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## Norwell celebrates middle school ribbon cutting

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
Norwell Community Schools ceremoniously opened the new middle school building Tuesday afternoon. The \$42 million project broke ground in 2022, but as Superintendent Mike Springer noted in a special ribbon cutting Tuesday, the new building has been four years in the making for the district. The school partnered with Schmidt Associates and Engineering Resources for the design and with Weigand Construction for construction management. After favorable winter weather, construction is also wrapping up one month earlier than expected. Springer celebrated the collaborative efforts of all parties — including the Norwell maintenance team — for the smooth process. “And finally, we sincerely appreciate the support that our community has shown for the project,” Springer concluded. The doors were then opened for those in attendance to peruse throughout the new space. Staff have begun to move into and settle into their new rooms, but the process is just getting started. Demolition of the old building is expected to begin soon.  
*holly@news-banner.com*



Above, the board of trustees for Norwell Community Schools cuts a ribbon symbolically marking the completion of the new Norwell Middle School building. Pictured are, from left, members Corey Krug, Chad Kline, Angie Topp, Gene Donaghy and Traci Neuenschwander. At left is Superintendent Mike Springer as he spoke about the four-year project. **More Photos on Page 3.** (Photos by Holly Gaskill)

## Norwell board approves new code of conduct

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
A new code of conduct has been approved by the board for Norwell Community Schools, hoping to encourage growth and accountability among its students. The board approved the code of conduct with a series of updated handbooks for the elementary, middle and high schools and staff. Changes to the code of conduct, specifically, were made to loosen some of the previous punishments and encourage accountability with students. The code of conduct now includes a protocol for student, guardian and guidance counselor meetings, drug testing and action plans. Previously, the code of conduct only applied to athletics, with one infraction being a 50% reduction of athletic participation, the second being a 365-day ban, and the third being a complete ban for the rest of the student's high school career. Now, the code of conduct includes all extracurricular activities, with one infraction being a 25% reduction in ECA participation, the second being a 50% participation, the third being a 365-day ban, and the fourth being a total ban. Each violation also partners with a meeting with a guardian and counselor to create an action plan. Beyond a first infraction for a drug or nicotine-related infraction, the student must be drug tested regularly and complete community service. On Tuesday, board member Traci Neuenschwander asked what would fulfill the community service requirement since it was unspecified. Athletic Director Kelby Weybright said previous random drug tests have landed on 10 hours of community service for a violation, which Superintendent Mike Springer favored. Several board members recognized that this was a large requirement for students but that it was fair for a second drug or nicotine offense. Board member Chad Kline noted that National Honor Society students have to complete 40 hours of community service for their involvement. An audience member also asked what defined “regular” drug testing and when it would end, especially since the tests were at the student's cost. The board decided testing would be completed once within 30 days of the infraction and a second time within 90 days. The board also recognized that there would be significant differences in 50% participation from activity to activity but that it is important to remain consistent. If less than 50% of  
*(Continued on Page 2)*

## Indiana's overall child well-being scores decline in new national report

**By CASEY SMITH**  
**Indiana Capital Chronicle**  
A new state-by-state report shows Indiana's child well-being ranking has dropped — in part due to Hoosier kids' dismal math and reading scores, as well as increased rates of youth deaths. Although Indiana continues to rank in the bottom half of states for its rates of teen births and children living in high-poverty or in single-parent households, those numbers are showing improvement. The 2024 KIDS COUNT Data Book ranked Indiana 27th among states, three places lower than last year. It's still a slight improvement, however, compared to 2022 and 2021, when the state ranked 28th and 29th, respectively. In specific categories covered in the latest report, Indiana came in 15th for economic well-being, 17th in education, 31st in

family and community, and 32nd in health. “Indiana has significant opportunities and challenges ahead in supporting the well-being of our children,” said Tami Silverman, president and CEO of the Indiana Youth Institute. “We should celebrate the progress we've made, especially in economic well-being areas such as parental employment rates and housing affordability; and we must acknowledge the disparities that persist for our kids,” Silverman continued. “Every child in Indiana should have access to quality education, regardless of their background or circumstances. By addressing these disparities head-on, we not only invest in the future of our children but also in the economic prosperity of our state.” The report is prepared by the Annie E. Casey Foundation in conjunction with orga-  
*(Continued on Page 2)*



**Highway Department Open House**  
The Wells County Highway Department hosted an open house of their new building Tuesday, welcoming all members of the community to tour their new facility. Pictured above is some of the department's fleet — in the old building, the trucks had to part back-to-back, making access to the trucks extremely difficult. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

## Hamas responds to Gaza cease-fire plan seeking some changes

**U.S. says it's 'evaluating' the reply**  
**By MATTHEW LEE and ABBY SEWELL**  
**Associated Press**  
BEIRUT (AP) — Hamas said Tuesday that it gave mediators its reply to the U.S.-backed proposal for a cease-fire in Gaza, seeking some “amendments” on the deal. It appeared the reply was short

of an outright acceptance that the United States has been pushing for but kept negotiations alive over an elusive halt to the eight-month war. The foreign ministries of Qatar and Egypt — who have been key mediators alongside the United States — confirmed that they had

received Hamas' response and said mediators were studying it. “We're in receipt of this reply that Hamas delivered to Qatar and to Egypt, and we are evaluating it right now,” White House national security spokesman John Kirby told reporters in Washington. Hamas spokesman Jihad Taha said the response included “amendments that confirm the

cease-fire, withdrawal, reconstruction and (prisoner) exchange.” Taha did not elaborate. But while supporting the broad outlines of the deal, Hamas officials have expressed wariness over whether Israel would implement its terms, particularly provisions for an eventual permanent end to fighting and full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza in return for the release of all hostages held by the militants. Even as the U.S. has said Israel accepted the proposal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has given conflicting signals, saying Israel will not stop until its goal of destroying Hamas is achieved. U.S. Secretary of State Anto-  
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**Outside**

Today's forecast calls for sunscreen and a pool visit

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 84	High 90	High 85
Low 64	Low 66	Low 57

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**WEDNESDAY**  
June 12, 2024

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## New code of conduct

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a season remains, the punishment will roll over into the following season.

"The key is we're not trying to set up kids for failure, and I think these discussions are going to be a part of action plans," Springer said.

Assistant Superintendent Anna Murphy also announced Tuesday that students who "experienced consequences for ECA rule violation during the 2023-24 school year and is returning ... may meet with the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent to request the 2024-25 ECA Code of Conduct be implemented retroactively for the impacted ECA participant."

As the code of conduct was approved, board member Corey Krug recognized that the board could review and revise the code if needed after this school year.

The board also approved

minor changes to the handbook for the elementary schools, which includes a latchkey childcare handbook, and combined the middle and high school's handbook with minor changes.

Some of these changes update policies to be current with the state's guidance, like the prohibition of cell phone use outside of teacher-permitted instructional use. Additionally, five unexcused absences within 10 weeks require a meeting with the student's guardians. Both of these items were also heard as updates to the board policy and will be added on a second reading at their next meeting.

Moreover, the board approved an updated handbook for staff, which included changes regarding sick day notice, field trip requests and disciplinary procedures. These changes also included the prohibition of any staff-

to-student text messaging; communication will be sent through school-approved messaging apps, and individual communication with students will require a guardian's involvement.

Also during the meeting, the board:

- Recognized the softball team, which won regionals, and track teams, which sent several groups and individuals onto regional and state.
- Approved employment recommendations for Michael Miller as high school freshman boys basketball coach, Ron Harnish as volunteer middle school football coach, Cierra Thompson as LES treasurer, Kaylie Vanhorn as LES teaching assistant, Leah Glassburn as OES special education mild/intense interventions teacher, and Brandisue MacDonald and Melissa Curry for food service.
- Approved supplemental

pay of either \$500 or \$1,000 for seven maintenance staff who completed the demolition for the Ossian Elementary School renovation. Springer noted that their work likely saved the district \$200,000 on the project.

- Accepted a \$350 donation from Park Community Church to "Food Fight Lunches." They also received two grants from the Wells County Foundation — \$557.52 from the Edwina Patton Unrestricted Endowment Fund for the high school's Adventure in Lifeskills and \$3,000 from the Margaret Powers Unrestricted Endowment Fund for Lancaster Elementary School's technology classes.
- Approved updates to the administration's salaries, excluding the superintendent and assistant superintendent, to remain competitive with neighboring areas and to the administration's benefits.

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## Weather

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:21 p.m. Tuesday)

High: 77; Low: 47; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.72 feet at 8:45 p.m. Tuesday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 84. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 64. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 90. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 25 mph.

**Thursday Night:** A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 66. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Friday:** A 10% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 8 a.m. Sunny, with a high near 85.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 57.

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

**Saturday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 60.

**Sunday:** Sunny and hot, with a high near 92.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 71.

**Monday:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 96.

**Monday Night:** A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 73.

**Tuesday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny and hot, with a high near 91.



## Child well-being

(Continued from Page 1)

nizations across the county, including the Indiana Youth Institute. It rates states in 16 wide-ranging areas, which are lumped together under the categories of health, education, economic well-being, and family and community support.

### Gaps in reading and math

The education portion of the latest edition — focused on student achievement — reiterates low numbers familiar to Hoosier education officials.

Just 32% of fourth graders nationally were at or above proficiency in reading in 2022, the latest year for which numbers were available. That was down from the 34% who were proficient in 2019, before the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Scores were even worse for eighth grade math. Nationwide, only 26% of eighth graders were at or above proficiency in math two years ago, down from 33% in 2019.

In Indiana, one-third of fourth graders performed at or above proficiency in reading — a four percentage-point decrease from the 2019 rate of 37%, the report showed.

Further, only 30% of Indiana eighth grade students performed at or above proficiency in math, marking an 11% decrease from 2019, ranking the state 11th nationally.

Among Indiana fourth graders in 2022, Black students had an average reading score that was 23 points lower than that of white students. Students eligible for the National School Lunch Program had an average reading score 18 points lower than those not eligible for NSLP, according to the KIDS COUNT report.

Meanwhile, eighth grade Black students in Indiana had an average math score that was 31 points lower than white students. Hispanic students in the same grade had an average math score that was 19 points lower than their white peers.

The Casey Foundation report contends that the pandemic is not the sole

cause of lower test scores, though. Rather, the foundation says educators, researchers, policymakers and employers who track students' academic readiness have been ringing alarm bells "for a long time."

U.S. scores in reading and math have barely budged in decades. In Indiana, state education officials have repeatedly pointed out that Hoosier literacy exam scores have been on the decline since 2015.

During the 2024 legislative session, state lawmakers took decisive action as part of an ongoing push to improve literacy and K-12 student performance.

Paramount among the new laws passed was one to require reading-deficient third graders to be held back a year in school.

**Stats on youth health and family life**  
Health-focused portions of the report show that — after peaking in 2021 — the national child and teen death rate stabilized at 30 deaths per 100,000 children and youth ages 1 to 19.

But in Indiana, the death rate has continued to rise. While 29 deaths per 100,000 Hoosier children and youth were recorded in 2019, the rate increased to 36 deaths in 2022, per the report.

The Indiana Youth Institute has already drawn attention, for example, to higher rates of mental health crises such as depression and suicidal ideation among the state's youth. According to IYI data, one out of every three students from 7th to 12th grade reported experiencing persistent sadness and hopelessness. One out of seven students made a plan to commit suicide.

The most recent data available additionally show that nationwide and in Indiana, the child poverty rate improved and economic security of parents increased back to pre-pandemic levels.

