchildren; seven great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild.

Friends and family may gather to share and remember on Wednesday, June 12, 2024, at Glancy-H. Brown & Son located at 203 N Matilda St. Warren, IN 46792, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. A funeral service will begin at 3 p.m. with Pastor John Boyanowski officiating. Burial will follow at Woodlawn Cemetery in Warren.

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

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

Wow, what a great concert last night! Be sure to return next Friday, June 14, for the Melloncougar concert from 8-10 p.m. for another amazing performance at Kehoe Park. Kenzie's Coneys and Big Dipper food trucks will be available to purchase food and drinks sold by 2 Pour Guys. (ID required). Special thanks to Title Sponsors Wells County Foundation and ProFed Federal Credit Union.

Next week is shaping up to be another busy week. Events include:

- Free Tennis Lessons at Lion's Park Monday — Friday from 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. depending on age.
- Free Picnic in the Park at Roush Monday — Friday from 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
- Free Craft Club will make a Foam 3D Floating Submarine Craft on June 10 at 11 a.m.
- Lap Swim is every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at noon.
- Free Stone Quarry Tour — June 10th from 2-3 pm. Must be pre-registered.
- Yoga In the Park — Mondays and Wednesdays at Washington Park from 6-7 pm.
- Free Farm Wagon — families in need can stop by every Tuesday at 9 a.m. for fresh food.
- Free Intro to Pickleball — Every Tuesday and Thursday at Washington Park at 10 a.m.
- Free Tot Time — June 11 Scavenger Hunt, June 13 Chalk it up at Roush Park from 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- 5 in 5 5K Race — FIVE 5K's in FIVE weeks. Join us at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights starting June 11.
- Free Tot Time — June 11 Scavenger Hunt, June 13 Chalk it up at Roush Park from 9:00-9:30 a.m.
- 5 in 5 5K Race — FIVE 5K's in FIVE weeks. Join us at 7 p.m. on Tuesday nights starting June 11.
- Free Crafting for a Cause — June 12 — Bookmarks at Roush Park from 11-11:45 a.m.
- Free Foam Party — June 12, 2:00-3:00 p.m. Pickett's Run by the Splash Pad
- Free Art in the Park — Friday, June 7, create a Shark Pullback Toy at Roush Park at 10:30 a.m.
- Free Splash Pads are at 304 E Washington and 925 W Silver Street. Their hours are 11 a.m.-7 p.m.
- Wells Community Swimming Pool - 310 W Spring Street. Pool hours are

1-6 p.m., seven days a week. The pool is heated between 80-82°. We still have openings for Tot Swim, Pee Wee Swim, and Private Swim lessons. Call 824-1550 to schedule.

Ladies, don't forget to get signed up for the **Chick's Run 5K**. The event is on Thursday, June 20, at 7 p.m. There is still time to register yourself or your group! Sign up today at <https://tinyurl.com/23khfw3>.

Calling all dog lovers. Sign up for the **Hot Diggity Dog Jog** on June 22 at 9 a.m. Not only will you and your furry friend have a great time, but the funds raised will also go towards putting in a shade structure at the park. It's a win-win. Sign up today at <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/88158/hot-diggity-dog-jog>.

We have received many requests to keep offering the **Fastest Kid in Town** race, so make sure you sign the kids up at <https://raceroster.com/events/2024/88159/fastest-kid-in-town>. The event will be held at 10:30 a.m. June 22, at Pickett's Run Park.

Excavation work on the Interurban Trail is almost done, so if all goes well, they will start paving by the end of next week. Drain tiles have been installed under the Pickleball Courts at Lancaster Park, and they seem to be doing an excellent job of carrying away all the rainwater. Let's cross our fingers for some lovely dry days for good paving conditions.

We want to close today's article with a shout-out to the James S. Jackson Co. crew for volunteering to install the NEW Life-size Human Foosball game at Lancaster Park. They were fantastic to work with during the park's construction process, and we are so impressed with how they went above and beyond, giving their time and talent to add this unique feature. The money we saved through their generosity and under their leadership really helped us stretch our budget to make this an amazing park. Words cannot express how grateful we are to have such outstanding local businesses that put the community first.

Have a great week!



Shrek Jr. on stage next weekend

Creative Arts Theater will be presenting "Shrek Jr." next weekend and here are some of the cast members. In the photo at the left the three princesses are left to right Fiona (Elizabeth Seder), Teen Fiona (Kaylee Craig) and Young Fiona (Shiloh Gerber) while at the photo at the right meet the Ogre Family. Left to right are Mama Ogre (Sophia Campbell), Papa Ogre (Jensen Miller) and Little Ogre (Ithan Rinkenberger). There will be 7 p.m. curtain times on Friday and Saturday and a matinee at 3 p.m. on Saturday as well. Tickets are \$11. (Photos provided)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

City:
Tuesday, 4:19 p.m., Main and Monroe streets. Cleared glass in the roadway.

Tuesday, 9:47 p.m., Bluffton High School. Located propped door with no one around. Secured premises.

Tuesday, 10:30 p.m., 900 block of Reid Street. Caller heard someone turning door-knob, doorbell camera only recorded the person's hand.

Wednesday, 1:42 a.m., Phil's One Stop. Citation issued for driving while suspended.

Wednesday, 1:56 a.m., Pak a Sak South. Traffic offense. Vehicle towed.

Wednesday, 6:38 a.m., Handi Spot. Driver cited for 64 in a 45 mph zone.

Wednesday, 7:21 a.m. Hiday. Traffic stop. Driver arrested on warrant.

Wednesday, 10:56 a.m., 500 block of West Miller Street. Caller reported missing chair from yard.

Wednesday, 12:14 p.m., 100 block of East Arnold Street. Junk violation.

Wednesday, 1:54 p.m., 600 block of West Ohio Street. Junk violation.

Wednesday, 1:55 p.m. 600 block of West Ohio Street. Junk violation.

Thursday, 2:12 p.m., Spring and Oak streets. Citation issued for speeding.

Thursday, 2:15 p.m.,

1009 N Main St. Employee caught stealing.

Thursday, 2:46 p.m., Wells County Annex. Abandoned vehicle.

Thursday, 2:53 p.m., Main Street and 300 N. Citation issued for speeding.

Thursday, 4:09 p.m., Edge Manufacturing. Property damage.

Thursday, 4:22 p.m., Kroger. Domestic dispute between a man and a woman.

Thursday, 5:38 p.m., 1600 block of South Wayne Street. Report of a suspicious male walking in the street.

Thursday, 8:30 p.m., Bluffton Police Department. Found wallet and keys.

Thursday, 9:16 p.m., 910 Sherwood Drive. Report of juveniles driving with subjects on the hood. Second caller called in the situation. Officer spoke with juveniles.

Thursday, 9:33 p.m. Walmart. Two individuals took merchandise into bathroom. Both taken into custody.

Friday, 11:06 p.m., Walmart. Report of theft. Caller forgot money at self-checkout and it was taken prior to her return.

County:
Thursday, 3:12 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Tony Worthington.

Thursday, 4:22 p.m., Kroger. Report of domestic altercation.

Thursday, 5:44 p.m., East 250 North and S.R. 116. Bluffton. Deer tag requested for newly hit deer.

Thursday, 8:23 p.m., 5800 North Main Street, Uniondale. Report of smoke coming from attic.

Friday, 12:20 a.m., S.R. 218 and South 400 West, Poneto. Car versus deer.

