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Page 6

Progress made in ongoing sewer issue at the jail

By HOLLY GASKILL

Headway has been made in identifying a persistent sewer issue at the Wells County Jail.

Sheriff Scott Holliday told the Wells County Commissioners Monday that contractors were brought out to the jail and used smoke to identify multiple hairline cracks in the cast iron pipes. Holliday originally stated

Superior Enterprises of Fort Wayne due to wait times. Holliday said Superior Enterprises did not believe anything was broken underground but that the pipes had simply aged.

he would work with Havel for the project but contacted

Most issues have already been resolved, but Superior Enterprises needed to order parts for two sections. Holliday said he would also monitor the issue, as additional smoke testing may be needed. In total, the project cost \$1,300.

Holiday also gave a quarterly update to the Wells

County Council on Tuesday, where he provided an update on the Wells County Courthouse activity through the new full-time security position. Between April and June, courthouse security detained 11 peo-- either on warrants, remands or sentencing. They also confiscated 64 knives, 19 pairs of scissors, and 24 other potential weapons.

Holliday said he would soon investigate potential repairs or replacements to the courthouse metal detector. "The X-ray machine in there is about as old as security has been," joked Holliday. "So we have been looking at different costs, whether it's worth trying to maintain what we currently have or if there's better equipment that we can do.'

The council then asked if the county had a full staff, and Holliday said he was just under a complete staff for deputies and the jail. Holliday said he's been

Two new appointments will join WCPL board

Two new members are expected on the Wells County Public Library board of trustees.

The first, Lauren Andrews, was appointed by the Wells County Council on Tuesday. Andrews will succeed current board member Kim Gentis on the board. The second will be appointed by the commissioners, replacing current board President John Stauffer.

Neither current board members re-applied for their positions.

(Continued on Page 2)



Fireworks at BHS

Fireworks were shot off to celebrate Independence Day at Bluffton High School Thursday. Above right, Megan Stultz (left) Madison Stultz (rear), Laney Thompson (middle) and Liam Thompson (right) get ready for the show with

sparklers. At right, from left to right, Lindsey, Erin, Scott, Doug, Jennifer, Cathy Ford, Gary and Sally Cagle celebrate with snacks and food. Bottom left, Josie Cruz (left) and Hallee Stewart are adorned with glow sticks. Bottom right, MacKenzie (left) and Madyson Dudley both throw a softball around while they wait for the show to start.









Regional Sewer District recoups \$4K in delinquent bills

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Last month, the Regional Sewer District collected over \$5,000 less than it billed.

Since then, RSD attorney Mark Burry reported that another \$4,000 in delinquent payments were received. Burry acknowledged that the uncollected numbers can look worse or better depending on when the report is made, but still keeps an eye on any delinquent payments.

Burry, RSD Superintendent Lewis Brown and RSD board member Andy Stoller stated that the only source of revenue for the RSD comes through the utility charges, which cover the treatment costs paid to the city, operation and maintenance cost of the sewer line, employee costs and paying off the SRF.

Burry also noted that once someone is 90 days behind on payment, the district has to file a lien on the property. Similar to how utility charges for sewer and electricity work in Bluffton, if those payments are left unchecked the city still has the right to file against real estate owners.

Stoller stated that the \$95 rate was established through a third party that determined the RSD's operational budget. However, some customers pay a \$35 interim rate before receiving service.

Stoller stated that as soon as an RSD project breaks ground, they need to have a mechanism in place to start paying off the loan, which is where the interim rate comes

Additionally, the rate increases to \$95 on the expected completion date, not the project's actual completion.

SRF loans require that the RSD put an estimated completion date on the project for the loan to be accepted. Brown believes that those estimates figure into how Baker Tilly does the rate assessments and figures the minimum cost to cover the RSD's expenses. Stoller also noted that the interim rate is designed to cover the debt payments until the line is fully operational to minimize the

Ultimately, this means that a portion of billed customers may not receive service.

Due to construction delays with the Craigville project, in particular, the project was not completed before the estimated date, and people were charged the full \$95 per month. Brown stated that people were "rightfully" upset, but the RSD was stuck in that moment.

"If we would delay that \$95 payment by even two months, that's going to affect the rate," Brown said. "So that's why we have to stick to that (date).

Brown clarified that the RSD covers the installation of the main lines and grinder stations for homeowners, but the installation of a connecting pipe from the house itself to the main sewer line must be covered by the homeowner. The RSD has a list of contrac-

(Continued on Page 2)

Analysis: Indiana's housing affordability gap is growing

By WHITNEY DOWNARD **Indiana Capital Chronicle**

The housing affordability gap for Indiana's minimum wage workers grew according to the latest "Out of Reach" report, finding that those Hoosiers would need to work 122 hours per week to afford a Fair Market Rate two-bedroom apartment.

"The new Out of Reach 2024 report finds that Indiana's 2024 Housing Wage of \$22.07 needed to afford a two-bedroom rental unit is an increase of \$3.07 per hour above the 2023 Housing Wage. However, the average Hoosier renter's wage of \$17.92 per hour in 2024 increased by only \$0.06 over the past year," said Aspen Clemons, executive director at Prosperity Indiana. "To address Indiana's growing housing affordability crisis, state and local policymakers must bridge the

growing gap between rents and incomes by using all available policy tools."

In order to afford that unit, valued at the Fair Market Rate of \$1,148, a full-time Hoosier working only 40 hours a week would need a "Housing Wage" of \$22.07 - far above the state's minimum wage of \$7.25 and above the average renter's wage. The findings, from an annual report jointly published by the National Low Income Housing Coalition and Prosperity Indiana, included data on all 50 states and concluded that Indiana had dropped from 43 to 34 in terms of affordability between 2021 and 2024.

Indiana still falls below the national Housing Wage, which is \$32.11 per hour for a two-bedroom apartment.

The Housing Wage is calculated by keep-(Continued on Page 2)

Phil Swain Day

Bluffton Mayor John Whicker declared Wednesday, July 3 as "Phil Swain Day," commemorating Swain's retirement and last day as vice-president and branch manager of Bluffton's PNC Bank office. Whicker noted Swain's 46-year career in banking, 31 of which were at the Bluffton bank, and his years of community service. Helping to make the presentation were from left, Addie Hiser of PNC; Whicker; Swain and his wife Sue; and Angie McFarren of PNC. (Photo by Mark Miller)

Local/Area

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Warm with a chance of storms and wind gusts

Saturday Sunday Today High 84 High 79 | High 84 Low 65 | Low 60 | Low 64

More Weather on Page 2

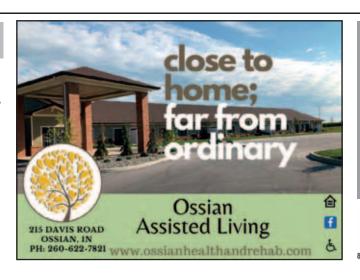


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Sewer issue at jail

(Continued from Page 1) in the hiring process for a deputy for several months but advised there's not as much interest as there once

During the Monday commissioner meeting, Holliday reported 81 inmates were housed in the Wells County Jail — this number decreased by one by his report to the County Council on Tuesday. Of the Tuesday total, 40 inmates were pretrial holds for the Circuit Court, 27 pre-trial holds for the Superior Court, 12 from the Department of Correction and two Level 6 felons.