Between 2018 and 2022, roughly 113,000 — or 7% — of Hoosier children were reportedly living in high-poverty areas. That's a drop from 10% between 2013 and 2017, according to the report.

From 2019 to 2022, teen births per 1,000 declined from 21 to 17, and the percentage of children in single-parent families also dropped from 35% to 32%.

### Still, some gains

Advocates pointed to "some bright spots" for Hoosier kids and their families in this year's national report, as well:

- Between 2019 and 2022, more parents (75%) had full-time secure employment in Indiana — which surpassed both the national average and that of the four neighboring states: Illinois, Kentucky, Michigan and Ohio.

- In 2022, fewer children (22%) lived in households that faced a high housing cost burden, spending 30% of their income solely on housing expenses, in comparison to the national average (30%).

- In 2022, more Hoosier teens (95%) between the ages 16 and 19 were either enrolled in school or employed, an improvement from 93% in 2019.

- Far fewer children under 19 (5%) were also uninsured. Indiana saw the fifth-highest decrease nationally in uninsured children between 2019 and 2022 — a 29% improvement.

The report offers several recommendations for policymakers, school leaders and educators that include chronicling absenteeism data by grade, establishing a culture to pursue evidence-based solutions and incorporating intensive, in-person tutoring to align with the school curriculum.

"Kids of all ages and grades must have what they need to learn each day, such as enough food and sleep and a safe way to get to school, as well as the additional resources they might need to perform at their highest potential and thrive, like tutoring and mental health services," said Lisa Hamilton, president and CEO of the Annie E. Casey Foundation. "Our policies and priorities have not focused on these factors in preparing young people for the economy, short-changing a whole generation."

## Gaza cease-fire plan

(Continued from Page 1)

ny Blinken has been in the region this week trying to push through the deal — his eighth visit since Hamas' Oct. 7 attack on southern Israel ignited Israel's campaign in Gaza. On Tuesday, he continued pressure on Hamas to accept the proposal, saying that the U.N. Security Council's vote in its favor made it "as clear as it possibly could be" that the world supports the plan.

"Everyone's vote is in, except for one vote, and that's Hamas," Blinken told reporters in Tel Aviv after meeting with Israeli officials, hours before Hamas announced its reply. He said Netanyahu had reaffirmed his commitment to the proposal when they met late Monday.

In a joint statement announcing that they had submitted their reply to Qatar and Egypt, Hamas and the smaller Islamic Jihad militant group said they

were ready to "deal positively to arrive at an agreement" and that their priority is to bring a "complete stop" to the war. A senior Hamas official, Osama Hamdan, told Lebanon's Al-Mayadeen television that the group had "submitted some remarks on the proposal to the mediators," without elaborating.

The proposal has raised hopes of ending an 8-month conflict in which Israel's bombardment and ground offensives in Gaza have killed over 37,000 Palestinians, according to Palestinian health officials, and driven some 80% of the population of 2.3 million from their homes. Israeli restrictions and ongoing fighting have hindered efforts to bring humanitarian aid to the isolated coastal enclave, fueling widespread hunger.

Israel launched its campaign, vowing to eliminate Hamas, after the group and other militants stormed

into Israel on Oct. 7, killing some 1,200 people, mostly civilians, and taking around 250 hostages. Over 100 hostages were released during a weeklong cease-fire last year in exchange for Palestinians imprisoned by Israel.

Later Tuesday, Blinken attended a Gaza aid conference in Jordan, where he announced over \$400 million in additional aid for Palestinians in Gaza and the wider region, bringing the total U.S. assistance to more than \$674 million over the past eight months.

U.N. Secretary-General António Guterres told the gathering that the amount of aid flowing to the United Nations in Gaza for distribution has plummeted by two-thirds since Israel launched an offensive in the territory's southern city of Rafah in early May.

Guterres called for all border crossings to be opened, saying, "the speed and scale of the carnage and killing in Gaza" is beyond anything he has since he took the helm of the U.N. in 2017.

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Truck Tires: up to 4 – FREE; \$5.00 for each additional, limit 6  
Tractor (or tires over 54" tall) \$75.00 each  
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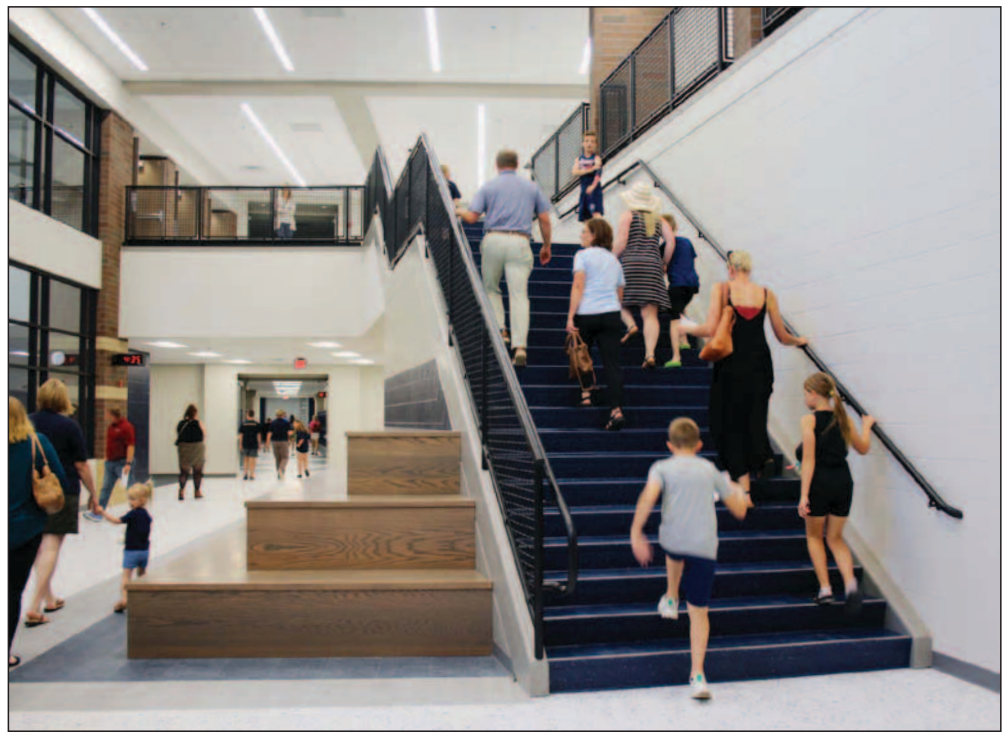
# Police Notebook

## INCIDENTS

**County:**  
Monday, 1:02 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant requested for Gini Monhollen for failure to return to lawful detention.  
Monday, 5:54 p.m., South Main and East 2nd streets, Petroleum. Report of a fight between man and woman, subject advised he attempted to break up the fight with rebar and potentially punctured tire.  
Monday, 8:35 p.m., 125 East Linn Road, Bluffton. Welfare check requested for elderly subject, subject was fine, just sick.  
Monday, 11:56 p.m., S.R. 1 and East 1200E Montpelier. Warrant served to Paul

Camp.  
Tuesday, 7:03 a.m., 1000N 300W Markle. Car versus deer.  
Tuesday, 7:49 a.m., 5900 North Main Street, Uniondale. Welfare check requested for child.  
**Ossian:**  
Tuesday, 12:11 a.m., 100 block of Jefferson Street, Ossian. Welfare check requested for subject that appeared to be falling asleep in access hallway. Subject was okay.  
**ARRESTS**  
Paul Michael Camp, 45, Markle; probation violation, a Class A misdemeanor. No bond set.

## NORWELL MIDDLE SCHOOL RIBBON CUTTING



Those in attendance for the ribbon cutting were invited to explore the school afterward. Pictured above is the staircase next to the media center, which also have a seating area built along the wall. At left, Alivia, Avery and Abby Burnau and Hannah Tomlin sit together in the new common area. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



A new Norwell Middle School classroom.



The school board held its meeting in the middle school following the ribbon cutting. Pictured above, the board set up in the common area space above the staircase. Left to right are Assistant Superintendent Anna Murphy, Superintendent Mike Springer, and board members Gene Donaghy, Chad Kline, Angie Topp, Traci Neuenschwander and Corey Krug.



### New pool chairs

The Bluffton Parks Department recently received a \$1,000 grant from Walmart to purchase new chairs from the Wells Community Pool. (Photo provided)

## ProFed Credit Union begins School Supply Drive

ProFed Credit Union is thrilled to announce the launch of its School Supply Drive, which aims to support local schools, teachers, and students as they prepare for the upcoming academic year. According to a 2023 US Department of Education survey, 94% of teachers reach into their pockets to fund things needed in their classrooms, including school supplies. ProFed is collecting school supplies to benefit local elementary classrooms. Every donation, from crayons and pencils to notebooks and tissues, makes a significant impact. Community members can donate school supplies at any ProFed branch until July 15. For added convenience and to empower you to make a difference from the comfort of

your home, you can also visit profedcu.org to order supplies online from a designated wish list, which will be directly delivered to ProFed's Main Branch. "We are excited to rally our community in support of hardworking teachers," said Hope Zellers, Community Engagement Coordinator at ProFed Credit Union. "By coming together, we ensure that more students have the tools they need to succeed in a classroom." For those unsure of what supplies to donate, a list of requested items is available at profedcu.org. For information or questions regarding the drive, please visit profedcu.org or contact marketing@profedcu.org.

## Radio club will hold event June 22

Ham radio operators from the Wells County Amateur Radio Club in Bluffton will be participating in a national amateur radio exercise from 1-7 p.m. on Saturday, June 22. The club will be operating from the Trails End shelter at Ouabache State Park. The event is ARRL Field Day (arrl.org/FieldDay), an annual amateur radio activity organized since 1933 by

ARRL, The National Association for Amateur Radio in the United States. Hams from across North America ordinarily participate in Field Day by establishing temporary ham radio stations in public locations to demonstrate their skill and service. Their use of radio signals, which reach beyond borders, bring people together while provid-

ing essential communication in the service of communities. Field Day highlights ham radio's ability to work reliably under any conditions from almost any location and create an independent, wireless communications network.

## Adult industry sues over law requiring pornographic sites to verify user age

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — An Indiana law that requires pornographic websites to verify users' ages — one of numerous such statutes in effect across the country — is being challenged by an association of the adult entertainment industry. In April, the U.S. Supreme Court rejected a request by the same group, the Free Speech Coalition, to block a similar law in Texas. According to the Indiana law signed by Republican Gov. Eric Holcomb in March, the state's attorney general and individuals can bring legal action against a website's operator if material "harmful to minors" is accessible to users under the age of 18. In addition to Indiana and Texas, similar laws have been enacted in Arkansas, Kansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, Oklahoma, Utah and Virginia. Backers of such laws say they protect children from widespread pornography online, while opponents say the laws are vague and raise privacy concerns. In the complaint filed Monday, the association says the Indiana law is unenforceable and unconstitutional. The group is asking a federal judge in Indianapolis to issue a preliminary injunction against the law before it takes effect on July 1 and to block the law permanently. Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita — listed as a defendant in the lawsuit — said in a post on X that he looks forward to defending the law in court.

## Corrections and clarifications

The new addition to be built on Ossian's north side is "Fawn Meadows," and not "Farm Meadows." The name of the paved street is "Millside Court" and not "Hillside Court."