(Continued on Page 6)

Corrections and clarifications

The Fishing Derby photo on page 5 in Wednesday's edition was incorrectly identified as Lions Club Fishing Derby. The event was held by the Bluffton Optimist Club. Lily Gerdom was mis-identified as Lily Morgan.

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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.*

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.*

BIDDING ENDS JUNE 12 - (Online Only Personal Property Auction) - Huston Waters, 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, 260-426-0633.*

JUNE 15-JUNE 22 - (Online Only Personal Property) - Estate of Glen Bowen, seller. Clean 2005 Buick Lesabre Custom w/77,000 miles, 2004 Toyota Sienna LE mini van, 1987 Riviera Cruiser 24' pontoon, 2004 Yamaha XLT jet ski, floating WaveRunner dock, lake equipment, modern furniture, household, electronics, lawn and garden, patio furniture, tools, more. Auction preview & online bidding assistance June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, *The Steffen Group Inc., 260-426-0633, 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, 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.*

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, 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.*

GENESIS 35:1-5 SATURDAY | JUNE 8
Throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD. [JOSHUA 24:23]

HOUSE GODS

The men in the Bible study group were nearly eighty years old, so I was surprised to learn they struggled with lust. A battle that had begun in their youth lingered still. Each day they pledged to follow Jesus in this area and asked forgiveness for the moments they failed.

It may surprise us that godly men still fight against base temptations at a late stage in life, but maybe it shouldn't. An idol is anything that threatens to take the place of God in our lives, and such things can show up long after we assume they're gone.

In the Bible, Jacob had been rescued from his uncle Laban and his brother Esau. He was returning to Bethel to worship God and celebrate His many blessings, yet his family still kept foreign gods that Jacob had to bury (GENESIS 35:2-4). At the end of the book of Joshua, after Israel had defeated their enemies and settled in Canaan, Joshua still had to urge them to "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD" (JOSHUA 24:23). And King David's wife Michal apparently kept idols, for she put one in his bed to deceive the soldiers who came to kill him (1 SAMUEL 19:11-16).

Idols are more common than we think, and God is more patient than we deserve. Temptations to turn to them will come, but God's forgiveness is greater. May we be set apart for Jesus—turning from our sins and finding forgiveness in Him.

MIKE WITTMER

**What sin are you most tempted by?
What steps might you take to destroy this idol?**

Father, I confess my sin, and I gratefully receive Your forgiveness through Jesus.

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From our family to you ...

The Reimschisel family at Family Ford of Bluffton hope that you will take a few moments at least once each week to spend some time with what really matters during these "interesting times."

This short essay is from

Our Daily Bread®
— a free publication we would love to share with you. Stop in anytime. There is no cost or obligation.

Family Ford of Bluffton
970 N. Main St., Bluffton
824-2300

Will we let the children lead us?

I started my career teaching special education in the 90s. I taught what was then called, self-contained special education. These classes were separate from the rest of the school. They were comprised of children who had been identified as seriously emotionally disturbed via a full psychological evaluation and the implementation of an individualized education plan.



Addie Angelov

Schools are required to serve students with mental illness under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), a federal law protecting the rights of people with disabilities. If we want to truly address the mental health crisis facing our adolescents, the journey must include K-12 students and schools in a comprehensive way.

Hoosier Opinions

In 2023, Indiana had four-and-a-half times more students per psychologist than the recommended amount and 11 times more students per social worker. This shortage of mental health providers is particularly dangerous for children, who are especially vulnerable. According to the Hopeful Futures Campaign, Indiana has one school social worker for every 1,829 students when the recommended ratio is 1:250. Indiana has one school psychologist for every 2,607 students when the recommended ratio is 1:500. Indiana has one school counselor for every 497 students when the recommended ratio is 1:250. All Hoosier students must attend school for more than 1500 hours per year and these stark shortages, as well as escalating student mental health data, make a strong argument for schools being the ground zero for the youth mental health crisis.

According to the 2024 Indiana Youth Institute's Kids Count Digital Data Book:

- 35.7% of students in 7th-12th grade reported in the past year they felt so sad or hopeless for 2 or more weeks in a row they stopped doing usual activities in 2022—an increase from 34.7% in the last surveyed year, 2020.
- For all mental health questions in the survey, girls were twice as likely to respond yes.
- 1 in 10 Hoosier parents reported their child aged 3 to 17 received treatment or counseling from a mental health professional in 2022, which was lower than the nationwide average of 12.1%.
- Of those children who needed or received mental health care, 1 in 4 parents found it “very difficult” or “not possible to obtain care” for their child in Indiana (27.8%).

The notion that the youth mental health crisis has gotten worse since the pandemic is coupled by the growing costs of not addressing this issue holistically. The Indiana Behavioral Health Commission's 2022 report estimated the cost of untreated youth mental illness is estimated to be \$ 139,679,060.76. While this is a big number, it doesn't include the amount schools are contributing.

As the youth mental health crisis across our state continues to spiral, schools become the place where the rubber meets the road. Schools are often bearing the brunt of covering the costs of the youth mental health epidemic, which have become increasingly more difficult to navigate.

While school costs skyrocket and staff shortages reach all-time highs, many schools are forced to cut programs and run tax referendums in their communities to continue to try to navigate the fiscal impact of providing these services. It also increases the chances for healthy students and staff to become victims of students with documented mental health issues whose behaviors are unable to be contained by schools struggling to address these challenges.

Indiana schools need more than a band-aid and a little self-care to get through this growing storm.

In April of 2024, the Bowen Center and the Indiana University School of Medicine released their draft of The Playbook for Enhancing Indiana's Mental & Behavioral Health Workforce. The draft summarizes the work of numerous professionals and organizations across the state to try to get a handle on the professional shortages in the mental health field. Recommendations include “Securing our Pipeline” and “Grow our own.” To which I respond, yes let's get after it, but can we please go about it in a way that reflects all the innovation we know can help our youth, schools, and workforce at the same time?

As the mental health workforce shortage barrels forward, we can no longer depend on the traditional methods of workforce development. We have urgent issues that cannot wait for four year degrees to be completed. Every day that we put our eggs in the traditional college basket, our schools and students suffer. K-12 schools and the group of Hoosiers most effected by the crisis, offer us the most potential in helping us solve it. We need to consider supporting the very generation most impacted by the mental health crisis, Hoosiers that were adolescents between 2015-2023.

According to the Indiana Office of Work-Based Learning and Apprenticeships, 94% of individuals that complete an apprenticeship program retain their employment, with an average annual salary of \$70,000. While the mental health field has embraced the apprenticeship model in the health care setting, school based mental health apprenticeships simply don't exist in Indiana.... yet. Hopefully, we can find comprehensive solutions for schools and youth navigating the mental health crisis moving forward. We have the collective will and the necessary infrastructure. Most importantly, we have the youth who may be unskilled, but have years of lived experience navigating these waters.

Dr. Addie Angelov served as Director of Research for the Indiana Department of Education. Currently she is co-founder and CEO of the Paramount Health Data Project.



Biden is right: It's time to end the awful Gaza war

President Biden has announced a serious peace plan to end the horrific conflict in Gaza. The Israeli war cabinet, Egypt, Qatar and the G-7 all endorse it. It includes a detailed plan for recovery, starting immediately. As Biden said last Friday, “It's time for this war to end.”

So here's a blunt question: Why aren't Palestinians demanding that Hamas's leaders, who are hiding in tunnels under the ravaged enclave, accept this agreement so that reconstruction can begin? Hamas's existence has been predicated on saying no to peace with Israel. But surely, it's in the interest of Palestinians civilians who have suffered so much in this conflict to say yes.