Both the Wells County Council and commissioners heard an annual report about county 911 dispatch, represented by Director

Mike Miller. Miller said the department is currently operating with 10 of 15 budgeted dispatchers, adding, "I don't even know if I'm going to get all 15 by the end of 2025.'

However, Miller gave an overall positive report of the budget and current staff. The city of Bluffton and the county share dispatch services and costs through an interlocal agreement.

Citizens Against Drug Abuse also gave their annual report to the council and commissioners, represented by board members Molly Hoag and Chris Walker. CADA uses court fees from drug cases toward grants combating drug use in the community.

In 2023, CADA col-

lected \$19,784.86 in fees Additional appropriation \$4,946.22 of which was used for education and prevention, \$4,944.22 for treatment and intervention, \$4,496.57 for judicial needs, and \$4,946.20 for administrative needs of the

The council also approved the following fund transfers:

 CASA: Additional appropriations of \$200 for lodging, travel and conference fees, \$772 for volunteer recognition, and \$300 for room rental, which will be reimbursed through a grant.

• Auditor's Office: Additional appropriation of \$2,500 for the auditor stipend, as previously approved by council.

• County Election Board:

of \$2,500 for the clerk, as previously approved by the council.

• Clerk's Office: \$7,424 from part-time, \$649.94 from Social Security and \$500 from supplies for professional services. Clerk Beth Davis stated a parttime employee, previously working for the office as a high school student, has continued digitizing records through the summer.

• Highway Department: \$2,100 from radios to office records and supplies. Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar said the new county engineer, Nate Whitacre, required a laptop, and there was no need for new radios

holly@news-banner.com

Weather

Friday, July 5, 2024 (24-hour observations at 10:51 p.m. Thursday) High: 79; Low: 68; Precipitation: 0.44 inches of rain Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.39 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

Wells County forecast

Today: A chance of showers, with thunderstorms also possible after 9 a.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 84. Southwest wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 65. West wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Saturday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. West wind around 10 mph.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 60. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the eve-

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 84.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 64. **Monday:** A 20% chance of showers after 2 p.m. Mostly

sunny, with a high near 87. Monday Night: A 40% chance of showers and thunder-

storms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. **Tuesday:** A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms.

Partly sunny, with a high near 83. Tuesday Night: A chance of thunderstorms. Partly

cloudy, with a low around 65. Chance of precipitation is

Wednesday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

Wednesday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 65.

Thursday: A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.

(Continued from Page 1) tors who are willing to do the equipment, but the costs for that and any potential yard recovery work must be covered by the homeowner. Brown stated that this is due to the unreliability of getting utility easements for every home under the RSD.

While the RSD acknowledged frustrations with the payment structure and early

growing pains of their projects, they also stated that things have been refined and are going more smoothly as time goes on.

"I know it costs money for them, but it is a positive thing," Brown stated. "There are new houses that are going up and we will continue to get new hous-

jonathan@news-banner.com

WCPL board

(Continued from Page 1) Their terms will end in August.

Although the council did vote unanimously, they briefly discussed an alternative appointment during their meeting on Tuesday. The county received four applications for the board — Andrews was the sole applicant to indicate she only wanted to serve as the council's appointment.

"I feel pretty strongly, and I would move to appoint Lauren Andrews to ' Council member Brandon Harnish opened the discussion. "I know her, and I trust her. She and I share a love of reading, C.S. Lewis and J.R.R. Tolkien ... She's a homeschool mom of eight, and that is a calling and vocation in my view, and I think that

demonstrates a true love of children. And I think that is, ultimately, what the library serves — children first.'

Council member Vicki Andrews recognized this sentiment but stated she desired to maintain Gentis' representation for southern Wells County on the board. Lauren Andrews, married to Wells County Prosecutor Colin Andrews, is unrelated to Council member Vicki Andrews.

"I do feel a little bit, and it's because of where I live, that we don't have much representation from the southern Wells part of the county," Vicki Andrews said. "We pay the taxes for the library ... It would be nice to have another opinion in that location, but I'm also happy with anyone else that's been suggested.

appointment to the board. The commissioners can choose their appointment from the remaining three

applicants. The next commissioner

Vicki Andrews recommended appli-

"I actually have a lot of respect for

cant Joe McFerren for the board, who

she said had been in the southern Wells

regional loyalties," Harnish replied. "I

sympathize with that, but I've made

the motion and I feel very committed

expressing gratitude for the multiple

applicants willing to serve, as several

other board members had. The council

voted 7-0 in favor of Lauren Andrews'

Vicki Andrews responded by

community for "quite some time."

to Lauren.'

meeting is at 5 p.m. Monday, July 16. holly@news-banner.com

Indiana's housing affordability

(Continued from Page 1)

ing the cost of a Fair Market Rate twobedroom apartment and utilities at 30% of a household's income — meaning that a Hoosier household needs to earn \$3,826 monthly or \$45,913 annually.

Findings from the report

Prospects are slightly better for renters seeking a one-bedroom apartment, which would cost someone \$949 monthly. That would require 101 hours of minimum wage work weekly. But renters living in more populated areas have even higher costs - including the Indianapolis-Carmel area and Louisville area, which have a housing wage of \$25.94 and \$25.02, respectively.

The average Hoosier wage falls short in 88 of 92 counties and in 25 of the state's 26 metro areas, according to the report. Additionally, many of Indicore job sectors don't pay wages high enough to cover the Fair Market Rate for a two-bedroom apartment.

"For the first time in recent history, less than a third of Indiana's Top 20 largest occupations pay wages sufficient to meet the state's Housing Wage," said Andrew Bradley, the senior director of Policy and Strategy at Prosperity Indiana. "Only a quarter of Hoosiers working in the state's most

popular occupations earn enough on average to afford rent. This is not helping Hoosiers get ahead. With the cost of housing increasingly out of reach for Indiana families, we need coordinated efforts by our federal, state, and local policymakers to raise wages and increase the supply of safe, stable, and affordable housing for all Hoosiers."