### VISITATION & SERVICES

**Scotty Cottrell**  
Calling: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Thursday, June 13.  
Service: 12 p.m., Thursday, June 13 at the funeral home.  
**Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home**  
308 W. Washington St.  
824-3850  
[www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com)

**Clarren L. Gehring**  
Calling: 11 a.m. - 2 p.m.  
Thursday, June 13.  
Funeral: 2 p.m.  
Thursday, June 13 at the funeral home.  
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### VISITATION & SERVICES

**Lawrence "Larry" Schmidt**  
Calling: 6 - 8 p.m.  
Thursday, June 13 at the funeral home.  
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### Board Appointments for 2024

The Wells County Board of Commissioners and/or the Wells County Council are accepting applications for a Board Appointment to:

#### Wells County Library Board

The appointment to this board is a 4-year term and is effective August 15, 2024 – August 15, 2028. If you are interested in serving on this board, please contact the Wells County Auditor's Office at 260-824-6470 for an application. Applications can also be downloaded by going to the Commissioner or County Council page of the County Website at [www.wellscounty.org](http://www.wellscounty.org). Send completed applications to Wells County Auditor, 102 W Market St., Suite 205, Bluffton, IN 46714 or email to [auditor@wellscounty.org](mailto:auditor@wellscounty.org). Applications will be accepted through June 28, 2024.

**Wells County, Indiana** prohibits discrimination and/or the exclusion of individuals from its governmental facilities, programs, activities, and services based on the individual person's race, color, national origin, sex, age, disability, low-income status, sexual orientation or limited English proficiency. **Wells County, Indiana** affirms its commitment to providing meaningful opportunities and access to government facilities, programs, activities and services in an effort to comply with all laws including; Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended; Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended; and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended.

## Advice for young people heading into the labor market

Many of my columns have focused on labor market advice to young people heading to college. Still, here in Indiana, a bit more than half of kids who turn 18 this year will choose not to attend college. As someone who studies labor markets, and who has led, commanded or hired thousands of folks in the 18-to-21-year-old crowd over the past 40 years, I have some advice.



Michael Hicks

I understand the choice to avoid college. I graduated high school in June 1980, sick of school. I was looking forward to a summer job clearing trails for the National Park Service. The idea of working in an office, wearing a suit and tie, scared me to death. Age and experience caused me to change careers and I guarantee you, too, will view the world very differently in five years.

### Hoosier Opinions

Then, as now, a college degree offered several benefits. Jobs for college graduates are, on average, much better paying and less likely to face layoffs. College graduates typically experience wage growth over a lifetime, while workers with only a high school degree typically hit peak earnings in their thirties. All this adds up to college graduates doing less physically demanding work and earning about \$1.2 million more over a lifetime.

None of that means that if you don't go to college you cannot have a satisfying career and enter the ranks of the middle class, or even become fabulously wealthy. It just means that doing so takes more planning and work. I have four bits of advice on that front.

Most employers want to hire someone they can invest time and money developing into a good employee. Yes, they want work out of you, but every new face is an opportunity to bring someone into their organization to train and promote.

The No. 1 complaint about entry-level workers is work ethic. A strong work ethic really matters. No organization hires an 18-year-old expecting that they know the tasks the job will require, but they do expect an adult. They expect someone who can show up on time, ready to work; sober, clean, wearing the proper clothes and eager.

The fastest way to distinguish yourself is to respect the job and the workplace. In 40 years, I have only fired workers for two reasons: work ethic and substance abuse. But the goal of a job is to do it well and get promoted; not simply avoid getting fired.

Second, the new guy always gets assigned to tasks nobody else wants. This is true for every organization and serves as the first real moment to test effort and commitment. Sometimes these tasks will be dirty and unpleasant; other times just boring. But nobody promotes a subordinate who won't do those tasks well.

Moreover, let me offer a lifetime secret. The new guy always gets the dirty jobs, whether it is an entry-level or advanced position. The junior member of the U.S. Supreme Court is the "note taker" for deliberations. If you cannot perform your assigned tasks well, no one will give you better ones.

Third, just because a job doesn't require a college degree doesn't mean that it is low skilled. Every occupation has extensive on-the-job training. The lower the formal educational requirement, the higher the level of on-the-job training.

Some of this can be very informal, learned by simply watching more seasoned workers. Much of it will be more formal, involving a very clearly specified lesson plan, with tests and quizzes aimed at evaluating your learning. Trust me, you cannot get away from tests.

There are a couple of things about this process you should understand. I recommend approaching the informal learning with a lot of humility. It is easy to breeze through the instructions for customer service or workplace safety. But everyone else in the organization depends on you mastering these tasks. There is no such thing as a "dumb question," so don't let your ego interfere with your learning.

It is also important to understand that, at the same time you are being taught, your immediate supervisor is being evaluated. As your immediate boss, or a more senior co-worker, he or she is being tested for their ability to train you and craft an effective team.

Another way to explain all these three major points comes right out of your high school experience. It is being a "coachable" employee. This is why extracurricular activities are prized by employers. Take those lessons from coaches, band directors and your teachers right into the workplace.

If you do these three things, you will have mastered the fundamental building blocks of a successful career. Mastering these workplace habits is necessary, yet not sufficient, for a stable, higher-paying career. That will require much more formal training.

All good businesses have programs to formally train new employees. These might range from tuition assistance for community and technical college to fully paid, formal training programs that lead to degrees, certifications or other credentials. This formal training will usually be recognized as valuable by everyone in your occupation and industry. Often, it will be recognized in all industries. If your employer doesn't offer such programs, start looking for a different job.

Naturally, employers are only willing to pay for that type of training for employees who demonstrate a strong work ethic, do everything well and are willing to learn. Fail at any of these and your employer will be reluctant to invest in you. Fail at any of these and you are aiming for a dead-end job.

All of this sets up my final bit of advice. View every job as an opportunity to invest in yourself. Embrace learning new skills, from the mundane task of smiling at customers to complex safety protocols. Do that consistently and opportunities for better pay, more responsibility and a satisfying career are open to you, whether or not you go to college.

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

## The News-Banner

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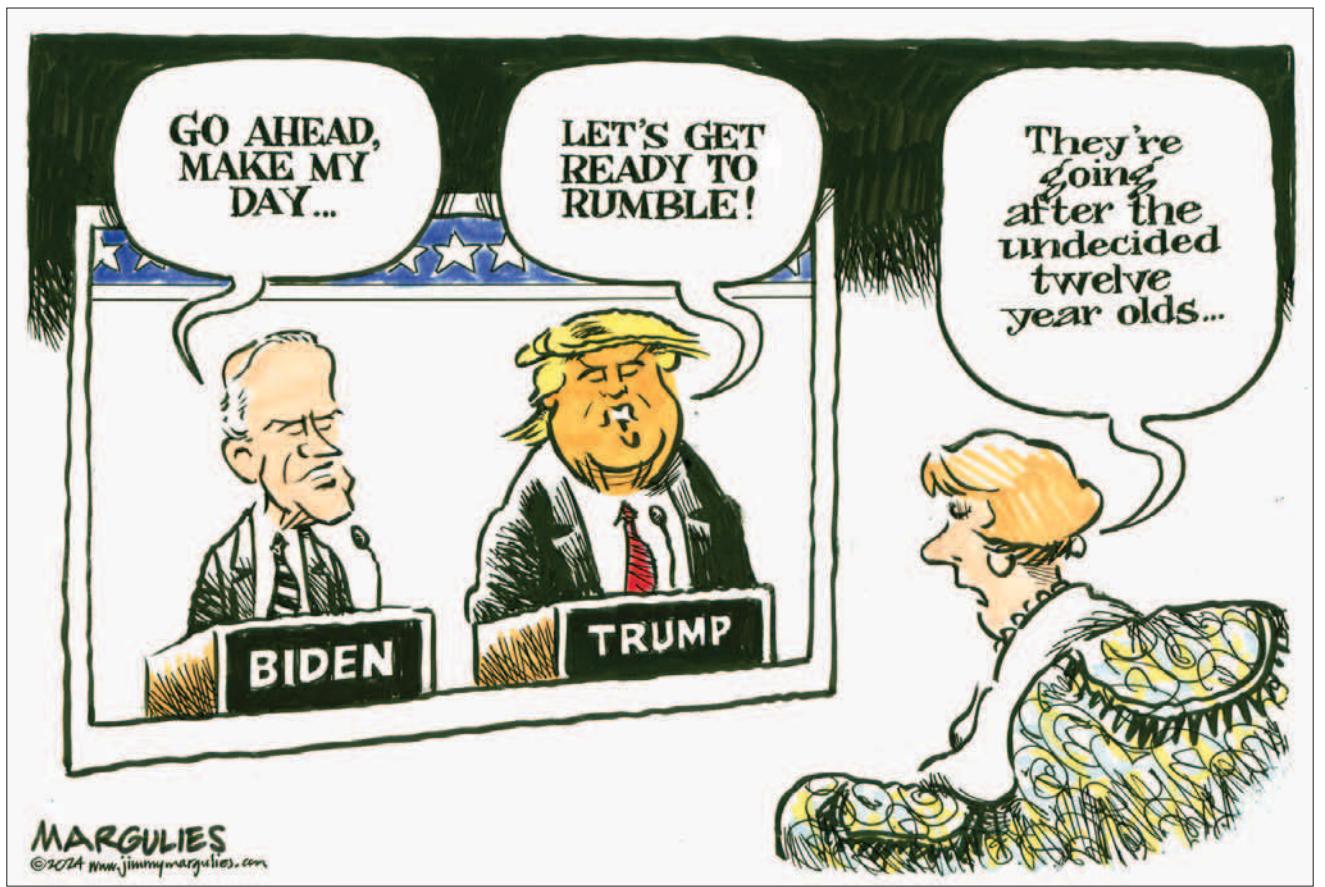
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## The White House is no place for old men

The first shots of the 2024 battle for the presidency have been fired by the two oldest humans ever to suffer self-delusion at the country's expense. The highest-stakes contest in the democratic world is between a criminal and a codger.

Former president Donald Trump's newly burnished criminal record is well-known — guilty on 34 counts of falsifying business records. With rare glee, Biden the Elder now wields "criminal" to describe Trump like a drunk Jedi with a lightsaber.

He should enjoy the moment because, otherwise, the president toggles between lucidity and a dimming of the mind that is obvious to anyone whose political interests do not require denial. A recent investigation by the Wall Street Journal tracked Biden's cognitive condition and interviewed 45 lawmakers and administration officials about him.

The result was a narrative that should unnerve Americans considering a second term for Biden, who would be 86 in 2028.

In the Journal's report, observers (most but not all Republicans) said Biden is no longer his former self. Democrats, including presidential staffers, disagreed, saying in effect *Oh, no, he's 100 percent in control.* They explained away accounts of the president repeating stories as Biden being Biden. But he was said to be repeating stories in the same meeting.

The president also frequently uses note cards to stay on track in meetings, according to the Journal. Staff: *That's perfectly normal. Lots of presidents do that.*

Not really, but fine. There's no crime in referring to notes when specifics are crucial. At least he didn't write them on the palm of his hand as his erstwhile vice-presidential opponent, Sarah Palin, once did.

Others in the Journal report described Biden's voice as being so low at times — and his enunciation nearly indecipherable — that people had to strain to hear or understand him. As though someone had pulled the plug on the president and he was slowly shutting down.

At least one media outlet has taken the Journal reporters to task. CNN reported "glaring problems" with the piece, pointing out that most of the critics were Republicans. Fair point. But people who follow the news and see Biden on television or online have seen for themselves that he occasionally slips. Who are we trying to kid?