Like so many observers of this terrible war, I've been urging Israel for months to finish its campaign and move to “the day after.” Israeli military leadership has backed a plan to do that, thanks to prodding from Biden. The world should now make a similar demand of Hamas: Take the deal.

The agreement is still fuzzy on some details. Although Israel's war cabinet endorses it, some members of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's governing coalition don't. The transition from Phase 1's initial cease-fire to a permanent one in Phase 2 will require negotiations, though the truce will continue as long as those negotiations do. The process is fragile and imperfect, but it's backed by an implicit guarantee by the United States and its Group of Seven allies.

The “deliverables” for Palestinians are spelled out in an unpublished document prepared by negotiators. A person who's familiar with the talks summarized the fine points for me this week. It provides a well-marked path to immediately begin repairing the devastation of the conflict. Here are some details about how it would start:

- From the first day of the cease-fire, Israel would facilitate a surge of humanitarian aid. Specifically, the agreement calls for 600 trucks moving daily into Gaza, including 50 fuel trucks. Northern Gaza would get 300 of those trucks, including fuel needed to eventually resume operation of the power plant in central Gaza.
- To start sheltering Palestinians who were forced to flee their homes, the agreement calls for provision of at least 60,000 temporary mobile homes and 200,000 tents. The rubble of war strewn across every kilometer of Gaza would be cleared, starting immediately, using civilian bulldozers and other heavy equipment.
- Hospitals, medical centers and bakeries would be rehabilitated throughout the strip, and these essential services would be maintained through the subsequent stages of the agreement.
- Gaza's infrastructure - the roads and the electrical, water, sewage and communications systems destroyed by war - would gradually be rebuilt across the enclave, with Israel agreeing to allow entry of nec-

essary equipment.

• The United Nations, Egypt and Qatar would lead an international effort for comprehensive reconstruction of homes, schools and the other essentials of life that have been destroyed.

If the deal works, a new Gaza would eventually emerge. Months of desperation and near-starvation would gradually give way to recovery. With so much international assistance flowing into the enclave, Gaza could actually experience something of a postwar boom.

What does Israel get from this agreement? First and most important, over the three phases, all Israeli hostages and bodies would be returned. It might not look like the “total victory” that Netanyahu's coalition wants. But as a senior Biden administration official put it last Friday: “Hamas is no longer capable of carrying out another Oct. 7. Its military capacity has been significantly eroded. And its leaders are dead or in deep hiding.”

Governance in Gaza is still to be determined, but dictatorial rule by Hamas is finished. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant and other members of the Israeli war cabinet share Biden's view that Palestinian governance is essential and that the framework for it will be built by supporters of the Palestinian Authority.

Active Hamas fighters will remain targets for Israel even after the truce. As the senior official put it, “Israel always retains the right, as does any sovereign country, to act against threats against its security.”

Lebanon looms as the next battleground, but this problem, too, would be eased by the Gaza truce. As soon as a cease-fire is agreed to, U.S. officials say they will push to implement a tentative agreement with Hezbollah to withdraw its fighters up to 10 kilometers from the Israel-Lebanon border. The aim is to make northern Israeli towns safe again so that families who fled after Oct. 7 can return home before school starts in September. The crossfire between Israel and Hezbollah will also be limited by specific measures, U.S. officials expect.

There's the promise, too, of a much wider truce: the normalization of relations between Israel and Saudi Arabia, which for generations has refused to recognize the Jewish state. As Biden said, with the Gaza pact, “Israel could become more deeply integrated into the region” and “part of a regional security network to counter the threat posed by Iran.”

There's a cynical trope about past peace efforts that “the Palestinians never miss an opportunity to miss an opportunity.” That's a harsh and one-sided judgment about a history of failure on both sides. But right now, Hamas's leaders have a chance to do the right thing for the Palestinian people they claim to be fighting for. I hope the Palestinian people can prod them to do it.

Follow David Ignatius @IgnatiusPost on X



David Ignatius

Why are we negotiating with terrorists?

A Gallup poll of several months ago asked, “On the whole, would you say that you are satisfied or dissatisfied with the position of the United States in the world today?” Only one-third, 33%, said they were satisfied. This down from 53% in February 2020 at the conclusion of Donald Trump's presidency.

It's a wonder that even a third of Americans are comfortable with President Joe Biden's disastrous leadership. Many scholars now liken the world today to the 1930s, the years preceding World War II.

Latest is Biden's new proposal to resolve the conflict in Gaza. The proposal ignores Israel's main objective, final removal of the presence and influence of the terrorist organization Hamas from leadership and control in Gaza.

Of the 120 hostages that remain from the 251 originally abducted Oct. 7, 2023, it is not even clear how many are alive. Yet, in exchange for release of an unspecified number of hostages, Israel is asked to pull its troops out of all populated areas of Gaza. I pray that, for the sake of Israel but also for the sake of all remnants of decency in today's crazy world, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu resists pressure to accept this horrible arrangement.

Why is the United States negotiating with terrorists and giving legitimacy to those who commit atrocities



Star Parker

beyond the pale of minimal-decent human behavior?

The widespread backlash against Israel's campaign in Gaza is supposedly because of the large number of civilian casualties. But those criticizing Israel should look in the mirror to see who has led to these casualties.

If Hamas, who hides their fighters and equipment among civilians, whose priority is the death of Israelis and not saving lives of their own people, was immediately condemned and isolated by global leadership, Israel would not be left to take unilateral military action as its only option for its national security.

Let's recall that immediately following the Oct. 7, 2023, attack, rather than condemning Hamas, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres condemned Israel. The attack “did not happen in a vacuum,” said Guterres. And he then justified it, saying, “The Palestinian people have been subjected to 56 years of suffocating occupation. ... Their hopes for a political solution to their plight have been vanishing.”

Guterres chose to ignore that it was the organization that he leads, the U.N., that endorsed partition in 1947 to create a Jewish state and a Palestinian state — an arrangement accepted by the Jews and rejected by the Arabs, who chose, instead, war.

Hillary Clinton appeared on “The View” last December and reminded

viewers that her husband tried to broker a peace deal in 2000, inviting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat for talks in Camp David. Barak accepted the Clinton plan, and Arafat rejected it and, per Hillary Clinton, returned home and launched an intifada that would claim the lives of 1,000 Israelis, most of them civilians.

But why, when the U.N. secretary-general started with his distortions of truth, did the United States U.N. representative sit in silence?

We saw nothing like this when Nikki Haley was the U.N. representative during the Trump presidency. When Trump recognized Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, the U.N. voted 128-9 criticizing the U.S. Nikki Haley stood before the U.N. General Assembly and said, “To its shame, the United Nations has long been a hostile place for the state of Israel. ... It's a wrong that undermines the credibility of this institution, and that in turn is harmful for the entire world.”

The United States is one of 193 nations in the U.N. yet provides some 22% of its budget — \$18 billion in 2022. The U.N. gives a vote and a say in world peace to unfree countries, countries led by dictators and despots. How about redirecting that \$18 billion into our own sagging defense budget?

It's time for a new era of principled American leadership. This is the only path to peace.

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1970 S.-800E., Bluffton
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APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH
630 E. Dustman Rd.
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

ASBURY CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
8013 W.-1100S.-90, Montpelier
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

BETHEL
(Independent Bible)
4500E-300S, Bluffton
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

BETHLEHEM LUTHERAN CHURCH LCMS
6114E-750N, Ossian
bethlehemossian.org
9 a.m. - Divine Service. 10:15 - Adult Bible Class, Youth Bible Class & Sunday School. 11:30 - Voice of Bethlehem on 92.7 FM.