Just six of Indiana's 20 most common occupations paid a full-time wage enough to afford a two-bedroom rental unit, down from 10 occupations in 2023. These poorly paid occupations employ 843,720 Hoosiers, more than a fifth of the state's workforce, and are frequently held by women or Hoosiers of color.

Such jobs included home health and personal care aides, with a median hourly wage of \$14.79 - almost \$8 less than the full-time housing wage of \$22.07.

Ties to homelessness

"With the cost of rent growing further out of reach for those with the lowest incomes, and absent an adequate housing safety net, it is no surprise that homelessness has been on the rise," the report concluded.

The national January 2023 Point-In-Time count, a method of counting the number of people experiencing homelessness, identified roughly 653,000 people — the highest number ever recorded and a 12% from 2022.

In Indiana, the count found 4,398 Hoosiers experiencing homelessness outside of Marion County, which conducts a separate count. Notably, the U.S. Supreme Court last week ruled that local law enforcement agencies could arrest homeless people for sleeping outdoors even if their city doesn't have adequate housing resources.

A potential solution could be federal intervention and the report explicitly names bills authored by Indiana Sen. Todd Young to expand housing choice vouchers. Young has identified housing affordability as one of his priorities, authoring bills to incentivize investments in distressed neighborhoods nationwide and cutting "burdensome" local regulations.

In particular, advocates highlighted the "Family Stability and Opportunity Vouchers Act" introduced last year to create 250,000 new housing vouchers for low-income families with young children. Another, the "Eviction Crisis Act," would build upon Indiana's Emergency Rental Assistance program to create a "permanent stabilization fund for renters facing temporary financial setbacks," according to the

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Life and death in Gaza's 'safe zone' where food is scarce and Israel strikes without warning

By WAFAA SHURAFA Associated Press

KHAN YOUNIS, Gaza Strip (AP) — An Israeli airstrike slammed into a residential building next to the main medical center in Gaza's southern city of Khan Younis, wounding at least seven people, hospital authorities and witnesses said Wednesday.

Nasser Hospital sits in the western part of the city, which is inside the Israelidesignated humanitarian "safe zone" where Palestinians have been told to go, according to maps provided by Israel's military. The latest Israeli evacuation order affected about 250,000 people earlier this week across wide swathes of Gaza, the United Nations estimated.

As dust from Wednesday's strike billowed through a street near Nasser Hospital, an Associated Press contributor filmed people running in all directions — some rushing toward the destruction and some away. Men carried two young boys, apparently wounded. Later, civil defense first responders and bystanders picked their way across chunks of cement and twisted metal, searching for people who might have been buried.

Displaced families ordered out of eastern Khan Younis on Monday have struggled to find places to live in overcrowded shel-

ters and open areas in the western parts of the city. Wednesday's airstrike hit an area that also includes a school-turned-shelter for displaced people, many of whom are living in makeshift tents.

"We were sitting in this tent, three people, and we were surprised by the rubble and dust," said one man, Jalal Lafi, who was displaced from the city of Rafah in the south.
"The house was bombed

without any warning, hit by two missiles in a row, one after another," he said, looking back over his shoulder at the rubble, his hair and clothes covered in grey soot.

The Israeli military did not immediately comment on the strike.

Andrea De Domenico, the head of the U.N. humanitarian office for the Palestinian territories, said Gaza is "the only place in the world where people cannot

find a safe refuge, and can't leave the front line." Even in so-called safe areas there are bombings, he told reporters Wednesday in Jerusalem.

An Israeli airstrike Tuesday killed a prominent Palestinian doctor and eight members of his extended family, just hours after they complied with military orders to evacuate their home and moved to the Israeli-designated safe zone.

Most Palestinians seeking safety are either heading to a coastal area called Muwasi or the nearby city of Deir al-

Balah, De Domenico said. The Israeli military said Tuesday it estimates at least 1.8 million Palestinians are now in the humanitarian zone it declared, covering a stretch of about 8.6 miles along the Mediterranean. Much of that area is now blanketed with tent camps that lack sanitation and medical facilities with limited access to aid, U.N. and humanitar-

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amid mountains of trash and streams of water contaminated by sewage.







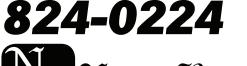


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OBITUARIES

Judy Pinkerton, 85

Judy L. Pinkerton, 85, passed away on Tuesday afternoon, July 2, 2024, on the family farm just south of Domestic, surrounded by her loving family.

She was born on April 9, 1939, in Coles County, Illinois, to Oather and Myrtle (Phillippi) Breedlove. She attended Petroleum High School and was a member of Domestic Church of Christ.

On Sept. 8, 1956, in Bluffton, Judy and Richard W. Pinkerton

were married. Together, they worked on the family farm and dairy operation. They shared 50 years of marriage, and he preceded her in death on June 3, 2006.

Survivors include her children; Susan M. Pinkerton, Cinda K. (Jeff) Higgins, Debra A. Pinkerton and Laura J. (Dana) Hudgins, all of Bluffton and David R. (Judy) Pinkerton of Geneva.

She is survived by 11 grandchildren, Heather (Nick) Hale of Bluffton, Matt (Laura) Higgins of Bryan, Ohio, Ashley (Craig) Carroll of Fort Wayne, Dustin (Shaye) Higgins of Geneva, Amy Higgins of Bluffton, Nathan Hudgins of Bluffton, Tyler Higgins of Bluffton, Katie Pinkerton of Greenwood, Kyle Pinkerton and Nick Pinkerton of Geneva, and Jennifer (Paul) Kalhorn, Kalamazoo, Michigan, along with 10 great-grandchil-

She is preceded in death by her husband, Richard, and son, Mark W. Pinkerton, two sisters, Deleen Matteson and Betty Sweeney, and three brothers Arthur, Emil and Gene Breedlove.

A service to celebrate Judy's life will be held at 2 p.m. on Sunday, July 7, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Pastor Mark Dauterman will officiate. Burial will follow at Alberson Cemetery in

Calling hours will be held from 5-8 p.m. on Saturday and from noon to 2 p.m. on Sunday at the funeral

Memorials may be made to Elara Hospice and can be sent to the funeral home.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the Pinkerton family at www.thomarich.com.

Arnold joins First Bank of Berne as agribusiness banker in Bluffton

First Bank of Berne is pleased to announce that Dustin Arnold has joined its team as an Agribusiness Banker at the Bluffton, Indiana branch. Arnold grew up in both Wells and Adams Counties, and is a respected community leader, who is looking forward to assisting fellow area farmers and growers in fulfilling both financial and growth

He holds a Bachelor of Animal Sciences Degree from the College

of Agriculture at Purdue University in West Lafayette. Arnold chose a career in ag banking because he enjoys building relationships with the customers he serves and learning about all aspects of their business.