The Journal report received an almost-immediate boost when the president's mind wandered off script during his otherwise inspiring speech in France this week to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the D-Day invasion. Speaking to D-Day veterans, Biden drew a parallel to Ukraine's war against Russia. Saying that allies should support Ukraine, he then lamented the hundreds of thousands of Russian troops killed in Ukraine.

"They've suffered tremendous losses with Russia — the numbers are staggering, 350,000 Russian troops dead or wounded," he said.

Maybe Democrats have merely grown accustomed to Biden's manner of speaking through the decades. It's true that a younger Biden also often suffered a dis-

connect between his brain and his mouth. His legendary malaprops and slip-ups could fill a doorstep volume. Biden has put his foot in his mouth so many times that his tongue and toes have created a comedy act and, I hear, hired an agent.

Or maybe people are lying and covering for the president for fear that honesty would empower Trump. If you find this tack defensible, I highly suggest a quick read of Jerzy Kosinski's "Being There." If that's too taxing, there's also a movie.

This is not to suggest that Trump is the better candidate. But he benefits from human forgetfulness, as suggested by recent polling. Trump is more popular now than when he left office in 2021. And data from the election forecasters 270toWin, using five recent national surveys, shows Trump and Biden tied at 44.2 percent each. Almost 56 percent of Americans disapprove of the job Biden is doing, according to RealClearPolitics.

Have we really forgotten the events of Jan. 6, 2021, when Trump, glued to his several TV screens, watched protests evolve into a riot and breach the Capitol — and kept on watching. By the time he spoke out against the mayhem, the damage was incalculable, not just to the Capitol and the nerves of those trapped and hunted inside but to the country's faith in the peaceful transfer of power.

Trump's trial concerning his sexual history with a porn star was a distraction from his far more serious affronts: the lies, disinformation, gaslighting and pettiness. But her testimony and that of others reminded us that Trump has the character of a honey badger.

Trump, too, has shown signs of cognitive deterioration, as pointed out by some fellow Republicans, including Nikki Haley. Yet Trump benefits from the comparison with Biden, who at least twice has reported speaking with world leaders who are long dead.

This is what happens when you stay in politics too long.

Biden's aides, ever alert to Trump's own cognitive decline, have pointed to his perceived napping during his trial. If this was their best shot, they've never sat through a trial, most of which could cure insomnia. (When I can't sleep, I ask my lawyer-husband to tell me about his day.) Trump's conviction, alas, isn't the ending many had hoped for. He's still in the running and still could win. In weird news, no law keeps him from serving as president while in prison.

Republicans soon must decide whether they're in for the short game or the long one. If Biden wins, the GOP has a shot in 2028 for the next eight years or more with a full bench of next-generation aspirants. If Trump wins, the GOP might well lose its tether to the mother ship, free-floating through time and space for the indefinite future.

Given the Republican Party's current composition — people who want to block access to contraception, *really?* — that long-game option might be the best outcome. Except, that is, for the alternate universe where Democrats govern for the long run.

kathleenparker@washpost.com.



Kathleen Parker

## When you never have to say 'sorry'

The best jobs in Washington are the ones in which you never have to admit error and apologize. These jobs are mostly in government and the major media. While "Love means never having to say you're sorry" (as a married man I know that's not true), messing up in government means one can blame others, or feign ignorance. Most recently we saw that reflected in Dr. Anthony Fauci's testimony before the House Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. Similarly, misreporting or censoring stories by news organizations never seem to get corrected.

Now comes the Hunter Biden laptop that is serving as a powerful witness against the president's son in a Wilmington, Delaware, courtroom.

During the 2020 debate between candidate Joe Biden and President Trump, Biden cited a letter signed by 51 former intelligence officers, including five former CIA directors, claiming the laptop had "all the hallmarks of Russian disinformation."

The FBI finally blew that up when it admitted in court the laptop is real. The agency was in possession of the laptop since 2019. One post-election voter survey showed enough voters would have changed their vote from Biden to Trump and swayed the election had they known about the laptop



Cal Thomas

and its contents.

The New York Post practiced what used to be called journalism by exposing the claim by the 51 as a lie. Because the major media view the newspaper as a "conservative" publication, the Post's reporting was ignored.

A quick trip down recent memory lane should remind the public how the major media frequently ignore stories that harm Democrats while promoting stories that harm Republicans.

In the run-up to the 2020 election Twitter and Facebook refused to report the laptop story. Their excuse was that the FBI had warned them of a potential hack and leak operation targeting Hunter Biden, even though the agency knew it was real.

In October 2022, a self-styled "opposition research group for the American people" published a 640-page report on the laptop that documents "459 crimes involving the Biden family and their associates." Read it for yourself@MarcoPo-10501c3. It costs \$45 but is worth it to read what was covered up by the major media. Reporters should get a copy, but probably won't because it would shame them for dereliction of their duties.

The website says the report "provides evidence of Foreign Agents Registration Act violations, money laundering and tax fraud," all seemingly revealed on Hunter's laptop. It

also claims it "exposes how federal law enforcement agencies influenced by politics, protect the Biden family from prosecution while targeting President Biden's primary election opponent, Donald Trump." These are the real stories, not the charge that Hunter lied about his drug use to obtain a gun permit.

The major media and liberal cable news networks were unanimous in refusing to question the claims of the former intelligence agents.

Typical was an interview of Hunter Biden by CBS Sunday Morning correspondent Tracy Smith, who called the assertions against Hunter "rumors," while failing to enumerate hardly any of the allegations swirling around Hunter and his family.

In January when the Justice Department finally acknowledged the laptop was genuine, the three broadcast networks, which had previously hyped the falsehoods, declined to carry the story. Neither did they correct their previous misreporting or apologize for getting it wrong.

It's revealing that so many talking heads on the TV networks sounded alike. The Media Research Center has put together a video compilation.

I've cited before a 2022 Gallup Poll which revealed trust in the media is at a near record low. They won't do anything to elevate the trust level because they are prisoners of their own ideology and there are fewer real journalists today who cover the news without fear or favor.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

# Love-hate relationships; we all have them

Did you ever have a love-hate relationship with something? A situation where something produces the warm fuzzies with the shear mention of it; BUT at the same time, that something really grates against your very being. Stop and contemplate this statement. It seems impossible that something or someone can cause such contradictions in your mind and body.



**Kathy Schwartz**

Take spring. It is probably my most favorite time of year, the time of rebirth and hope. I impatiently await the first greening of the grass and temperatures that climb into the low seventies. I get a thrill driving around and seeing daffodils bowing their heads and birds gathering twigs to construct a suitable home for their eggs, BUT along with the greening of the world around me comes the drippy nose and

itchy eyes. Pollen counts become my barometer that foretells how many boxes of Kleenex I will consume that day. With the green grass comes mowing. If you are unable to push that mower yourself, there's the added expense of paying someone to do it. And my car is never clean due to the layers of pollen.

And there's puppies. I just love the softness of their fur, the tiny pink tongues, and eyes that a person can get lost in. I have had numerous puppies in my lifetime, BUT with the puppies come little surprise puddles and chewed up shoes. Because my old back doesn't allow me to bend over, I am hit with the realization that there will probably be no more puppies in my future. I shouldn't even mention about the possibilities of tripping over those little critters as they seek shelter around their master's feet.

I should give kittens a nod also. There's nothing like the gentle



vibrations on your chest as you pet their soft heads. It is one of the wonders of childhood to marvel just where that sound originates. The cycle of playful scampering and long naps seems endless, BUT so does the sneezing. My parents wondered where my stuffy head came from until my cat became a barn cat. My big male yellow cat was the sole reason we acquired a new couch, which led to Kitty being confined to the barn.

Summer nights allow a person to sit outside and stare up at the stars. The chirps of crickets and the buzz of cicadas create a symphony, with the accompaniment of the bullfrogs near the pond. There's a certain peace your soul embraces as fireflies light up the night, BUT don't forget the mosquitoes that bite with vengeance. I personally develop welts that itch for at least a week and often require antibiotic ointment to disappear. My allergies rear their ugly

head, and my voice is bound to lower two octaves after a night out on the patio.

I find great pleasure in eating out. I claim it is because I have run out of ideas for unforgettable meals, but truth be had, I admit I just don't like to cook. I love trying different types of food, from different cultures. Seafood, fresh from the sea, is among my favorites. Large buffets with multiple choices beckon me, BUT here comes a sensitive gastrointestinal tract. I spend a lot of time dissecting a menu, not in choosing a new dish to try, but determining what will not cause me to consume half a bottle of antacids when I get home. I don't pack away the food like I use to so a buffet is a waste of money.

I have always found other people interesting. My husband marvels as how I can find anyone to talk to any place we go. When we travel, I go to laundromats to wash clothes, but also to find out the place where the locals choose to eat. I have often laughed with total strangers over stories we shared. My children say I have a sign on

my forehead that says: TELL ME ANYTHING. I marvel at what total strangers will share, BUT I do admit some of the stories were on the TOO MUCH INFORMATION scale. I have stifled a gasp or two and shed a few tears at what I have heard.

**Here's the thing:** Life is full of contradictions. That is what makes life interesting. If it was always full of warm fuzzies, it wouldn't feel so warm and fuzzy anymore. My mom use to say, "Take the good with the bad." Focus on the good and let the bad move along. That way your life is full of daffodils, warm puppies, purring kitties, fireflies, coconut shrimp, and laughter. Those sniffles, puddles, stuffiness, mosquito bites, indigestion, and tears are the price you pay for feeling great and magnificently alive.

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

## Meet the cast of Shrek Jr.



**Leading the cast**

Taking lead roles in Shrek Jr. the Musical are left to right Tobiah Lipsey (Lord Farguaad), Elizabeth Seder (Fiona), Paul Morgan (Shrek), Brenner Newsom (Donkey) and Leah Werling (Dragon). Tickets are \$11 at the door with 7 p.m. performances on Friday, June 14 and Saturday, June 15, with a 3 p.m. performance on Saturday. (Photos provided)



**Meet the directors**

Handling the direction duties for the Creative Arts Theatre's production of "Shrek Jr. the Musical" will be this trio of young ladies. Left to right are Emmy Cupp, Taylor University, Choreographer; Alexis Caudell, Huntington University, Director; and Renee Preston, Huntington University, Assistant Director. For the production of "Jungle Book" Renee will be the Director and Alexis the Assistant Director.



**More characters**

Here are more of the characters from Shrek Jr. Left to right are Xyzavier Bagley (Ugly Duckling), Abigail Seder (Wicked Witch), Frank Morgan (Big Bad Wolf) and Soldier Lockwood (Peter Pan).



**The rats & the pied piper**

The three rats will be portrayed by left to right Cecelia Andres, Olivia Smith and Hailey Singleton while Layah Corbat will be the Pled Piper.

## Fathers free at day in the garden

Dads will be admitted free to the Botanical Gardens in Fort Wayne on June 15 & 16.

Hours on Saturday are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and from noon to 4 p.m. on Sunday. On Sunday there will be lawn games, G-Monkey Band and Beer and Delectables available for purchase from the Hop River Brewing Company and The Spicy Bird.

Live butterflies and garden displays are featured.

## Swiss Stitchers to meet June 24 at Berne Fire Station

Swiss Stitchers will meet Monday, June 24 in the Berne Fire Station at 7 p.m.

There will be a short business meeting.

The club will be making quilts for the 4th graders to tie at the Swiss Heritage Education Day in September.

Please bring a sewing machine and 5" squares to help make the tops. If you prefer not to sew you can lay squares out for others to sew together or press finished tops. Irons and boards will be provided.