BLUFFTON CHURCH OF GOD
327 W. Cherry St.
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 11 a.m. - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

BOEHMER UNITED METHODIST
3467 S 600 W, Liberty Center
boehmerumc.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

BLUFFTON WESLEYAN CHAPEL
(Independent Holiness Church)
1309 W. Washington St.
blufftonwesleyan.net
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6:30 p.m. - Worship.

CALVARY LUTHERAN, ELCA
1532 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

CHESTER CENTER
900S-300W, Poneto
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

CHRISTIAN NEW LIGHT
1011 W. Washington St.
9:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Praise & worship.

CHURCH OF CHRIST
735 S. Marion St.
10 a.m. - Bible Study. 10:45 - Worship.

COVENANT CHAPEL
3550 S. SR 1
mycovenantchapel.org
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:15 - Worship. (Children's Church for ages 6-12).

DILLMAN UNITED BRETHREN
8888S-1100W-90, Warren
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Sunday School.

DOMESTIC CHURCH OF CHRIST
9 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Church service.

EPWORTH UNITED METHODIST
1204 W. Cherry St.
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:40 a.m. - Sunday School.

FAIRVIEW CHURCH OF GOD
5511 W. Yoder Rd., Yoder
fairviewlife.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

FELLOWSHIP BAPTIST
210 W. Townley
fbc-bluffton.com
10 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Discipleship.

FIRST BAPTIST
202 W. Cherry St.
fbcbluffton.com
10:15 - Worship.

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF OSSIAN
1001 Dehner Dr.
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 a.m. - Worship. 6:30 - Service.

FIRST CHURCH OF CHRIST
909 W. Spring St.
FCCfamily.com
9:30 & 11 a.m. - Worship.

FIRST CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
1515 Clark Ave.
blufftonnazarene.org
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9-10 a.m. - Free ESL classes. 10:15 - Worship. 6 p.m. - Service.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN
215 E. Dustman Rd.
firstpcbbluffton.org
9:30 a.m. - Children/youth & Adult Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

FIRST PRESBYTERIAN (EVANGELICAL)
123 S. Jefferson St., Ossian
www.OssianChurch.com
8:45 a.m. - Sunday school. 10 a.m. - Worship.

LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY
17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder
10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - Sunday School.

An ancient manuscript up for sale gives a glimpse into the history of early Christianity

By IAN N. MILLS
Hamilton College

(THE CONVERSATION) An important piece of early Christian history, the Crosby-Schøyen Codex, is up for auction at Christie's in London on June 11. This codex is a mid-fourth century book from Egypt containing a combination of biblical and other early Christian texts.

The Crosby-Schøyen Codex was discovered alongside more than 20 other codices near Dishna, Egypt, in 1952. These manuscripts are collectively known as "the Dishna Papers" or "the Bodmer Papyri," after the Swiss collector Martin Bodmer.

Though often overshadowed by other 20th century discoveries, this trove of ancient manuscripts represents one of the most significant finds for understanding the history of early Christianity. As an expert on early Christian reading practices, I consider the Dishna Papers an invaluable witness to the formation of the Christian Bible. This ancient library shows how, before the consolidation of the Bible, early Christians read canonical and non-canonical scriptures — as well as pagan classics — side by side.

An overshadowed discovery

The middle decades of the 20th century were exciting years for scholars of early Christianity.

In 1945, a collection of 13 ancient codices was discovered near Nag Hammadi, Egypt. These contained dozens of otherwise unknown works, mostly associated with minority and marginalized forms of early Christianity. With titles like "The Gospel of Thomas" and "The Secret Revelation of John," this cache of non-canonical scriptures captured the public's imagination and inspired a bestseller.

The very next year, Bedouin shepherds discovered ancient Hebrew scrolls hidden in a cave at Qumran on the northwestern shore of the Dead Sea.

The "Dead Sea Scrolls" found in this and a dozen subsequently discovered caves constituted a massive library of Jewish texts, including biblical works and hitherto unknown texts with remarkable parallels to the writings of the New Testament. This find was celebrated in news stories, documentaries and other publications as among the greatest discoveries of the 20th century.

At the very same time, the Dishna Papers were discovered, smuggled out of Egypt and sold to European collectors with considerably less fanfare. No headline hailed the discovery of the Dishna Papers. Instead, pieces of this collection were sold to the highest bidders, scattering the ancient library across the globe.

The Conversation is an independent and nonprofit source of news, analysis and commentary from academic experts. The Conversation is wholly responsible for the content.

MURRAY MISSIONARY
1117 N. Washington St., Murray
murraym.org
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 11 a.m. - Sunday School.

OSSIAN CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE
302 N. Metts St.
ossiannaz.org
9:15 a.m. - Bible study. 10:30 - Service.

OSSIAN UNITED METHODIST
201 W. Mill St.
ossianumc.org
9 a.m. - Worship, Worship child care nurse. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Adult Sunday School.

PARK COMMUNITY
617 S. Bennett St.
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10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

PETROLEUM COMMUNITY CHURCH
3625 E. 2nd St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

PONETO BAPTIST
Grape Street
8:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 9 a.m. - Worship.

PONETO FAITH COMMUNITY CHURCH
36 E. Walnut St.
9 a.m. - Worship. 10 a.m. - Fellowship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

RIVER OF HOPE
1224 W. Central
11 a.m. - Worship & the Word.

RIVER OF LIFE
122 Lamar St.
Suite 108, 110
riveroflifebluffton.com
10:30 a.m. - Worship.

SIX MILE
4790 SE SR 116
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

SONLIGHT WESLEYAN
2350 S. SR 1
sonlightwesleyan.org
9:30 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship. Nursery & Children's classes available during Sunday School & Worship.

SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY CHURCH
9450 S 300 W, Poneto
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4960W-100N, Decatur
stlukechurch.in
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

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16933 Thiele Rd.
stmarkfw.org
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

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9221 W 800 S-90, Montpelier
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

THE MEETING PLACE
115 E. Market St.
6:30 p.m. - Bible study.

TOWER LIFE CENTER
11811 N. Wayne St., Zanesville
towerlifecenter.com
9:30 a.m. - TLC Groups. 10:30 - Worship.

TURNPOINTE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF THE BRETHREN
500 W. Logan, Markle
turnpointechurch.com
9:30 a.m. - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Adult & Children's Worship.

UNIONDALE COMMUNITY CHURCH
5867 N. Main St.
9 a.m. - Worship.

UNIONTOWN CHURCH OF CHRIST
11419 N-200W, Ossian
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

VERA CRUZ FAMILY WORSHIP CENTER CCCU
2771 SE Mulberry St., Vera Cruz
9-10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10-10:30 - Fellowship. 10:30 - Worship.

WESTSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
205 S. Adams St., Monroe
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Discipleship for adults & children.

ZANESVILLE COMMUNITY CHURCH OF GOD
11984 N. Marzane Rd.
9 a.m. - Bible Class. 10 a.m. - Worship.

ZANESVILLE UNITED BRETHREN IN CHRIST
3092 W. Broadway
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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FORGIVEN CHURCH
1409 S. Main St.
forgivenonline.org
9 a.m. - Worship.

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gbcbluffton.com
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9 a.m. - Sunday classes. 10 a.m. - Collective Worship.

HARVEST TIME BIBLE
11015S-600E, Keystone
9:10 a.m. - Prayer. 10 a.m. - Worship.