Dustin Arnold

"I am thrilled to be joining the agribusiness team at First Bank of Berne because they truly care about people, as well as the future growth and prosperity of our area's farming communities," said Arnold.

Arnold grew up helping his grandfather and dad on the family farm, which he now operates with his brother, so his insights and understanding give him a genuine advantage in providing thoughtful financial guidance in minimizing risks and maximizing opportunities for success

He is also committed to staying on top of the latest developments in the ag industry, and is particularly interested in ways advanced technology can help improve production, efficiency and yields.

"Dustin's knowledge of agriculture, livestock and equipment give him a tremendous advantage in understanding the day-to-day operations of our valued ag customers, and how to serve them with excellence, said Jayde Ketring, Agribusiness Banking Manager of First Bank of Berne.

Committed to advocating for area farmers and ag businesses, Arnold currently serves as the Vice President of the Wells County Soil and Water Conservation District. In this volunteer role, he assists local landowners and users by providing technical, financial, and educational knowledge and services that enable Wells County citizens to conserve soil, water, and related nat-

Arnold is a resident of Bluffton, where he enjoys spending time with his wife and four children.



City:

Friday, June 28, 2:36 p.m., 614 W Cherry St. Report of someone dumping a coach in a dumpster.

Friday, June 28, 3:45 p.m., 401 W Market St. abandoned vehicle tagged.

Friday, June 28, 9:51 p.m., Elm and Liberty streets. Report of fireworks. Unable to locate.

Friday, June 28, 11:09 p.m., Main Street and Capri Court. Marijuana found in traffic stop.

Friday, June 28, 11:40 p.m., 300 block of East South Street. Intoxicated subject threatening to kick in door if son doesn't come outside. Subject told police his son wasn't supposed to be there. The son took off on foot.

Saturday, 12:05 a.m., River Road and Wayne Street. Vehicle pulled into grass, subject was looking for juvenile that he thought ran into bushes. No juvenile

Saturday, 1:28 a.m., 4-H Park. Vehicle with light on in one of the buildings. Person was caretaker for the property.

Saturday, 10:45 a.m., Wells County Jail. Report of fraud.

Saturday, 11:42 a.m., Grand Sweet Shop. Money bag stolen from glove box of vehicle.

Saturday, 4:07 p.m., Washington Street and Beth Avenue. Traffic stop. One arrested.

Miller and Oak streets. Stray dog returned to

Saturday, 8:42 p.m., 200 block of North Oak Street. Caller was concerned her neighbor's dog was attacking her son's dogs. Reportedly an ongoing issue.

Saturday, 10:18 p.m., 400 block of Cedar Road. Report of a loose dog with no food or water. Advised owner they would be charged with neglect if the dog was seen without water or food. Owner said the dog would be released to the animal shelter on Monday.

Saturday, 11:45 p.m., 700 block of South Johnson Street. Unoccupied truck blocking driveway. Owner moved vehicle.

Sunday, 1:23 a.m., 300 unrough bearoom window, to locate source.

Sunday, 2:29 a.m., 700 block of Clark Avenue. Report of a rock thrown through a window. Possible two juveniles walking toward Roush Park.

Sunday, 9:54 a.m., Parlor City Oil Shop. Report of a missing U-Haul trailer. Later confirmed the trailer was not stolen but had been moved without proper com-

Sunday, 10:02 a.m., 1000 block of West Central Avenue. Report of a broken window overnight. Ashtray also stolen from porch.

Sunday, 11:43 a.m., Main Street and Charles Deam Court. Buggy hit by

Police Notebook

1349 Clark Ave. Property damage accident.

Sunday, 1:11 p.m., Kroger. Lost child reported. Child was reported as found seven seconds later.

Sunday, 2:02 p.m., 900 block of Clark Avenue. Reported kids down the street keep stealing the paper.

Sunday, 2:25 p.m., Wells County Historical Society. Parking problem. Owner advised he was having battery issues.

Sunday, 3:58 p.m., 600 block of Beth Avenue. Report of a kid stealing from a vehicle. Kid was looking for hat in his dad's truck.

Monday, 1:04 a.m., South and Marion streets. Citation issued for driving while suspended.

Monday, 2:34 a.m., 623 N Main St. Intoxicated

Monday, 7:57 a.m., 11020 N S.R. 1. Woman warned for trespassing. Monday, 10:24 a.m.,

500 block of East Dustman Road. Search warrant on house. Three detained. Monday, 3:33 p.m.,

300 block of East Cherry Street. Report of an unwanted party on the porch of the home. Insurance company flyer was left at the door.

Monday, 6:35 p.m., Central Avenue and Midway Street. Report of two small children running free in the area. Unable to locate.

Monday, 9:33 p.m., Ohio Saturday, 8:33 p.m., and Jersey streets. Report of altercation between two parties. Nothing physical reported, and parties were advised of better ways to handle the situation.

Monday, 10:19 p.m., Airplane Express. Caller expressed concern for a homeless man they had spoken to last week.

Monday, 10:30 p.m., Roush Park. Juveniles seen coming out of the bathroom, which felt suspicious at this time of night. Juveniles advised they had just used the bathroom.

Monday, 10:49 p.m., Police Department. Costco card found on the Rivergreenway turned in.

Monday, 11:35 p.m., 400 block of Cottonwood Court. Caller believed the door of the residence and a screen block of South Baldwin had been tampered with. Street. Report of a BB shot Police advised they would nave extra patrol in the area shattering window. Unable in case of a possible break-

> Tuesday, 1:06 a.m., S.R. 116 and 200N. Traffic stop. Driver out past curfew.

> Tuesday, 1:14 a.m., S.R. 116 and Timberidge Raod. Intoxicated driver. One juvenile detained for blood draw at Bluffton Regional Medical Center.

> Tuesday, 1:37 a.m., 600 block of South Bond Street. Kitchen window shattered.

> Tuesday, 1:46 a.m., 900 block of South Jersey Street. Report of an attempted break in.

Tuesday, 5:07 a.m., 400 block of Kathryn Circle. Report of a rock thrown through a window overnight.

Tuesday, 6:29 a.m., Main Sunday, 12:26 p.m., Street and Central Avenue.

Citation issued for 47 in a license. 30 mph zone.

Tuesday, 6:37 a.m., Central Avenue and Main Street. Property damage accident. Owner said the damage was not significant enough to turn into insurance.

Tuesday, 9:36 a.m., 911 N Main St. Driver cited for expired plate and no valid

Tuesday, 10:20 a.m., Police Department. Reported threatening voicemail.

Tuesday, 11:41 a.m., Silver and Johnson streets. Driver cited for 46 in a 30 mph zone. Tuesday, 3:02 p.m.,

WEG. Report of a hit and run the day prior. Tuesday, 4 p.m., Whick-

er Park. Report of a twovehicle accident.