There will be a quilt show along with Swiss Days in July, so get busy on the challenge and decide which quilts you would like to show. Swiss Heritage Days is in September with the 4th graders on Friday and the general public on Saturday.

Help at both events would be appreciated.

If you have questions please call Vivian at 260-692-6227.

## 5 points school pancake event

On Saturday, June 22, the supporters of the 5 Point School will host a Pancake and Sausage Breakfast fund-raiser, beginning at 8 a.m. The site's Fall Festival will be held in September.

## FW's Salomon Farmers' Market

Over 20 vendors will be setting up at Fort Wayne Salomon Farmers' Market on Wednesdays from 4 to 7 p.m., through Sept. 4th.

Offered will be fresh produce, baked goods, honey, homemade pies and artisan goods.

Entertainment will be offered on: June 19: New Horizons Band; July 3: American Legion Band of Fort Wayne; Aug. 7: Shepherd's Brass Quintet; Aug. 14 and Sept. 4: Remember When Duets.

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**Ordinary Things**

Thursday, June 13th 6:20pm  
Friday, June 14th 6:20pm & 8:40pm  
Saturday, June 15th 3:15pm, 5:45pm & 8:15pm  
Sunday, June 16th 2pm & 4:20pm

**Free Family Film Festival**

**Ruby Gillman, Teenage Kraken**  
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[www.abcinmainc.com](http://www.abcinmainc.com)

## Area Things to See and Do

**ARENA DINNER THEATER, FORT WAYNE**  
"The Drowsy Chaperone," June 14-29. [www.arenadinnertheatre.org](http://www.arenadinnertheatre.org)

**EMBASSY THEATER**  
Blippi: June 12; <http://fwembassytheatre.org/events>

**FORT WAYNE CIVIC THEATER**  
"Something Rotten," July 21-30. Arts United Center box office 260-424-5220; info at [www.fwcivic.org](http://www.fwcivic.org).

**PARKVIEW FIELD, FW**  
Middle Waves Music Festival: June 15; ticketmas-

ter.com  
**WAGON WHEEL, WARSAW**  
Disney's Beauty & the Beast: through June 15; Kiss Me Kate: June 20-29; The Wedding Singer: July 4-13; Murder on the Orient Express: July 18-27; [wagonwheelcenter.org](http://wagonwheelcenter.org)

**NISWONGER CENTER, VAN WERT**  
The POrobables: June 14; Get Poison'D: June 21; Lee Warren Band: June 28; Johnny G'Folseom: July 5; Side Car Band: July 12; [vanwertlive.com](http://vanwertlive.com)

**KEHOE PARK, BLUFFTON**  
A John Mellencamp Tribute: June 14, 9-10 p.m.  
Def Legend Tribute: June 28, 8-10 p.m.

Community Worship: June 30, 7-8:30 p.m. (Sunday)  
Hotel California—Eagles Tribute: July 12, 8-10 p.m.  
The Insiders—Tom Petty Tribute: July 26, 8-10 p.m.

**MUSIC ON THE PLAZA, BLUFFTON**  
Parlor City Plaza, 118 W. Market St., Bluffton  
Fleetwood 2 The Max: June 21, 7-10 p.m.

Rylie Lynn Band: July 19, 7-10 p.m.  
Whoa, Man!, Aug. 8, 7-10 p.m.  
The Electric Cars, Sept. 5, 7-10 p.m.

**WELLS CO. 4-H FAIR**  
Hubie Ashcraft Band: July 16  
Trevor Hunt: July 17

**MARKLE SUMMER SOUNDS**  
Markle Fish & Game Club Park, 220 S. Clark St.  
Hubie Ashcraft Band: June 14, 7 p.m.  
Whoa, Man!: July 12, 7 p.m.

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**Upcoming Events**

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# Joey Chestnut ‘gutted’ to be out of July 4 hot dog eating contest over brand dispute

By CEDAR ATTANASIO  
Associated Press  
NEW YORK (AP) — Joey “Jaws” Chestnut, the reigning champion of the Nathan’s Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, will not participate in this year’s event after signing a deal with a rival brand, organizers said Tuesday.

Chestnut, 40, has long been the face — not to mention the mouth — of the competition. He has vied for the dog-downing contest’s coveted Mustard Belt since 2005 and has won it almost every year since 2007, with the exception of a rare loss in 2015. In 2021, the Westfield, Indiana, resident ingested 76 franks and buns in 10 minutes, a record that still stands.

But Major League Eating event organizer George Shea says Chestnut is moving away from the contest due to a contract dispute.

“We love him. The fans love him,” Shea said, adding: “He made the choice.”

Chestnut disputed who made the choice, saying on the social platform X, “I do not have a contract with MLE or Nathans and they are looking to change the rules from past years as it relates to other partners I

can work with.” In a thread posted Tuesday night after the news broke, Chestnut said he had been training to defend his title at this year’s Independence Day event and only learned through media reports that he wouldn’t be allowed to compete.

“I was gutted to learn from the media that after 19 years I’m banned,” Chestnut said on X. “To my fans, I love you and appreciate you. Rest assured that you’ll see me eat again soon!! STAY HUNGRY!”

Shea says Chestnut struck a deal with a competing brand — a red line for the Nathan’s-sponsored event. He wouldn’t say which brand but told the New York Times that Chestnut will be repping Impossible Foods, which makes vegan sausages. The company declined to comment on the deal. So did Chestnut.

Shea said the dispute came down to exclusivity, not money.

“It would be like Michael Jordan saying to Nike, ‘I’m going to represent Adidas, too,’” Shea said.

In response, Impossible Foods released a statement that didn’t address a deal with Chestnut but said that the company supports him in “any contest he chooses,” adding “Meat eaters shouldn’t have to be exclusive to just one wiener.”

In May, the company announced an ad campaign aimed at engaging meat-eaters who want to supplement

their diet with more plant-based proteins, even if they don’t want to give up meat entirely.

The yearly bun fight, which dates back to 1972, sees large crowds of fans in foam hot-dog hats gather in front of the original Nathan’s Famous’ restaurant in Coney Island, Brooklyn, to cheer on the the competitors as they chow down. The contestants are allowed to dunk the dogs in cups of water to soften them up, creating a stomach-churning spectacle.

Those vying for second place in the past might have renewed hope to chomp their way to victory this year, including international competitors on the eating circuit.

Last year’s second-place winner was Geoffrey Esper from Oxford, Massachusetts, who downed 49 dogs to Chestnut’s 62. Third place went to Australia’s James Webb with 47.

This isn’t the first time the contest has parted ways with one of its biggest stars.

In 2010, Japanese eating champion Takeru Kobayashi, Chestnut’s then-rival, also stopped competing in the annual bun fight due to a contract dispute with Major League Eating. Kobayashi crashed the contest in a T-shirt reading “Free Kobi” and was arrested. He was sentenced to six months’ probation. Kobayashi announced his retirement from the sport last month.

## Tuesday golf League results

Rick Murphy, Rick Oatess, Joe Bauer, Doug Barber and Butch Carpenter were a part of the winning team in this week’s Green Valley Tuesday Senior Golf League.

Steve Folk had the low gross of 35, George Thomas the low net of 24, Greg Castilow had the closest to pin and Scott Dehoff had the longest putt.

# Bengals QB Joe Burrow won’t rush rehab wrist off of surgery

CINCINNATI (AP) — Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow has dealt with multiple injuries in his first four years in the NFL, so he’s learned plenty about what it takes to come back from them.



ery. “It’s always hard to change your mindset when you’ve done it one way for so long, and that’s gotten (me) to where I’m at now,” he said. “And I feel really good about the player that I am because of that work that I put in. But now I feel like I’m

Rushing through rehab to get back on the field sooner is not necessarily the best way to go, Burrow has learned, and that’s why he’s giving his surgically repaired right wrist plenty of time to heal.

Burrow threw some passes on the first day of the team’s mandatory minicamp on Tuesday, but few were spectacular by Burrow standards.

That’s OK, because it’s all about being healthy and ready when training camp opens in late July — and Burrow says he will be.

“You always forget how hard it is coming back from injury — that’s every time it happens,” the 27-year-old Burrow said.

“There’s always peaks where you’re like, ‘I’m feeling great,’ and then a couple of months later you have a couple of days where it’s like, ‘Man, I’m not feeling that great.’ In the past I pushed through that and caused problems for myself, and this year I’m not doing that.”

Burrow said playing with a strained calf muscle in the early part of last season was probably not the right thing to do.

After tearing a ligament in his right wrist and having surgery Nov. 27, he has been patient and more methodical with the recov-

transitioning more to listening to my body and making sure that I’m feeling 100% so I can go out and perform and I’m not making these big, big leaps year to year. I feel really good about where I’m at.”

When minicamp ends Thursday, Burrow said he’ll continue to rehab, spend more time at the pool and continue learning to play the piano via YouTube instructional videos.

“I’ve been through (injury rehab) before, so I know exactly what it’s going to take for me to feel in tip-top shape come September,” Burrow said. “And, you know, our training staff has been through it before. Coaching staff has been through it with me before. So we know. We know how to handle it.”

“But I also feel really good about how I’m throwing,” he said. “And so now it’s just about making sure my body feels the way that I need to come July 24 on our first day of practice and then through training camp into the first game.”

The Bengals open the regular season Sept. 8 at home against New England.

NOTES: Wide receiver Ja’Marr Chase, expecting a contract extension from the Bengals that could rival Justin Jefferson’s \$35 million per year deal, reported to camp but didn’t participate in most of it. He declined to talk to reporters afterward. ... Wide receiver Tee Higgins, who hasn’t signed his franchise tag tender, did not attend.



Joe Burrow

# Lowe hits a game-ending homer, Rays rally past the slumping Cubs

By MARK DIDTLER  
Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. (AP) — Brandon Lowe capped Tampa Bay’s four-run ninth inning with a three-run homer, lifting the Rays to a 5-2 victory over the struggling Chicago Cubs on Tuesday night.

Richie Palacios started the rally with a leadoff double against Héctor Neris (6-1). Ben Rortved reached on a one-out walk before José Caballero’s RBI single tied it at 2.

Yandy Díaz then struck out swinging before Lowe drove a full-count pitch

deep to right-center for his third homer of the season.

Chris Devenski (2-1) worked a scoreless ninth for the win.

Chicago wasted a sharp performance by Jameson Taillon, who pitched six scoreless innings of four-hit ball. The Cubs have dropped 13 of their last 18 games.

Christopher Morel put Chicago in front 1-0 with his 13th homer in the fourth off Zach Eflin.

Garrett Cleavinger replaced Eflin with two on and two outs in the sixth and gave up a first-pitch RBI

single to pinch-hitter David Bote.

Tampa Bay got on the board in the seventh when Palacios scored on Hayden Wesneski’s wild pitch.

Elfin surrendered seven hits in his second start after missing 2 1/2 weeks with lower-back inflammation.

This is just the third series the Cubs have played at Tampa Bay. The others were in 2008 and 2017.

### UP NEXT

Cubs RHP Javier Assad (4-2, 2.74 ERA) and Rays RHP Aaron Civale (2-5, 5.51 ERA) are Wednesday night’s starters.

# Browns top WR Amari Cooper absent from team’s minicamp as he enters final season of contract

By TOM WITHERS  
AP Sports Writer

BEREA, Ohio (AP) — Deshaun Watson tested his surgically repaired right shoulder by rifling passes to Browns receivers.

None went to Amari Cooper. Cleveland’s No. 1 wide receiver did not report to the first day of mandatory minicamp on Tuesday, presumably because Cooper, who is entering his final season under contract, is seeking an extension from the Browns.