HOPE MISSIONARY
429 E. Dustman Rd.
hope4thefamily.com
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

KEYSTONE CHURCH
10556S-200W
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:30 - Sunday School.

LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST
3071 W. Cherry St.
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH
8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

KINGDOM HALL OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES
2803 N. Main St.
jw.org
10 a.m. - Worship.

LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST
4510 E 400N, Craigville
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

LIFE COMMUNITY
428 S. Oak St.
lifecommunity.net
10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

LIVING WATER UNITED CHURCH
6486 S 700E, Bluffton
8:45-9 a.m. - Prayer. 9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. - Worship.

MARKLE CHAPEL HILL SEVENTH DAY ADVENTIST
470 E. Morse St.
Saturday: 9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sabbath School (Bible study).

MARKLE CHURCH OF CHRIST
455 E. Morse St.
marklechurch.org
9 a.m. - Adult Bible study groups. 10:30 - Worship. Children's & student programming both hours.

MARKLE RIVERSIDE 316
145 W. Morse St.
10 a.m. - Worship.

NEW BEGINNING
2187 W. SR 218
10 a.m. - Sunday School. 10:30 - Worship.

NEW HOPE LUTHERAN
(Missouri Synod)
8824 N. SR 1, Ossian
newhopelutheran-ossian.webs.com
9 a.m. - Sunday School & Adult Bible study. 10 a.m. - Worship.

NOTTINGHAM
1100 S. SR 1
9:30 - Sunday School. 10:30 & 6 p.m. - Worship.

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Local Roundup

Friends of the Shelter will meet Monday afternoon

Friends of the Shelter, the organization that provides support for the Bluffton/Wells County Animal Shelter, will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Regional Sewer District board will meet Monday

The board of the Wells County Regional Sewer District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, June 10, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Superintendent report.
- Project updates.
- Discussion of property acquisition.
- Consideration of any actions necessary for financing and development of Project 4.

Ossian Town Council will meet Monday evening

The Ossian Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, June 10, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

Financial matters.

- Reports from the fire department, police commission and park board.
- Consideration of ordinances regarding golf cart violations and police body camera recording.
- Discussion of a fire agreement with Jefferson Township Trustee Larry Heckber.
- Discussion of spraying thistles behind the Bridges subdivision.
- Review of baseball fees.
- MOU adoption between Briggs and town of Ossian.
- OD, Inc. request for revision of boundaries of Park One detention pond.

Wells County SWCD board will meet Tuesday morning

The board of the Wells County Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 11, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Service Center at 117 W. Harvest Road in Bluffton.

Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Financial matters.
- Updates on nuisance dog issues.
- Project updates and change orders.
- Ordinance violation discussion.

Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, at Norwell Middle School, 1100E. U.S. 224, following a ribbon cutting for the middle school at 4:30 p.m.

Items on the agenda include:

- Board recognitions.
- Personnel and financial matters
- Discussion of policies regarding administering medication, wireless device prohibition and truancy prevention.
- MOU Agreement with Park Center, Inc.
- Approval of the 2024-25 elementary handbook, high school and middle school handbook with extracurricular code of conduct, staff handbook, administrator salaries, and administrative benefits manual.

Wells County Public Library board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Wells County Public Library will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, in the meeting room of the main library, 200 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Reports from librarians, treasurer and director.
- Committee reports regarding building,

budget, policy and bylaws, public awareness and outreach, nominating, and director evaluation.

- Personnel matters.

Visitors Commission will meet Wednesday morning

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 12, at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Financial update.
- Review of maps in progress.
- Grant recipient report.
- DORA update.

Discussion of marketing strategies and needs.

UWRBC board will meet Tuesday morning

The board of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting at 8 a.m. Wednesday, June 12, at the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Financial matters.
- Notice of Intent to apply for 319 funds.
- Power Pole Foundation in the Little River.
- Establishing a meeting with representatives from IFA Water Study
- Preparing UWRBC seminars for the IFA Water Study.
- Jay and Adams Counties Cooperative Invasive Species Management Area.

County Council will have special session Wednesday

The Wells County Council will meet at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 12, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Consideration of Heartland Broadband CF-1 compliance and a resolution to waive noncompliance for tax abatement.
- Discussion of a utility-scale solar tax abatement prohibition ordinance.

Bluffton parks board will meet Thursday evening

The Bluffton parks board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, June 13, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Superintendent and treasurer reports.
- Grant updates.
- Permit update for river stabilization project.
- Project updates.
- DORA consideration for Kehoe Park.
- Change order for Lancaster Park.
- Discussion of Roush Park paving.
- Cook Williams Iris Garden monument.
- Little Library.

Area Plan Commission will meet Thursday evening

The Wells County Area Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, June 13, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- A request from Daniel Dubach for a building addition, sidewalks and parking at 505 S Main St. in Bluffton. The property is zoned B-1.
- A request from Almco Steel Products Corporation for rezoning a property off Lancaster Street in Bluffton from A-R to I-2.
- Revisiting a junk violation from Thomas Reinhard, 10017 S 200W in Keystone.
- Fence violation from Sarah Swinford, 527 S Marion St. in Bluffton.
- Comprehensive plan, trail and housing study updates.
- Advisory notice that the Paddlefish Solar overlay district was denied June 6. The petition cannot be reheard until March 8, 2025, unless otherwise significantly changed.

Pat Sajak says goodbye to 'Wheel of Fortune': 'An incredible privilege'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — After 41 years and over 8,000 episodes, Pat Sajak made his final turn as the renowned host of "Wheel of Fortune" on Friday.

The season 41 finale, dubbed the "Thanks for the memories" show, opened on Friday with a clip from Sajak's first episode as the host of "Wheel of Fortune" in 1981 and closed with Sajak's warm message of gratitude.

In his farewell message, Sajak thanked the viewers of the beloved game show for granting him the "incredible privilege to be invited into millions of homes, night after night, year after year, decade after decade."

Sajak, 77, also gave a heartfelt thanks to his "professional other half," Vanna White, who has co-hosted with him for over 40 years and delivered her emotional tribute to Sajak a day earlier.

"We've seen a lot of changes in each other's lives over the years, but we've always been there for each other," he said. "I will miss our nightly closes and her laughter and her good nature. She's a very special woman."

Among the many thanks and shoutouts Sajak offered during the final episode before his retirement, he said the crew and staff, some of whom have been working on the show as long as he has, were a "joy" to work with. "Your skills and dedication and good humor made this a place I always wanted to be," he added.

Sajak thanked one staff member by name: his daughter Maggie. She began working as the show's social correspondent in 2021 and he said their collaboration has been the "best part of the last couple of years." Sajak also mentioned his son, Patrick, and his wife, Lesly, and said that he is "blessed" to have his family.

The famed host also said that the "real stars of the show" have been the contestants who competed for cash and luxury prizes throughout the decades of the show's run. He called them "kind

and considerate," noting that they always "took great pride in talking about their family, their hometown, their friends, their schools, their jobs, even their pets."

Reflecting on the show's massive reach, Sajak noted that he always found it important to keep the daily half-hour show a "safe place for family fun," excluding any social issues or political topics from the banter he shared with contestants and White. He said he wanted to keep the show "just a game," before noting that to many, it became a part of their daily lives.

"Gradually, it became

more than that," Sajak continued. "A place where kids learned their letters, where people from other countries honed their English skills, where families came together along with friends and neighbors and entire generations. What an honor to have played even a small part in all that."