Tuesday, 5:35 p.m., Lions Park. Report of two juveniles throwing a TV around the park. Unable to locate, but TV and broken glass located on the basketball court. Cleaned up and thrown away.

Tuesday, 10:17 p.m., 700 block of Cedar Road. Neighbor dispute over dogs. Both parties agreed to keep dogs under control and situation civil.

Wednesday, 1:37 a.m., Fresenius Dialysis Center. Three juveniles running northbound on backside. Alarm had previously went off at this location. One located and taken back to police department.

Wednesday, 4:27 a.m., Family Ford of Bluffton. Suspicious vehicle with hazards on. Rep came out and turned off lights. Unable to locate anyone around.

Wednesday, 7:49 a.m., 805 S Johnson St. Trash search found multiple used syringes, coroner baggies, and a white product that would later test positive as Wednesday, 500 block of

Eastmoor Drive. Report of a verbal altercation. Wednesday, 1:40 p.m.,

Main and Poplar streets. Driver cited for no valid

County: Tuesday, 2:38 p.m., 1100W and West 800S, Warren. Report of a truck

parked improperly. Tuesday, 2:48 p.m. 1000N and 200W, Markle. Car versus deer.

Tuesday, 3:00 p.m., Wells County Public Library. Warrant requested for sex offender who failed to register as required.

Tuesday, 4:03 p.m., River Terrace Estates. Report of stolen jewelry.

Tuesday, 11:12 p.m., 700W and West 900S, Warren. Caller reported subject letting dogs run on property without permission.

Wednesday, 10:03 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served at the jail.

Ossian:

Tuesday, 7:18 p.m., 6000E 800N, Ossian. Report of loud explosion. Unable to locate anything.

ACCIDENTS

County:

Tuesday, 10:41 a.m., 300W 100S. Rafael Marcheco, 32, Georgia, advised he was backing his Kenworth 7689 truck trailer in a parking lot when Valon Cannoli, 33, Texas, traveled in his path. Marchecho's trailer collided with the passenger side of Cannoli's Freightliner Cascadia. Damages did not exceed \$1,001.

FIRES Saturday, 8:26 p.m.,

600W and 700S. Fire wires **ARRESTS**

Kenneth Edward Boyer,

42, Bluffton; probation violation, a Level 6 felony.



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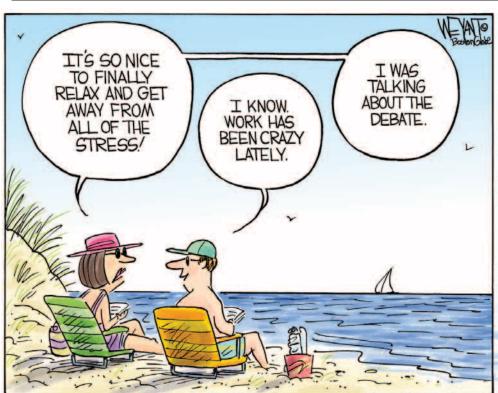


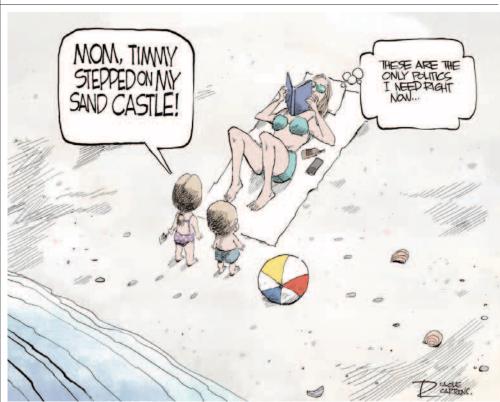
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The Week That Was - a look back through cartoonists' eyes...









Other Opinions

The 2025 'Tax Armageddon'

That headline isn't our phrase. It comes from Virginia Sen. Mark Warner, who like other Senate Democrats has been laying out in public the party's tax strategy for the next Congress. Democrats are saying out loud that they plan to use the scheduled expiration of the 2017 tax cuts at the end of 2025 to insist on the largest tax increase in

"The main goal here is this can't just be a debate about the 2017 tax cuts," Mr. Warner told Bloomberg. "This is going to be Tax Armageddon."

Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, who runs the Finance Comnittee, has also revived his pitch to tax the appreciation of assets for those with at least \$100 million in income. Mr. Wyden plans to run through the door on wealth taxes that the Supreme Court left open in its lamentable decision in

Mr. Wyden floated his version of a wealth tax in 2021 to pay for President Biden's Build Back Better plan. Opposition from Joe Manchin and Kyrsten Sinema scuttled the \$4.8 trillion bill, but both are leaving the Senate.

Sen. Elizabeth Warren last week said she'll hold the middle-class tax cuts that expire in 2025 hostage if Republicans don't agree to soak corporations and people who earn more money than she thinks they deserve. "Better to let all the Trump tax cuts expire than be accomplices to another slash-and-burn tax bonanza for America's billionaires," she said. Her plan also includes a 2% annual tax on the net worth of households with more than \$50 million in assets.

The Massachusetts Senator rebuked Barack Obama for agreeing to extend the Bush middle-class tax cuts as part of the 2012 "fiscal cliff" deal with Republicans in Congress. Recall that the 2012 deal that Mr. Biden helped negotiate raised the top marginal individual tax rate to 39.6% from 35%, plus the top tax rate on capital gains and dividends to 23.8%.

She blamed that extension—and huge tax increase for blowing up the deficit. "Once Obama made that tax cut deal with Republicans, the federal deficit ballooned," she said.

Well, no. The deficit didn't balloon until the pandemic when both parties agreed to throw a spending party under the guise of Covid relief. Then Democrats kept partying long after the emergency was over.

The government is still running \$2 trillion in annual deficits even though the economy is growing and taxes as a share of GDP are roughly the historical average. Spending has driven the deficits and is now at 24.2% of GDP, well above the 21% modern average.

The Warren position conflicts with Mr. Biden's promise not to raise taxes on anyone earning less than \$400,000. Note that Pennsylvania Sen. Bob Casey, who is running for re-election this year, also didn't close the door to raising taxes on those earning less than \$400,000. "We haven't made decisions about that yet," he told Roll Call.

Is this Mr. Biden's negotiating position if he is reelected with Republican control of one or both chambers of Congress? If so, he ought to tell voters.

All of this raises the tax stakes in this year's election more than most voters appreciate. Mr. Biden will keep repeating his talking point about taxes not rising for anyone earning more than \$400,000, but if his first term is a guide he'll be taking orders from the Wyden-Warren faction in the Senate.