Coach Kevin Stefanski said Cooper’s absence was not excused. Stefanski would not confirm if the soon-to-be 30-year-old has asked the team for more money, deferring to general manager Andrew Berry.

“These situations, I understand that they do come up,” Stefanski said. “I’ll really leave all of that between Amari and Amari’s agent, AB (Berry) and those type of conversations.”

Stefanski said there has been dialogue between the Browns and Cooper’s agent, Charlie Fields.

One of the NFL’s premiere route runners, Cooper will make \$20 million this season, his last on a five-year, \$100 million deal he signed with Dallas. He’s subject to fines while he’s not at the Browns’ facility.

Per the collective bargaining agreement, Cooper can be fined \$16,953 for the first day. If he misses all three days of the minicamp, the Browns can assess him more than \$100,000 in fines.

Fields didn’t immediately respond to a request from AP for comment.

Looking for a top-tier playmaker, the Browns acquired Cooper before the 2022 season in a trade from the Cowboys, who wanted to get out from his contract. He’s had consecutive 1,000-yard seasons in Cleveland and become one of the Browns’ strongest leaders on and off the field.

“He’s the best in the league,” Watson said. “He shows it each and every year. He’s showed it the last two years with different quarterbacks, so I think you’ve got to put him up there with the best.”

Cooper’s absence isn’t that surprising, given the large contracts being signed by wide receivers around the league. Minnesota’s Justin Jefferson (four years, \$140 million) and Miami’s Jaylen Waddle (three

years, \$85 million) both recently signed monster deals.

Also, the Browns made a substantial investment in newly acquired wideout Jerry Jeudy, signing him to a three-year, \$52 million extension before he played a single game in Cleveland.

Cooper was in Cleveland over the weekend and played in Browns tight end David Njoku’s charity softball game.

“We all respect Coop and he’s got to handle what he’s got to handle,” Watson said when asked about Cooper’s situation. “Nobody is looking any different than on him. We all support him and he was here this weekend with us and we had a good time seeing him.”

Cooper had 72 catches for 1,250 yards and five touchdowns last season while making his fifth Pro Bowl. He’s got 9,486 yards and 60 touchdowns in 10 seasons with the Raiders, Cowboys and Browns.

As for Watson, he feels good about his progress since undergoing major shoulder surgery in November. He’s following a program set up by his doctors and the Browns’ medical staff and has been throwing every other day.

Watson had more velocity on some short passes than he showed a week ago when he threw with reporters watching him for the first time.

During some 7-on-7 scrimmaging, Watson stepped into several throws that appeared to have their usual zip.

“Everything’s been going pretty smooth,” said Watson, who doesn’t know if he’ll have any restrictions when training camp opens next month. “Taking it one day at a time, not trying to get ahead of myself. I think I’m in the right position and I feel very comfortable.”

Stefanski has seen noticeable improvement in Watson in several areas.

“Obviously, he’s done everything in his power from a rehab standpoint, and he’s doing everything that he’s allowed to do,” he said. “When the doctors and trainers tell us we can progress, we progress. And so he’s been a good patient, I guess, in that regard.”

“But he continues to make strides both in the building, in the weight room, out here on the grass.”

# Jon Rahm withdraws from the U.S. Open with a left foot infection

PINEHURST, N.C. (AP) — Jon Rahm withdrew from the U.S. Open on Tuesday afternoon because of an infection in his left foot that led to concerns it could hurt the rest of his game.

Rahm, a past Masters champion and former No. 1 player in the world, announced his decision in a social media post. He says he consulted “numerous doctors” and his team and felt

this was best in the long run for his golf.

“To say I’m disappointed is a massive understatement!” Rahm posted on X. “Hopefully I’ll be back in action as soon as possible.”

Rahm, winless since his 2023 victory in the Masters, had finished in the top 10 at every LIV Golf event until having to withdraw after six holes of the second round last week in Houston because of the pain in his foot.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASKETBALL

### NBA FINALS

(Best-of-7, x-if necessary)  
Thursday, June 6  
Boston 107, Dallas 89

Sunday, June 9  
Boston 105, Dallas 98

Wednesday, June 12  
Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Friday, June 14  
Boston at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.

Monday, June 17  
x-Dallas at Boston, TBA

Thursday, June 20  
x-Boston at Dallas, TBA

Sunday, June 23  
x-Dallas at Boston, TBA

### WNBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Connecticut	10	1	909	—
New York	11	2	846	—
Atlanta	5	5	500	4½
Chicago	4	6	400	5½
Indiana	3	10	231	8
Washington	1	12	077	10

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	8	3	727	—
Seattle	7	4	636	1
Las Vegas	5	4	556	2
Phoenix	6	6	500	2½
Los Angeles	4	7	364	4
Dallas	3	7	300	4½

#### Monday's Games

Connecticut 89, Indiana 72

#### Tuesday's Games

Washington 87, Atlanta 68  
Los Angeles at Seattle, late  
Minnesota at Las Vegas, late

#### Wednesday's Games

Connecticut at Chicago, 8 p.m.

#### Thursday's Games

Atlanta at Indiana, 7 p.m.  
Seattle at Dallas, 7 p.m.  
Las Vegas at Phoenix, 10 p.m.

#### Friday's Games

Chicago at Washington, 7:30 p.m.  
Los Angeles at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.

## HOCKEY

### NHL FINALS

(Best-of-7) (x-if necessary)  
Saturday, June 8  
Florida 3, Edmonton 0

Monday, June 10  
Florida 4, Edmonton, 1

Thursday, June 13  
Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 15  
Florida at Edmonton, 8 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18  
x-Edmonton at Florida, TBA

Friday, June 21  
x-Florida at Edmonton, TBA

Monday, June 24  
x-Edmonton at Florida, TBA

## BASEBALL

### MLB

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	48	21	696	—
Baltimore	44	22	667	2½
Boston	33	34	493	14
Toronto	33	34	493	14
Tampa Bay	32	35	478	15

##### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	43	22	662	—
Kansas City	39	29	574	5½
Minnesota	35	32	522	9
Detroit	32	34	485	11½
Chicago	17	50	254	27

##### West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Seattle	38	30	559	—
Texas	31	34	477	5½
Houston	30	37	448	7½
Los Angeles	25	40	385	11½
Oakland	26	42	382	12

#### Monday's Games

Baltimore 5, Tampa Bay 2  
Minnesota 5, Colorado 0  
Milwaukee 3, Toronto 1

N.Y. Yankees 4, Kansas City 2  
Seattle 8, Chicago White Sox 4  
San Francisco 4, Houston 3, 10

innings  
San Diego 6, Oakland 1

#### Tuesday's Games

Baltimore 4, Atlanta 0  
Tampa Bay 5, Chicago Cubs 2  
Washington 5, Detroit 4, 10

innings  
Philadelphia 4, Boston 1  
Cleveland 5, Cincinnati 3  
Colorado 5, Minnesota 4

Toronto 3, Milwaukee 0  
N.Y. Yankees 10, Kansas City 1  
Chicago White Sox at Seattle, late  
L.A. Angels at Arizona, late  
Oakland at San Diego, late  
Houston at San Francisco, late  
Texas at L.A. Dodgers, late

#### Wednesday's Games

Colorado (Gomber 1-3) at Minnesota (López 5-6), 1:10 p.m.  
Toronto (Bassitt 6-6) at Milwaukee (Myers 2-2), 2:10 p.m.

Houston (Valdez 5-3) at San Francisco (Webb 5-5), 3:45 p.m.  
Oakland (Harris 0-0) at San Diego (King 5-4), 4:10 p.m.

Atlanta (Schwellenbach 0-2) at Baltimore (Povich 0-1), 6:35 p.m.  
Washington (Irvin 4-5) at Detroit (Olson 1-7), 6:40 p.m.

Chicago Cubs (Assad 4-2) at Tampa Bay (Civale 2-5), 6:50 p.m.  
Cleveland (Bibee 4-1) at Cincinnati (Lodolo 6-2), 7:10 p.m.

Philadelphia (Sánchez 3-3) at Boston (Pivetta 3-4), 7:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees (Poteet 2-0) at Kansas City (TBD), 8:10 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Cannon 0-1) at Seattle (Miller 5-5), 9:40 p.m.  
L.A. Angels (Soriano 3-5) at Arizona (Ceconi 1-4), 9:40 p.m.

Texas (Buehler 1-3), 10:10 p.m.

#### Thursday's Games

Atlanta at Baltimore, 1:05 p.m.  
Washington at Detroit, 1:10 p.m.  
N.Y. Yankees at Kansas City, 2:10 p.m.  
Chicago Cubs at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.

Philadelphia at Boston, 7:10 p.m.  
Oakland at Minnesota, 7:40 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at Seattle, 9:40 p.m.

L.A. Angels at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.  
Texas at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	46	20	697	—
Atlanta	35	29	547	10
Washington	31	35	470	15
New York	28	37	431	17½
Miami	23	43	348	23

##### Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	39	28	582	—
Pittsburgh	32	34	485	6½
Chicago	32	35	478	7
Cincinnati	32	35	478	7
St. Louis	31	34	477	7

##### West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	41	26	612	—
San				

Go with true love

Dear Annie: I've been seeing this guy for almost a year now. We practically live together, in fact. At first, to be honest, we just "hooked up" for, as he put it, "pleasure." But over the course of about three months of these hookups, our relationship got a little more serious, and now, almost a year later, we have deep feelings for each other. We both know that we love each other, too. We talk about our future, making plans for trips together.

The problem is that two of my sons aren't happy about or accepting of our relationship. You see, there is a big age difference between my guy and me. I'm 52, and he is exactly half my age. We don't look at that as a big deal, since we connect on so many levels. Sure, there are some things that are not what each of us are accustomed to, but we look past those things. He has made me feel more sexy and desired than any other man as well. But my two oldest sons, who are older than him, just can't get past the age gap. My oldest son is dead set against it. Any advice you can give me would be appreciated. — In Love but Losing

Dear IBLB: The part of your letter that struck me the most was that you say you and your beau "both know" that you love each other: It implies that you two haven't actually said those words to each other. If that's the case, it's time for a "define the relationship" conversation so you can make sure that you're on the same page. If this is indeed true love, then set aside your sons' disapproval. Over time, as they see how much this man means to you, they may come around. A family counseling session including you and your sons might help with the process.

Dear Annie: This is in response to "Heart in Shambles," who found out her boyfriend was cheating on her after his other girlfriend sent her a message. From my personal experience, I'd bet her heart is not the only one in shambles. I've been married to the same man for almost 54 years. Let me just say "Heart in Shambles" could have

been the women he had affairs with at different times throughout our marriage. I could have told each of them he would never leave me or his children for either one of them. I knew this as a fact, because no matter how much I knew about his philandering, he was always here for holidays or any other celebrations or times he needed to be here. I knew he would never leave.

I won't go into the whys of my decision to stay with him; they are varied and complicated. And every time I read a letter such as hers, I almost feel sorry for women like that.

As an aside, we have both been retired for over a decade, and we are growing older happily, in spite of the heartaches. But whether I speak it out loud or not, the pain and humiliation are still there no matter how much time has passed.

Please continue to advise those like "Heart in Shambles" that they can do better and they should always choose to do better. — Cracked but Not in Shambles

Dear Cracked: Time heals most wounds, but scars are a different story. I am glad you and your husband were able to find happiness on the other side of infidelity, though I'm sorry to hear you're still carrying that pain. Thanks for the perspective.