Sajak's closed out his message with a crack about how viewers could still see more of him through reruns of the show during its summer break. "The jokes will be the same, but I'd appreciate it if you'd laugh anyway," he quipped before saying a final goodbye.


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Police Notebook

(Continued from Page 3)

Friday, 2:35 a.m., 2000 East 300 North, Bluffton. Caller heard a noise. Unable to locate.

Friday, 6:48 a.m., 3700 South 200 East, Bluffton. Caller reported they crashed their bike.

Ossian:
Thursday, 3:16 p.m., 300 block of West Lafever Street, Ossian. Report of open door.

ACCIDENTS
City:
Friday, May 31, 4:21 p.m., S.R. 1 north of Wil-lowbrook Trail. Trevor W. Wedding, 32, Ossian, was traveling southbound in a 2017 Hyundai Elantra on S.R. 1 near the Superwash Car Wash and observed a red Chrysler van attempting to turn out from the car wash and stopped in the middle of the intersection. Wedding reported he was unable to

stop in time and collided with the rear bumper of the other vehicle. The other driver left the scene, traveling southbound on S.R. 1. The Elantra was towed from the scene. Damages did not exceed \$10,000.

Wednesday, 5:13 p.m., Main Street and Washington Street. Haley Brubaker, 31, Bluffton, was driving a 2013 GMC Yukon southbound on Main Street and was struck by 2013 Chevrolet Equinox driven by James Langham, 76, Decatur, who was attempting to merge lanes as one lane ended. Damages did not exceed \$2,500.

Wednesday, 11:53 p.m., CR 300N. John, 68, Bluffton, was driving a 2019 Ram 1500 and struck a deer. The deer rolled along the side of the vehicle, further causing damage. Damages did not exceed \$5,000.

FIRES
Tuesday, 10:41 p.m., Pine Grove Apartments, Bluffton. Structure fire on second-floor balcony. Bluffton, Chester, Liberty and Ossian fire departments responded. Fire under control at 11:04 p.m.

Wednesday, 11:14 a.m., Bluffton Fire Department. Ring removal.

County:
Thursday, 8:23 p.m., 5820 N Main St., Uniondale. Smoke reported coming from attic. Bluffton, Ossian and Uniondale fire departments responded. Fire under control at 10:43 p.m.

Friday, 10:30 a.m., 800S and 200W, Poneto. Farm equipment on its side and leaking fuel.

ARRESTS
Tony Jo Worthington, 42, Berne; possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony.

Surging Reds beat Cubs, now winners of six straight

By JEFF WALLNER
Associated Press

CINCINNATI (AP) — Nick Lodolo allowed one run through six innings, Tyler Stephenson hit a two-run double and the surging Cincinnati Reds beat the Chicago Cubs 3-2 on Friday night for their sixth straight victory.

The Reds have won 11 of 14 to pull even with the Cubs in second place in the NL Central standings, both at 31-33. Chicago, meanwhile, has lost 11 of 15. The Brewers lead the division.

Elly De La Cruz's speed and a wild pitch resulted in two decisive runs for the Reds in the fourth.

After De La Cruz walked, Cubs starter Justin Steele had him picked off first. But the Reds' shortstop slid safely just ahead of Michael Busch's throw to second.

"(Steele) did a phenomenal job keeping him close for three or four pitches," Busch said. "That's just a play you want to make."

Spencer Steer reached on a strikeout/wild pitch when a slider from Steele skipped under Miguel Amaya's glove to put runners

on first and third before Stephenson extended his hitting streak to a career-high eight games with a double to put the Reds ahead 2-0.

The official scorer initially ruled it a passed ball by Amaya, but later changed it to a wild pitch.

"He's such a good kid and such a good player behind the plate," Steele said of Amaya. "I told him it's not a big deal. It's baseball. It happens. Probably be the last time it happens."

The Cubs had the bases loaded with two outs in the fifth, but Cody Bellinger popped to third on the first pitch from Lodolo (6-2). Bellinger came in batting .333 against left-handed pitchers, but went 0 for 4 against Lodolo and Justin Wilson.

"Nick has been pitching great," Reds manager David Bell said. "It was a good start for him against a good lineup. He had a good curveball. He got out of a jam with



bases loaded and Bellinger at the plate."

Blake Dunn doubled for his first major league hit then scored on Stuart Fairchild's single to make the score 3-0 in the fifth.

"Right out of the box, I was hustling hard," Dunn said. "I knew I had a chance

to get a double and as I turned the base, I picked up my head and saw he just got to the ball. We score a lot of runs that way, by being aggressive."

Steele, who made his eighth start for the Cubs since coming off the injured list, retired the first 10 batters he faced before walking De La Cruz in the fourth.

Steele (0-3) pitched seven innings, allowing three runs and five hits with a walk and seven strikeouts.

"He pitched beautifully," Cubs manager Craig Counsell said. "It was a well-pitched game, and certainly a game when you get a

start like that, you hope to win."

Dansby Swanson's solo homer made the score 3-1 in the sixth. It was the only run Lodolo allowed. He struck out seven and gave up four hits.

Busch walked and scored on Amaya's double in the ninth, but Alexis Díaz struck out Patrick Wisdom to close out his 13th save.

TRAINER'S ROOM

Cubs: 2B Nico Hoerner was scratched from the lineup due to continued soreness from being hit on the right hand by a pitch on Thursday night. X-rays were inconclusive and Hoerner will undergo further tests. ... LHP Jordan Wicks was reinstated from the injured list and moved to the bullpen.

Reds: LHP Brandon Williamson (left shoulder strain) was returned from a rehab assignment due to persistent shoulder soreness. He will be shut down for at least seven days then reevaluated.

UP NEXT

Reds left-hander Andrew Abbott (4-5, 3.39) will oppose Cubs right-hander Ben Brown (1-2, 3.33) on Saturday.

Mike Tyson's fight with Jake Paul to be rescheduled for Nov. 15 with Tyson's health issue

Mike Tyson's fight with Jake Paul is now set for Nov. 15 after the former world heavyweight champion fell ill on a flight last month.

The fight was originally set for July 20 in Arlington, Texas, home to the NFL's Dallas Cowboys, and will be aired on Netflix.

Tyson became nauseous and dizzy during the final hour of a flight from Miami to Los Angeles. His plane was met by first responders, while Tyson's camp attributed the episode to an ulcer problem and said he would need to do light training for several weeks.

Tyson turns 58 on June 30. "Although we had to postpone the fight, I will resume training shortly. I am thankful to the medical staff that treated me and to MVP, Netflix, and AT&T Stadium for working diligently to find the best reschedule date for all parties," Tyson said in a statement released by

Netflix. "While we have a new date, the result will be the same no matter when we fight. Jake Paul is getting knocked out."

The fight was originally slated for a Saturday, but will be held on a Friday as the Cowboys prepare to host the Houston Texans on Nov. 18 for Monday Night Football.

"Our team has worked diligently with all parties involved to reschedule this monumental fight to a date that ensures both Jake Paul and Mike Tyson are fully prepared, with equal training time, as well as allowing us to keep the event at AT&T stadium in the midst of the Cowboys season," said Nakisa Bidarian, co-founder of Most Valuable Promotions.

Tyson hasn't fought professionally since June 2005, but he has been training regularly for several years. He fought Roy Jones Jr. in an entertaining exhibition in Los Angeles in November 2020.