They'll be happy to raise taxes on the middle-class as well as the affluent because they know there aren't enough rich to finance their vast spending plans. Tax Armageddon is right.

THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

Distributed by The Associated Press

Silly property tax cut proposals

Hoosier

Opinions

We are well into election season, so we are bombarded with talk of slashing taxes. Nearly all of this is electioneering nonsense that won't come to pass.

There's almost nothing new under the sun in the way of tax-and-spending policy, so almost every proposal will come with reams of examples to compare it to and plenty of data on the experiences of other states. One way to do this is to skim through some of the proposals that have been floated in recent weeks.

One proposal that has been making the rounds is to eliminate property taxes for Hoosiers who are over age 65 or have served 10 years in the military. Another proposal would freeze assessments at the purchase price of the home. These come from the Beckwith and Rainwater campaigns. These proposals are likely to be popular, at least in the Hicks household, where this would immediately eliminate property taxes on my home.

The authors of these proposals didn't make any claims about the purpose. So, I can only speculate why such a cut would be structured. But I can draw some clear conclusions about what it might or might not do to the economy.

There's nothing in that proposal that would grow population, employment, GDP or household incomes. In fact, population growth tends to cluster in high-tax places. In Indiana, the 10 counites with the highest effective property tax rates alone accounted for 27,105 new residents since 2020, a whopping 61.3 percent of the state's entire population growth. The 10 counties with the lowest effective property tax rates saw only 878 new residents, or less than 2 percent of the state's

I know many readers will recoil at this challenge to a long-held notion that lower taxes cause growth. However, it is a cold, hard fact that both population and employment growth is positively correlated with tax rates on income and property.

In Indiana, a 1 percent increase in the average tax rate leads to a 2 percent increase in population growth. That is simple mathematics.

No one quite says, "That place has higher taxes; I want to move there." Despite what many politicians appear to believe, though, households are sophisticated economic agents. Most families are capable of assessing tax rates and the quality and quantity of local public services. They look for the best fit of home, schools, safety, and traffic they can find. On average, they are moving to higher-tax places.

These are places where families judge themselves better off. If you live in a state where families are moving from low- to high-tax regions, your state is underinvesting in local amenities such as schools, parks, and public safety.

Indiana is such a state, and cutting taxes for elders and veterans would worsen the problem. Here's why.

Indiana's property taxes are budget-based. So, if the legislature excludes a particularly meritorious set of taxpayers—such as economics professors who are also retired soldiers—someone else pays that tax or services get cut.

So, if this tax proposal becomes law, my property taxes will drop by 100 percent, but my neighbors will all pay more. Probably a lot more.

> Statewide, roughly 1 in 5 households would be excluded from property taxes in this scenario. Moreover, the value of

housing stock owned by older Hoosiers is higher than that of younger families. So, this proposal could shift a third of property taxes to younger, poorer

Michael

Hicks

I say 'could' because some of those properties will be at the property tax caps. These caps make Indiana's property tax rates among the lowest in the nation. So, in some communities, we would expect cuts to other local services. For every dollar lost to these cuts, about 42 cents will be funding for schools, with most of the remainder coming from the budgets of cities

That would mean less, perhaps much less, available money for fire protection, police, and parks. You know, the types of things families judge a community by when considering whether to relocate there.

And there's the rub on all this.

Tax cuts will be welcomed by us old-timey veterans, but that will do precious little to influence household relocation. Indiana is already an olderthan-average state that doesn't charge income tax on military pay or retirement. Our challenge isn't getting people like me to move here. Our challenge is getting young people—our children, grandchildren and their friends—to live here.

A tax cut on seniors and veterans will have two clear effects. It will result in higher taxes on younger families and reduce public spending on schools, parks, police and fire departments. There are other effects as well. If you suppose that action will benefit the state's economy, or encourage more families to move here, I am sorry. You are daft.

Selective cuts in property taxes will also affect housing markets. This will be particularly true of a proposed assessment freeze. Older residents will be disinclined to relocate to lower-cost housing if they pay no property taxes.

California tried a version of this more than 40 years ago, and it has clobbered housing options for young people, strangled public services and helped destroy neighborhoods.

I could go on and on about this proposal, but I stop here to congratulate you. Because, if you made it this far, you've thought more about the effect of this tax proposal than its authors. I would encourage everyone to ask folks who

might support these tax cuts if they are fine making it harder for their kids and grandkids to build a life in Indiana. If they say no, send them this column.

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.



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Confess feelings or stay silent about my work crush?

Dear Annie: I have been employed at own. But I can't this local government agency for years and have had the pleasure of working closely with "Catie" for the past four years. While we are not in the same department, we have collaborated on been of the belief numerous projects and have developed a that infidelity is close friendship.

Over the course of our friendship, I have come to care deeply for Catie. I have hinted at my feelings on occasion, and she has been receptive to them. However, I have never taken any physical advances, as we are both happily married.

Recently, I have been feeling dishonest with her by not directly discussing my feelings for her. I believe that it is important to be open and honest with her about what I have been going through, and I would like to make a confession to her in order to clear my mind and conscience.

I hope that you can provide me with some guidance on how to approach this situation in a respectful manner. -Mutual Caring Friends

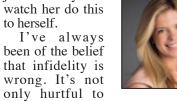
Dear Mutual Caring Friends: Interesting that you care so much about honesty with Catie, yet you deny your wife that same courtesy. If you really want to clear your conscience, drop the work crush and start focusing on your "happy marriage.'

Dear Annie: I have a great husband and a wonderful life, but for the last few months, something's been weighing on me. My best friend, "Amanda," is having an affair with a married man.

I've known Amanda since we were kids. We went to the same college even and have been through so much. I've always considered her to be like a sister to me. But when I found out she was having an affair, I was shocked and hurt.

I tried to talk to her about it, but she just brushed me off. She said that it's not my business and that I should mind my

just stand by and watch her do this



Dear

Annie

by Annie Lane

the person you're cheating on and the other person's partner, but it's also hurtful to yourself. I'm worried about Amanda - that she's going to get hurt and that this is going to ruin her life.

I also feel hurt as a married woman myself. My husband and I have been together for almost a decade but married four years now, and I can't help but think how I would feel if I knew my husband was stepping out on our marriage for another woman, like this man is doing with Amanda.

Do you have any advice? I want to help her, but I don't know how. I'm afraid that if I confront her, she'll just push me away. But I also don't want to just stand by and watch her make a mistake I believe she'll regret for the rest of her life. — Worried Wife and Friend

Dear Worried Wife: You've done your best to talk sense to Amanda, but it sounds like she's not ready to listen. Sometimes, our loved ones have to learn their own lessons the hard way. Keep being the supportive friend you've always been, but focus on your own life and marriage. You can't control Amanda's choices, only your reaction to them.