"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 dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

Dear Annie by Annie Lane



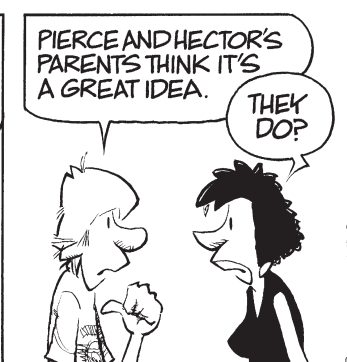
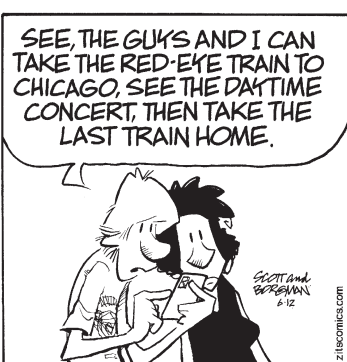
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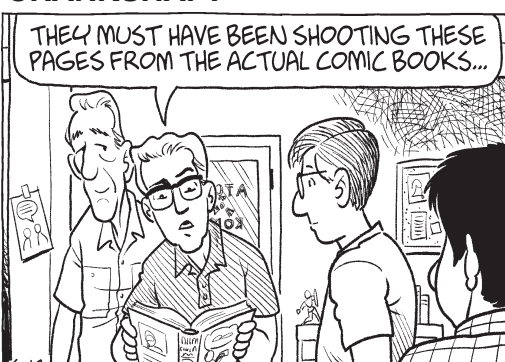
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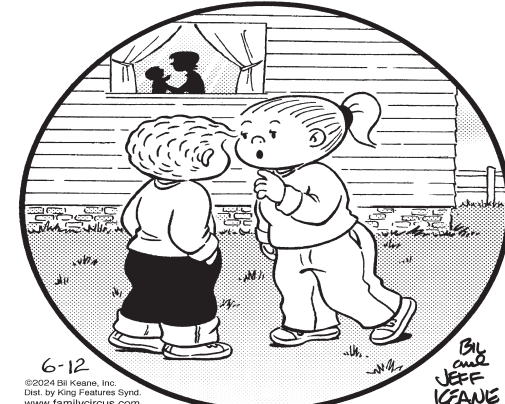


CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



The world lives with fear

Question: I think there is more fear in the world today than ever before. Some Bible teachers and preachers often talk about fearing God. Others say we have no reason to fear God because He loves us. Seems very contradictory to me. What am I not understanding? — F.L.

Answer: The world of Jesus' day was filled with fear. The Romans feared rebellion and their subjects feared Rome's power. The Sadducees feared the Pharisees, and both were suspicious of the publicans. The hearts of people everywhere were filled with fear and distrust. Life was precarious, and above all, people feared death.

The world lives with fear even today. Many fear for their health. Many fear that they'll never be accepted by their peers. People fear life's burdens that may never come! There are those who fear the future. Most people fear everything except God, who holds our lives in His hands. There is little room for God or faith in His Word (the Bible).

Jesus can step an end to fear for all who trust in Him. "Do not fear, little flock" is a phrase Jesus often used in His preaching (Luke 12:32). When we give God His proper place in our lives, it shows we revere Him — and love

Him, because He first loved us. This is why the Bible says that "perfect love casts out fear" (1 John 4:18, NKJV). And the love of Jesus is perfect!

For those who belong to Him [His little flock], our prayer to God should be that He will help us draw near to Him and walk in obedience to Him. God alone knows the future, and when we know Christ, we know we can trust our lives and our futures into His hands — both now and for eternity.

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

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Table with columns for date, time, and channel listing TV programs for 06/12. Includes channels like WINM, CBS, ABC, NBC, FOX, PBS, and various cable channels.

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

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 23 mins and a grid with numbers 1-35.

Yesterday's answer 6-12 crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-41.

# SUDOKU

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

## King Classic Sudoku

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

Difficulty: ★★★

6/12

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# The Classifieds

## EMPLOYMENT

### Help Wanted

**THE CITY OF** Bluffton Street Department is accepting applications for a Laborer/Truck Driver. The minimum educational requirement is a high school diploma or equivalent. Applicants must possess and maintain a CDL License or obtain one within the time limit. The City utilizes E-Verify and follows EEOC guidelines. Applications may be obtained from the Clerk Treasurer's office, 128 East Market St., Bluffton, IN between 8:00 am and 4:30 pm Monday-Friday or at [www.blufftonindiana.net](http://www.blufftonindiana.net).

## FOR SALE

### Miscellaneous

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

## SERVICES

### Services

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

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

### ADVERTISE YOUR SERVICES!

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

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

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

90C01-2405-EU-000020  
STATE OF INDIANA  
WELLS COUNTY

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
ESTATE OF )  
THOMAS E. WOODARD, )  
Deceased )  
**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED )  
ADMINISTRATION**

Notice is hereby given that **T. JASON PAULEY** was, on the 29th day of May, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of **THOMAS E. WOODARD**, deceased, who died on April 6, 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 29th 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 6/5, 6/12  
hspxlp

### NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS

Notice is hereby given to the Taxpayers of the City of Bluffton, Wells County, Indiana, that the Common Council of said City will, at the Council Chambers, 128 East Market Street, Bluffton, Indiana, meet on July 2nd, 2024 at 5:30 o'clock P.M., to consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the 2024 budget.

CREDIT Fund	APPROPRIATE TO:	\$147,311
Credit Budget		
411.010 Salaries		\$44,700
412.010 Medical Insurance		\$11,310
412.020 Fical/Medicare		\$2,776
413.010 Personal Services		\$3,231
421.030 Office Supplies/Technology		\$16,200
439.010 Other Services/Business Development		\$59,094
439.020 Prof Meetings/Training		\$10,000
444.010 Equipment		

Taxpayers appearing at said meeting shall have the right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be automatically referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The Department will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.

Michelle Simon  
City Clerk Treasurer

nb 6/12  
hspxlp

## PUBLIC SALE CALENDAR

**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! Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://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.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), 260-426-0633, [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com).

**JUNE 16-23 - (Online Only) - Estate of Marilyn McQueary, seller.** 2023 GMC Terrain Denali, AWD Edition w/2,130 miles (like new), 1990 Cadillac Allante, modern furniture, antiques, collectibles, tools, home furnishings, stained glass decorations, leaded glass lamps, home decor, kitchen items, jewelry, clothing, designer purses, Christmas & Halloween decorations, swords, coins & silver, Glock 45 9MM, more. Preview & online bidding assistance June 18, June 20 from 3-6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-426-0633.

**BIDDING ENDS JUNE 17 - Online only fire-arm - Burrof and others, owners.** Rifles, shot-guns & 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.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), 260-824-3006, [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com).

**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](http://KrueckebergAuction&RealtyLLC.com), 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).

**JUNE 23 - (Online Only Auction) - Bowen Family, sellers.** Well cared for 2 bedroom lake cottage of Jimmerson Lake with 36' of frontage, three season room, 1 car garage, deck with outstanding views of Jimmerson Lake/Part of the Lake James Chain. Open House: June 22 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 500 Lane 101 Jimmerson Lake, Angola, IN. [The Steffen Group Inc.](http://TheSteffenGroupInc.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

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

**JULY 16 - 2-6 p.m. ET - (Online) - Farm: William C. Lee Trust.** Property Location: 6 miles south of Angola, IN, along E 700 S in Pleasant Lake, IN. 156+/- total acres, tillable farmland, timber, recreational, pole barn, chicken barn, Steuben Twp., Steuben Co. Tract 1: 101+/- acres. Tract 2: 50+/- acres. Tract 3: 5+/- acres. Open House by appointment: Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Neal Wolheter, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177. [Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management](http://HaldermanRealEstate&FarmManagement.com), 800-424-2324, [halderman.com](http://halderman.com).

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## Lottery Numbers

### Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

**Cash 5** — 09-15-23-24-38  
**Cash4Life** — 03-12-30-41-45, Cash Ball: 01  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 02-04-06-11-13-17-20-21-22-24-32-36-43-45-46-48-50-55-57-62, BE: 36  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 06-08-04, SB: 09  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 00-06-06, SB: 05  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 03-03-05-03, SB: 09  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 04-05-08-06, SB: 05  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 05-10-11-12-14-15-16-20-23-28-32-33-34-51-58-60-64-66-73-76, BE: 15  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$14.4 million

### MEGA MILLIONS

01-05-07-22-24; Mega Ball: 08; Megaplier: 4X.

### POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$20 million

### LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

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

## Public Notices

90C01-2406-EU-000021  
STATE OF INDIANA )  
WELLS COUNTY )

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
ESTATE OF )  
CARLY A. SCOTT, )  
Deceased )

### NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that **DUANE L. SCOTT** was, on the 5th day of June, 2024, appointed personal representative of the estate of **CARLY A. SCOTT**, deceased, who died on May 10, 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 5th day of June, 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 6/12, 6/19  
hspxlp

STATE OF INDIANA )  
WELLS COUNTY )

IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
ESTATE OF )  
THOMAS E. WOODARD, )  
Deceased )

### NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that on the 5th day of June, 2024, Delaney Cook was appointed personal representative of the estate of **JEFFREY W. BROWN**, deceased, who died on the 12th day of May, 2024.

All persons having claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of Wells County 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.

Date June 5th, 2024  
Beth Davis  
Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court

nb 6/12, 6/19  
hspxlp

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7	9	8	1	9	2	6	4	5
2	6	4	9	5	7	1	9	8
6	5	1	7	9	4	8	2	9
8	9	9	2	1	5	7	6	4
4	7	2	9	6	8	5	9	1
9	8	7	5	2	9	4	1	6
9	2	5	6	4	1	9	8	7
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# Mexico's tactic to cut immigration to the US: Wear out migrants

By MEGAN JANETSKY and FÉLIX MÁRQUEZ  
Associated Press  
VILLAHERMOSA, Mexico (AP) — "Here, again."  
Yeneska García's face crumpled as she said it, and she pressed her head into her hands.  
Since fleeing crisis in Venezuela in January, the 23-year-old had trekked through the Darien Gap jungle dividing Colombia and Panama, narrowly survived being kidnapped by a Mexican cartel and waited months for an asylum appointment with the United States that never came. She finally crossed the U.S.-Mexico border in May, only to have American authorities expel her.  
Now she was back in southern Mexico, after Mexican immigration bused her to sweltering Villahermosa and dropped her on the street.  
"I would rather cross the Darien Gap 10,000 times than cross Mexico," García said, sitting in a migrant shelter.  
She clutched a crinkled Ziploc bag that held her Venezuelan ID, an inhaler and an apple — her few remaining possessions.  
Driven by mounting pressure from the U.S. to block millions of vulnerable people headed north, but lacking the funds to

deport them, Mexican authorities are employing a simple but harsh tactic: wearing migrants out until they give up.  
That means migrants are churning in limbo here as authorities round them up across the country and dump them in the southern Mexican cities of Villahermosa and Tapachula. Some have been punted back as many as six times.  
Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said Monday that the policy protects migrants.  
"We care a lot ... about keeping migrants in the southeast because crossing to the north is very risky," López Obrador said in his morning press briefing, responding to a question from The Associated Press about busing migrants to southern Mexico.  
But the moves have forced migrants, including pregnant women and children, into even more precarious situations. That's likely to worsen under President Joe Biden's new asylum restrictions, analysts say.  
Mexico's actions explain a plunge in arrivals to the U.S.-Mexico border, which dropped 40% from an all-time high in December and persisted through the spring. That coincided with an increase in

migrants in Mexico without legal permission, data from the country's immigration agency shows. U.S. officials mostly credit Mexican vigilance around rail yards and highway checkpoints.  
"Mexico is the wall," said Josue Martínez, a psychologist at Villahermosa's only migrant shelter, Peace Oasis of the Holy Spirit Amparito, which was bracing for a crush of people under Biden's measure to halt asylum processing when U.S. officials deem that the southern border is overwhelmed.  
The small shelter has been scrambling since Mexico's government began pushing people back two years ago. Last month, it housed 528 people, up from 85 in May 2022.  
"What will we do when even more people arrive?" Martínez said. "Every time the United States does something to reinforce the northern border, we automatically know tons of people are coming to Villahermosa."  
Migrants here walk or take buses north toward Mexico City, where they can request an appointment to seek asylum over U.S. Customs and Border Protection's app, CBP One. But most never make it far enough north for the app's location requirement.