Scottie Scheffler's big finish gives him a 3-shot lead at the Memorial

By DOUG FERGUSON
AP Golf Writer

DUBLIN, Ohio (AP) — Masters champion Scottie Scheffler is only making it look easy right now. It didn't feel that way Friday on a firm course in gusty wind, where he finished strong for a 4-under 68 to go from a tie to a three-shot lead in the Memorial.



Scottie Scheffler

Scheffler hit a 3-iron into the wind that narrowly cleared the bunker and rode the slope to 8 feet for eagle on the par-5 15th, and he closed with two solid par saves and a shot from a fairway bunker to 12 feet for birdie on the last to build some separation.

He was at 9-under 135, three shots ahead of Viktor Hovland and Adam Hadwin, chasing another \$4 million prize against a suddenly smaller field.

The Memorial is a signature event with a \$20 million purse, but the three tournaments with player hosts — the Arnold Palmer Invitational, Genesis Invitational (Tiger Woods) and Memorial (Jack Nicklaus) — have a 36-hole cut to top 50 and ties.

That sent home 22 players, a list that includes Jordan Spieth, U.S. Open champion Wyndham Clark, Patrick Cantlay and Rickie Fowler, who had to play the final eight holes in even par to post an 82.

And then there was Scheffler, rarely getting into trouble until a rough patch early on the back nine when the wind was at his strongest, eventually regaining those lost strokes.

"I really just love competing out here, and I don't really think about whether or not it's easy or hard," Scheffler said. "And some days I play good and some days I don't. And outside of that, I'm just out here trying to compete."

It was telling, though, when asked the last time he walked off the course and told his caddie that he felt as though he didn't have his best stuff.

The obvious answer, which he finally reached, was the 73 he had in the third round of the PGA Championship, his highest score of the year. That was one day after the adrenaline wore off from his wild day at Valhalla when he was arrested and briefly jailed.

Scheffler was quick to jokingly point out, "That was another caddie so we'll blame him for that." His regular caddie, Ted Scott, missed that round because he had gone home to Louisiana for his daughter's high school graduation.

Hovland's confidence is building every round, and he played bogey-free on the

back nine of Muirfield Village, no small feat. He finished with a shot from 181 yards into 2 feet for birdie.

Hadwin played in the morning when the wind wasn't quite so strong, but it didn't take much. The Canadian was at 8 under for the tournament until he drove into a bunker on the 17th, could only advance it back to the fairway, found the deep bunker short of the green and wound up with a double bogey.

Asked how to gauge the wind, Hadwin said, "I'll be shocked if any other player said it was anything other than a guess."

"That's all we're doing. It's just educated guessing, really," he said. "You try and control the ball flight to limit the amount the wind will affect it. That's probably one of the biggest things that we can do out here."

And with a dry forecast to get the Muirfield Village course even firmer, it most likely will only get more difficult on the weekend.

Christiaan Bezuidenhout of South Africa had the low round of the day at 67 and was four shots behind, along with Keegan Bradley (69). Ludvig Aberg, who spent two days watching Scheffler put on another clinic, shot 72 and was five back.

"He's playing very, very good golf and it doesn't look very difficult when he's playing," Aberg said. "But all I can do is try to keep up and make sure I'm not too far behind, I guess."

Aberg holed a bunker shot on the 17th, the ball smacking off the pin, coming back out and then dropping into the cup. He bogeyed the final hole.

PGA champion Xander Schauffele holed out a bunker shot for birdie after a wild 14th hole, one of the few bright spots in his 73 that put him six behind, along with Rory McIlroy (71).

It was a good two days for those on the U.S. Open alternate list. Lee Hodges, in a tie for 20th, was the only player from the top 28 on the leaderboard who is not already in Pinehurst No. 2 next week. Five U.S. Open spots are being held for late qualifiers.

For Hadwin, he is in a tight race with Corey Connors for the final Olympic spot for Canada. That will be decided after the U.S. Open. That's a lot to take in.

"I am going to do my best to try and win a golf tournament. That's it. That's my sole focus," Hadwin said.

That means making up ground on Scheffler, and that most certainly is not easy.

F1 leader Max Verstappen hit by smoky battery problem in Canadian Grand Prix practice

MONTREAL (AP) — Formula 1 points leader Max Verstappen left the track early with his Red Bull machine smoking, while Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso had the fastest lap Friday in the second free practice at the Canadian Grand Prix.

After Circuit Gilles Villeneuve was hit by heavy rain, lightning and hail before the first practice session, Verstappen returned to the garage four laps into the second session after a run on dry tires. Red Bull said the smoke was caused by a battery issue.

"It's not ideal, I would have liked to drive more laps," Verstappen said. "It's definitely not how I would have liked to get on in FP2 but I think it's more important to figure out what actually happened and what kind of implications that will have for this weekend and the rest of the year."

Alonso had a fast lap of 1 minute, 15.810 seconds. Mercedes driver George Russell was second at 1:16.273, and Aston Martin's Lance Stroll, the lone Canadian in field, followed at 1:16.464.

"It was a tricky Friday for everyone,"

Alonso said. "But it could be like this for qualifying and the race, so it's still very useful information. The right decision can gain you five seconds, wrong decision and you're out of the race."

Earlier, McLaren's Lando Norris had a lap at 1:24.435 after the downpour delayed the first practice. Ferrari's Carlos Sainz was second, followed by teammate Charles Leclerc.

Lightning, heavy rain and hail rolled through a little more than an hour before the practice start time. Sauber driver Valtteri Bottas attempted to form a snowball out of the large pieces of hail that filled the paddock.

"Today was definitely an odd one," seven-time season champion Lewis Hamilton of Mercedes said. "It was literally summer this morning, then it rained hailstone. I can't even remember the last time I saw hailstone but they were huge. Then sunny again, really hot and humid, and then raining again."

Event organizers asked spectators to leave the grandstands amid the inclement weather while police shut down the bridges accessing Notre Dame Island.



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Should I stay in a loveless marriage for my kids?

Dear Annie: I never thought I would send one of these letters. I have been married for almost 20 years. Last September, my wife asked for a divorce after what was a rough year, one that was much rougher than I even thought.

My request for her to leave was answered with a "NO, I am not leaving." After six months of counseling, I realized that she had promised us having a third kid over the last decade (we have two) by setting up a series of "If you want another baby, I need this," which included stable careers, an au pair, a new home — and one we couldn't really afford.

After months of counseling, I can't help but have this weird feeling that the relationship is great as life partners and as parents. We do look after each other. But I feel if not for the kids and the intertwined finances, we would both walk away.

If the kids are my priority and the house is amicable, am I being selfish wanting more? — Lost in Transition

Dear Lost: The betrayal you experienced, both in the affair and the broken promises, is deeply painful. Your wife's actions and deceit are understandably hurtful and have shaken your trust.

You've invested a lot in counseling, and it's clear you both have a strong partnership as co-parents. However, if you feel your relationship is only sustained by shared responsibilities and finances, it's crucial to reevaluate things. Wanting more from your relationship is not selfish. It's important that you feel happy and fulfilled.

Discuss these feelings openly with your wife and seek further counseling to explore whether you can rebuild a deep-

er connection or if it's time to move on. (At this point, more likely than not it will be the latter.) Ultimately, a healthy, honest environment benefits both you and your children.

Dear Annie: I have a good friend, and we go to a lot of places together. Whenever we arrive at our destination, she texts someone. When we are about to leave to go home, she texts somebody. During the intermission of a show, she texts somebody. We are both widowed seniors. I think she is texting her children. I find this totally unnecessary and kind of rude!