'How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" features favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation. It 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.

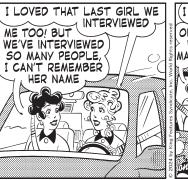
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My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham

Question: Preachers talk a lot about the "works of the flesh." Is that really in the Bible, and if so, what exactly is that? – W.F.

Answer: The Bible speaks of "works of the flesh" meaning human nature in all of its weaknesses. The flesh is the lower side of people's nature. It is all that we are without God. The Apostle Paul gives the terrible list of behaviors in Galatians 5:19–21, revealing the depravity of human nature. No wonder we see these in the daily news headlines, flaunted shamelessly.

Topping this list is immorality that covers sexual wickedness (the word is porneia) from which the word pornography comes. Impurity, whether in thought or

Whoever is born of God does not practice sin

deed. Sensuality, the notion of recklessness or open indul-

gence. Idolatry, the worship of anything that comes between us and God. Sorcery, administering magical potions and drugs. Enmities: hatred, hostilities, antagonism, etc. Strife, meaning contentions, discord, fighting, and quarreling. Jealousy, which spawns all kinds of sinful behavior including murder. Anger: fits of rage and hostile feelings. Disputes: selfish ambition and self-seeking. Dissensions (divisions). Factions (heresies). Envy and pride, often involving covetousness. Drunkenness, overindulgence. Carousings

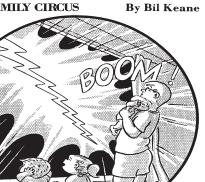
 illicit sex and other evils. Many people today believe that they can conduct their lives with such recklessness without consequence, but the apostle sternly says, "Those who practice such things will not inherit the kingdom of God" (Galatians 5:21,

The lives of many reflect that they are more interested in imitating the world system dominated by Satan than in imitating Christ. The Bible teaches that whoever is born of God does not practice sin. The Bible also says, "Blessed are all who hear the word of God and put it into practice" (Luke 11:28, NLT). This is the key to living an abundant life. By faith in Jesus Christ we can be forgiven of our sins and know the joy of following Him every day.

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Gra-

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

THE FAMILY CIRCUS



"Wow! These are better fireworks than last night's!"

The LOCKHORNS



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After long effort, IndyCar is ready to unveil its hybrid engine system this weekend

By DAVE SKRETTA **AP Sports Writer**

INDIANAPO-LIS (AP) — On the second floor of an upscale steakhouse in downtown Indianapolis, just days before their engines would be put to the test against each other in the Indianapolis 500, engineers from

Chevrolet and Honda sat side-by-side and shared a toast.

In a collaboration of rivals, they had worked to push the IndyCar Series into a

Over in the corner, sitting on a stand, was the product of their work, a hybrid unit that will fit neatly inside the existing chassis from Dallara, and works with each manufacturer's existing 2.2-liter, twin-turbocharged V-6 engines. Once installed, the first-of-its-kind design promises to dramatically alter the way IndyCar races are run.

"It's going to be a massive shift," said Team Penske driver Scott McLaughlin. "We think we've got some sort of an idea of what it will do from the testing we've done previously with the hybrid. But it's going to be different for everybody."

They will find out precisely how different this weekend.

After no hiccups during a final fullfield test June 11, the hybrid system is poised to make its debut on Sunday at Mid-Ohio in an IndyCar regular-season race presented, quite fittingly, by the 2025 Honda Civic Hybrid.

"I think we're well-placed for this," said Arrow McLaren team principal Gavin Ward, whose teams in Formula 1 already are familiar with hybrid systems. "We were keen to have hybrid. We were very keen for the hybrid system in general. We're looking for a new car. We're keen for areas for us to really catch up. Frankly, this is an opportunity for us."

Back to the future

The push to engine hybridization began in earnest years ago, when Chevrolet and Honda wanted to better align their racing programs with a shift in consumer demand toward hybrid and electric vehicles. U.S. automakers face slowing EV sales even while investing billions to produce them in hopes that Americans will embrace battery-powered autos. Last year, the sale of electric and hybrids jumped to more than 16% of all lightduty sales, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.



neers struggled to fit a wholly unique hybrid unit into an IndyCar chassis designed more than a decade ago and work with engines that had been honed over nearly as long.

It wasn't until engineers from Chevrolet and Honda bitter rivals on the track, but compatriots in this particular effort — chose to each focus on a small part of the greater whole that the project took off.

Chevrolet turned its attention to the motor generator unit, or MGU, which produces electricity when a driver brakes or changes throttle position. Honda focused on the energy storage system, or ESS, where the electricity is stored in 20 ultracapacitors.

The pieces work in concert in a system that fits into an empty space inside the bellhousing, between the engine and

Beginning with its first real test at Sebring last August, the hybrid system has been put through more than 20,000 miles over the course of its development. Teams have tried it everywhere from oval tracks such as Indianapolis Motor Speedway and World Wide Technology Raceway to road courses at Barber Motorsports Park in Alabama and Road America in Wisconsin.

"The partnership between Chevrolet and Honda has been phenomenal," Indy-Car president Jay Frye said "The Indy-Car-specific hybrid power unit is dynamic and an engineering marvel, and we're completely committed to its successful introduction."

So committed that, despite myriad delays that cost IndyCar its chance of introducing the hybrid system at the start of the year, the decision was made to implement the technology at Mid-Ohio, right in the middle of the current season.

It would be like changing the rules of football at halftime, except that football players aren't hitting 200 mph on a race

"We just want to make it introduced at the right time," Ward said, "and I think mid-season is pretty aggressive."

How hybridization works

"The world is changing. We all know that," Honda Racing president David Salters said. "We want to be part of that,

MLB All-Star Game starters announced; Ohtani elected to start at DH in 4th straight

By RONALD BLUM **AP** Baseball Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Shohei Ohtani became the first player elected to start at designated hitter in four straight All-Star Games, joined by New York Yankees outfielder Aaron Judge as the only holdovers from last year in the lineups announced Wednesday for the July 16 game at Arlington, Texas.

Philadelphia could have three of the four National League infielders after fans voted shortstop Trea Turner and third baseman Alec Bohm to start alongside first baseman Bryce Harper, whose status is uncertain because of a leg inju-

Major League Baseball said this is the first time each league has had no more than one player repeat as an elected starter since fan balloting resumed in 1970.

Six teams have two starters each: Yankees outfielder Juan Soto was voted in alongside Judge, who gained his berth last week with Harper as the top vote-getters from each league in the first round of balloting. The second round was from Sunday until Wednesday.