Checkpoints dot southern Mexican highways. Armed soldiers pull migrants off buses and round up those walking along roads and in surrounding mountains. Of two dozen migrants interviewed by the AP, all said they were extorted by law enforcement or Mexican migration officials to continue on their journeys. After dishing out hefty sums two or three times, families had nothing. They were then bused back south, where most were left on the streets.  
Mexican authorities refer to the temporary detentions as "humanitarian rescues."  
But Venezuelan Keilly Bolaños says there is nothing human about them. She and her four children have been sent to southern Mexico six times. The 25-year-old single mother wants asylum so her 4-year-old daughter can get treatment for leukemia, unavailable to her in Venezuela.  
Days earlier, she was captured in the northern state of Chihuahua, where she said members of the military beat her in front of her crying children, then loaded them onto a bus for the two-day journey to Villahermosa.  
"How can you run when you have four children? You can't," Bolaños said.

The family slept on cardboard boxes alongside other migrants outside Villahermosa's bus terminal. Bruises still lined Bolaños' legs. Yet she planned to take a seventh swing at heading north. She has nowhere else to go.  
"I know that all this struggling will be worth it some day," she added.  
Mexico's tactics appear to be a way to appease the U.S., which has pressured Latin American nations to help slow migration while failing to overhaul its own immigration system that most Americans agree is broken. Panama's incoming president has promised to block passage through the Darien Gap, while Biden eased criticisms of El Salvador's president after he reduced migration.  
When Biden announced his new restrictions last week, he said he "drastically" cut migration to the border "due to the arrangement that I've reached with President (López) Obrador." He said he also planned to work with incoming President Claudia Sheinbaum on border issues.  
But Michael Shifter, a senior fellow at the Inter-American Dialogue, said such measures are only short-term solutions that don't address root causes of migration.

# Drivers file arbitration claims against Amazon for unpaid wages

NEW YORK (AP) — Thousands of delivery drivers filed legal claims against Amazon on Tuesday, alleging the company's classification of them as independent contractors instead of employees has led to unpaid wages and other financial losses.  
Two law firms spearheading the action said about 15,860 Amazon Flex drivers have submitted arbitration claims with the American Arbitration Association, where 453 similar cases are already being litigated.  
Amazon's Flex program, which was founded in 2015, signs up drivers to deliver packages with their own cars and a special app.  
The company pitches the work as a flexible, part-time opportunity that allows people to earn extra income dur-

ing the hours they choose. Most drivers earn \$18-25 per hour, according to Amazon, though how much they get paid can depend on other factors, such as their location and how long it takes to complete deliveries.  
The arbitration claims submitted Tuesday were made by drivers in California, Illinois and Massachusetts, all of which have rules that limit the amount of control companies can exert over independent contractors. The claims, collected over a span of four years by attorneys Joseph Sellers and Steven Tindall, maintain the drivers should be classified as Amazon employees instead of independent contractors, based on current laws in the three states.  
That change would allow Flex drivers to col-

lect unpaid wages because Amazon only pays them for a pre-determined number of hours regardless of how long it takes to complete deliveries, according to the lawyers. It would also allow Flex drivers to receive overtime pay if they work more than 40 hours a week and get reimbursements for work-related expenses, such

as gas costs and vehicle wear and tear.  
Gas and other vehicle costs are a "huge expense to our clients," Tindall said during an interview. He also

said one client represented in the claims worked 7-day weeks making deliveries for Amazon during a holiday period and never was paid overtime.

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# Hunter Biden is convicted of all 3 felonies in federal gun trial

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP) — Hunter Biden was convicted Tuesday of all three felony charges related to the purchase of a revolver in 2018 when, prosecutors argued, the president's son lied on a mandatory gun-purchase form by saying he was not illegally using or addicted to drugs.

Hunter Biden, 54, stared straight ahead and showed little emotion as the verdict was read after jury deliberations that lasted only three hours over two days in Wilmington, Delaware. He hugged his attorneys, smiled wanly and kissed his wife, Melissa, before leaving the courtroom with her.

President Joe Biden said in a statement issued shortly after the verdict that he would accept the outcome and "continue to respect the judicial process as Hunter considers an appeal."

Now Hunter Biden and presumptive Republican presidential nominee Donald Trump, the president's chief political rival, have both been convicted by American jurors in an election year that has been as much about the courtroom as about campaign events and rallies.

Hunter Biden faces up to 25 years in prison when he is sentenced by U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika, though as a first-time offender he would not get anywhere near the maximum,

and there's no guarantee the judge would send him to prison. She did not set a sentencing date.

Defense attorney Abbe Lowell said they would "continue to vigorously pursue all the legal challenges available." In a written statement, Hunter Biden said he was disappointed by the outcome but grateful for the support of family and friends.

The jury's decision was read swiftly after the announcement that it reached a verdict. First lady Jill Biden sat through nearly every day of the trial but did not make it into the courtroom in time to hear the verdict. Hunter Biden walked out of the courthouse holding hands with the first lady and his wife before they got into waiting SUVs and drove off.

Joe Biden steered clear of the federal courtroom where his son was tried and said little about the case, wary of appearing to interfere in a criminal matter brought by his own Justice Department. But allies of the Democrat have worried about the toll that the trial — and now the conviction — will take on the 81-year-old, who has long been concerned with his only living son's health and sustained sobriety.

Hunter Biden's conviction came just weeks after Trump was found guilty of 34 felony charges related to a hush money payment

to a porn actor in the 2016 campaign. The cases are in no way the same, and Hunter Biden is a private citizen who is not running for office. But they have both argued they were victimized by the politics of the moment.

Trump, however, has continued to falsely claim his verdict was "rigged," while Joe Biden has said he would accept the verdict involving his son and would not seek to pardon him.

In his statement Tuesday, the president said he and the first lady are proud of their son, who says he has been sober since 2019, and will always be there for him with "love and support."

Trump's campaign called the verdict "nothing more than a distraction from the real crimes of the Biden Crime Family." Trump and his allies have pressed unsubstantiated or debunked allegations that Joe Biden acted while vice president to advance his family members' foreign business interests.

The verdict came down as the president prepared to give a speech at a conference hosted by the Everytown for Gun Safety Action Fund in Washington. He did not mention his son as he spoke about his administration's efforts to stop gun violence and the need to ban so-called assault weapons.

Hours after the conviction, Pres-

ident Biden hugged his son after landing in Wilmington to spend the night with family before leaving Wednesday for the Group of Seven leaders conference in Italy. Hunter Biden, his wife and their child greeted the president on the tarmac, and the president lingered to visit with them for several minutes.

Jurors found Hunter Biden guilty of lying to a federally licensed gun dealer, making a false claim on the application by saying he was not a drug user and illegally having the gun for 11 days.

The trial played out in the president's home state, where Hunter Biden grew up and where the family is deeply established. Joe Biden spent 36 years as a senator in Delaware, commuting daily to Washington, and his other son, Beau Biden, was the state attorney general before he died of cancer.

The proceedings put a spotlight on a dark time in Hunter Biden's life, including his spiraling descent after Beau's death in 2015. The trial featured deeply personal testimony from former romantic partners and embarrassing evidence such as text messages and photos of Hunter Biden with drug paraphernalia or partially clothed.

In his closing argument on Monday, prosecutor Leo Wise acknowledged the evidence was "ugly." But he told jurors it was

also "absolutely necessary" to prove Hunter was in the throes of addiction when he bought the gun and therefore lied when he checked "no" on the form that asked whether he was "an unlawful user of, or addicted to" drugs.

Before the case went to the jury, the prosecutor urged jurors to pay no mind to members of the president's family sitting in the courtroom, telling them: "People sitting in the gallery are not evidence."

David Weiss, the prosecutor who has led the long-running investigation into the president's son, told reporters the case was about Hunter Biden's "illegal choices" and "dangerous" conduct.

"No one in this country is above the law," said Weiss, the Trump-nominated U.S. attorney for Delaware, who was named special counsel by Attorney General Merrick Garland in August. "Everyone must be accountable for their actions."

Hunter Biden's legal troubles aren't over. He faces a trial in September in California on charges of failing to pay \$1.4 million in taxes, and congressional Republicans have signaled they will keep going after him in their stalled impeachment effort into the president. The president has not been accused or charged with any wrongdoing by prosecutors investigating his son.

## Jet missing since 1971 was found submerged

By LISA RATHKE, Associated Press

Fifty-three years after a private plane carrying five men disappeared on a snowy Vermont night, experts believe they have found the wreckage of the long lost jet in Lake Champlain.

The corporate jet disappeared shortly after departing the Burlington airport for Providence, Rhode Island, on Jan. 27, 1971. Those aboard included two crew members and three employees of a Georgia development company Cousins Properties, who were working on a development project in Burlington.

Initial searches for the 10-seat Jet Commander turned up no wreckage and the lake froze over four days after the plane was lost. At least 17 other searches happened, until underwater searcher Garry Kozak and a team using a remotely operated vehicle last month found wreckage of a jet with the same custom paint scheme in the lake close to where the radio control tower had last tracked the plane before it disap-

peared. Sonar images were taken of the wreck found in 200 feet (60 meters) of water near Juniper Island.

"With all those pieces of evidence, we're 99% absolutely sure," Kozak said Monday.

The discovery of the wreckage gives the families of the victims "some closure and answers a lot of the questions they had," he said.

While relatives are grateful and relieved that the plane has been found, the discovery also opens up more questions and old wounds.

"To have this found now ... it's peaceful feeling, at the same time it's a very sad feeling," Barbara Nikitas, niece of pilot George Nikita, said in an interview with The Associated Press on Tuesday. "We know what happened. We've seen a couple of photos. We're struggling I think with that now."

Frank Wilder's father, also Frank Wilder, was a passenger on the plane.

"Spending 53 years not knowing if the plane was in the lake or maybe on a

mountainside around there somewhere was distressing," said Wilder, who lives outside of Philadelphia. "And again, I'm feeling relieved that I know where the plane is now but unfortunately it's opening other questions and we have to work on those now."

When the ice melted in the spring of 1971, debris from the plane was found on Shelburne Point, according to Kozak. An underwater search in May of 1971 was unable to find the wreckage. At least 17 other searches happened, including in 2014, according to Kozak. At that time, authorities were spurred by curiosity after the Malaysia Airlines plane disappearance that year with the hope that new technology would find the wreck but it did not.

Barbara Nikitas, who lives in southern California and her cousin Kristina Nikita Coffey, who lives in Tennessee and is the daughter of George Nikita, spearheaded recent search efforts and contacted other victims' relatives.

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