Do her kids need to know her every move and whereabouts every time we change locations? I tell someone where I'm going and that's it, until I'm home safely. — Baffled Widow

Dear Baffled: Your friend's constant texting can indeed seem unnecessary and intrusive, especially during your outings. However, consider that she might feel comforted by keeping in regular contact with her children or that they might feel better knowing their mother is safe and sound.

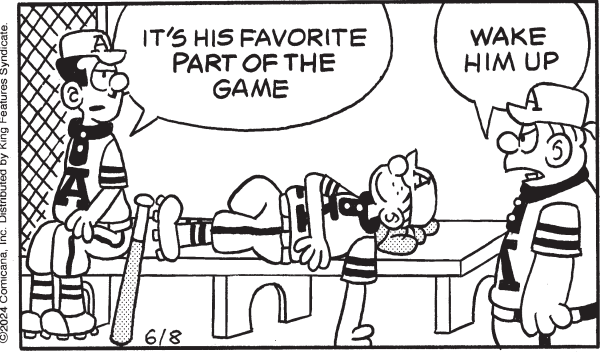
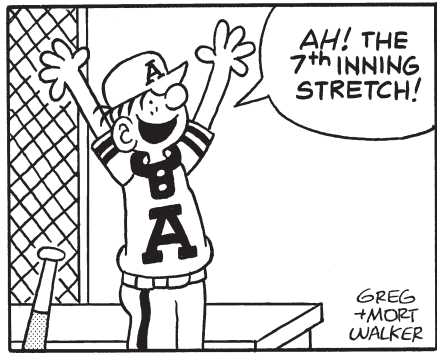
It's worth having a gentle conversation with her about how you feel. Express that while you understand her need to stay connected, it sometimes disrupts your time together. Ideally, this will lead to a middle ground that works for both of you. Communication is key to maintaining your friendship while respecting each other's boundaries.

"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.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearamnie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

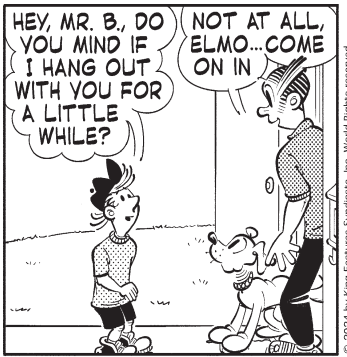
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



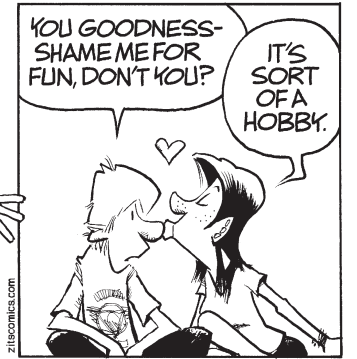
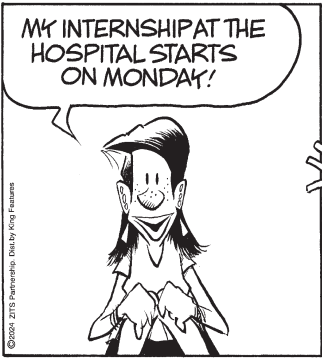
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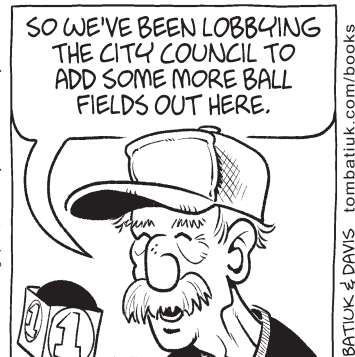
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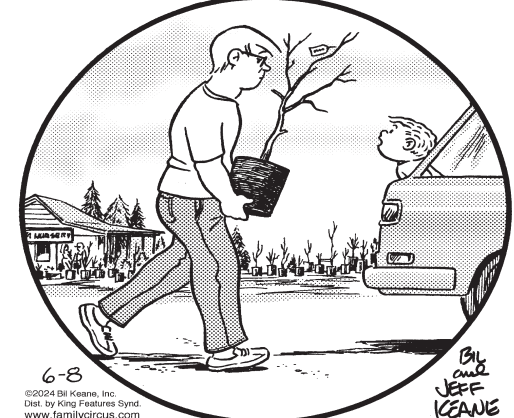
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Only He can make us new

have the ability to reach the moon, but we can also destroy millions with the touch of a button. Thankfully, we don't have to be who we have been in the past. The Lord saves us and repurposes versions of our old selves, making us brand-new individuals with new hearts.

That's why we need to open our hearts continually to Christ and allow Him to take away our sin and self-centeredness. Only He can make us new; only He can change our hearts and make us more like Himself. We don't have to remain the same

people we've always been. The Bible says, "Be transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Romans 12:2, NKJV).

We can open our hearts and minds to Christ and know the transformation that takes place because of His salvation. "Put off, concerning your former conduct ... and be renewed in the spirit of your mind, and ... put on the new [person] which was created according to God, in true righteousness and holiness" (Ephesians 4:22-24, NKJV).

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

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-8 crossword puzzle grid.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-56.

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

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SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★

6/8

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

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AUTOMOTIVE

Auto/Trucks

INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC. Huge Repo Sale June 13, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

Lottery Numbers

Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 03-09-22-26-29
Cash4Life — 25-43-44-57-60, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 07-11-13-15-19-25-27-29-33-36-42-48-50-53-57-60-65-66-71-74, BE: 15
Daily Three-Midday — 01-03-06, SB: 00
Daily Three-Evening — 03-04-05, SB: 00
Daily Four-Midday — 05-04-02-07, SB: 00
Daily Four-Evening — 03-00-04-01, SB: 00
Quick Draw Evening — 01-09-11-12-16-17-21-23-26-30-36-37-40-47-51-52-59-64-74-80, BE: 01
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$14.2 million
MEGA MILLIONS 03-05-12-22-66, Mega Ball: 07, Megaplier: 4X
POWERBALL Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$206 million

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

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Public Notices

STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF WELLS IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT CASE NO. 90C01-2405-MI-000014

IN RE THE NAME CHANGE OF MINOR: HALLIE MAE KRISTINE MYERS Name of Minor RONDA K WILSON

NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME

Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, RONDA K WILSON, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on HALLIE MAE KRISTINE MYERS to change the name of to HALLIE MAE KRISTINE WILSON. The Petition is scheduled for hearing in the WELLS CIRCUIT COURT on JULY 25, 2024, at 2:00 PM, which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date. May 31, 2024

Beth Davis Clerk, Wells Circuit Court nb 6/8, 6/15, 6/22 hspaxip

90C01-2405-EU-000019 STATE OF INDIANA WELLS COUNTY

IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF JOYCE A. SHADY, Deceased

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that DONALD W. SMITH was, on the 28th day of May, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of JOYCE A. SHADY, deceased, who died on May 4, 2024, and was authorized to administer said estate without court supervision.

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

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 28th day of May, 2024.

Beth Davis Clerk, Wells Circuit Court Timothy K. Babcock Attorney No. 21526-90 DALE, HUFFMAN & BABCOCK 30 Premier Avenue Bluffton, Indiana 46714 (260) 824-5566 Attorney for Estate

nb 6/1, 6/8 hspaxip

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

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

GUARANTEED SOLD

Your ad runs 'til your item is sold! (6-month maximum). Limited to one-item, private party only.

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Add'l Lines: 88 cents each
ADD A PHOTO!
Your "Guaranteed Sold" ad (up to 20 words) with a Photo: \$44
Add'l Lines, 88 cents each

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