Baltimore catcher Adley Rutschman and shortstop Gunnar Henderson were elected along with Houston second baseman Jose Altuve and DH Yordan Alvarez; Cleveland third baseman José Ramírez and outfielder Steven Kwan; San Diego outfielder Jurickson Profar and Fernando Tatis Jr.: and Milwaukee catcher William Contreras and outfielder Christian Yelich.

Toronto first baseman Vladimir Guerrero Jr. and Arizona second baseman Ketel Marte also were voted in.

Philadelphia last had three elected infielders in 1982 with Pete Rose, Mike Schmidt and Manny Trillo. Harper went on the injured list on June 28 because of a strained left hamstring but could return ahead of the All-Star Game.

Tatis hasn't played since June 21 because of a stress reaction in his right thigh bone and may be sidelined past the All-Star break.

Pitchers and reserves will be announced Sunday.

Ohtani is an All-Star for the fourth straight season but first since leaving the Los Angeles Angels for a record \$700 million, 10-year contract with the Dodgers. He was an unprecedented two-way All-Star from 2021-23 but isn't pitching this season while he recovers from reconstructive elbow surgery.

David Ortiz started at DH in three straight All-Star Games from 2011-13.

Altuve earned his ninth All-Star trip and sixth as a starter, Ramírez his sixth selection and third as a starter and Guerrero his fourth overall and third as a

Alvarez, Bohm, Contreras, Henderson, Kwan, Profar, Rutschman and Soto are among eight first-time starters. Soto is making his fourth All-Star trip, his first for the AL.

"It means a lot. It's a lot of hard work," Soto said at Yankee Stadium. "Been grinding a lot. Finally got my first start, so it's pretty cool."

No players were elected to start from the host Rangers, who had four starters at last year's game in Seattle: second baseman Marcus Semien, shortstop Corey Seager, third baseman Josh Jung, and catcher Jonah Heim.

Profar became an All-Star for the first time in his 11th big league season. He remained on the free-agent market until a week into spring training before agreeing to a \$1 million, one-year deal with the Padres.

In the closest NL vote, Tatis (15.36%) edged the Dodgers' Teoscar Hernández (15.26%) and the Phillies' Brandon Marsh (14.73%) for the third outfield spot. Turner beat out injured Dodgers shortstop Mookie Betts 51-49%.

In the AL, Alvarez edged Baltimore's Ryan O'Hearn 52-48% at DH and Kwan beat out the Orioles' Anthony Santander 28-26% for the final outfield spot.

During the first round of voting from June 5-27, Guerrero trailed Baltimore's Ryan Mountcastle, Hernández topped Tatis, and Betts was ahead of Turner.



Steven Kwan takes over as MLB's batting average leader, **Guardians roll over White Sox**

By TOM WITHERS **AP Sports Writer**

CLEVELAND (AP) — All-Star Steven Kwan homered, went 3 for 4 with two RBIs and officially took over as the majors' leading hitter while sending the Cleveland Guardians to an 8-4 win over the Chicago White Sox on Thursday.

Kwan connected for his eighth homer leading off the third inning against Justin Anderson as the AL Central-leading Guardians took two of three in the series and improved baseball's best home record to

Although his average has been over .350 for most of the season — he recently flirted with .400 - Kwan didn't have enough atbats to qualify for the MLB lead after missing a month with a hamstring injury.

He's now batting .367 - 48 points ahead of Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani, who is second and played Thursday night. Kwan also has 12 three-hit games, the most in the AL.

On Wednesday, the 26-year-old Kwan was named an All-Star starter for the first time. In the series finale, he also drove in a run with a bases-loaded walk.

Guardians manager Stephen Vogt has run out of superlatives to describe his left fielder Josh Naylor, Bo Naylor and Andrés Giménez drove in two runs apiece for Cleve-

Ben Lively (8-4) limited the White Sox to three runs and six hits in six innings. The right-hander, whose signing as a free agent in December barely made a ripple, is 5-0 in six starts at Progressive Field.

He's the first Cleveland starter to win five consecutive home starts since Corey Kluber

Lively, who spent three years pitching in Korea, has allowed three runs or less in 13 of his 14 starts. He entered the season with just eight wins.

When he signed, the Guardians told him to expect to pitch in long relief. He has taken the starter's role and run with it.

Paul DeJong hit a two-run homer and Lenyn Sosa a solo shot for the White Sox, who lost their ninth consecutive road series and fell to 25-64 -- 31 games behind Cleveland.

Kwan opened the third with a towering shot into the right-field seats. He hit just 11 homers combined in his first two seasons, but has focused on pulling inside pitches.

The Guardians tacked on three more runs in the third against Anderson as manager Pedro Grifol went with a bullpen game in the

series finale.

Campbell will be first woman on an NHL bench as assistant coach

By TIM BOOTH AP Sports Writer

SEATTLE (\widehat{AP}) — Once her playing career ended, Jessica Campbell found a new passion in coaching.

At the time, she may not have expected it would eventually lead her to the NHL, let alone as the first woman to work on the bench of an NHL franchise.

"I've had maybe in a naive way had the courage to believe this is possible and even though I didn't see it, I believed I could do it," Campbell said. "And I think with that inner belief, whatever it is in sport and life, you can create whatever you believe in."

Campbell was hired as an assistant coach for the Seattle Kraken on Wednesday, becoming the first woman to hold an on-thebench role as an assistant or associate coach

in NHL history. She has spent the past two seasons working as an assistant coach for Seattle's AHL affiliate in Coachella Valley alongside Dan Bylsma, who was hired in late May as the head coach for the Kraken. There were immediate questions about whether Campbell would be making the move.

She will and in doing so break through another barrier for women in hockey. Emily Engel-Natzke was hired by the Washington Capitals in 2022 as video coach, making her the first woman with a full-time assistant role in the league.

Now, there will be a woman on the bench. "I'm humbled, obviously, to be in this position and you speak to the word first, to be the first, but that's never really where my focus is. It's always on the work. It's on the impact. It's on the job. There's a lot to this game and to this job, so I've never taken it for granted," Campbell said.

Campbell was a decorated player in the NCAA, the Canadian Women's Hockey League and Canada's women's national team, with whom she won silver at the 2015 world championship.

NASCAR CUP SERIES

The Grant Park 165.

Site: Chicago.

Schedule: Saturday practice, 12:30 p.m., qualifying, 1:30 p.m.; Sunday race, 4:30 p.m. (NBC).

Track: Chicago Street Course.

Race distance: 75 laps, 165 miles. Next race: July 13, Pocono, Pennsylvania.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES

The Loop 110

Site: Chicago.

Schedule: Saturday practice, 10 a.m., qualifying, 11 a.m., Saturday race, 3:30 p.m. (USA).

Next race: July 13, Pocono, Pennsylvania.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES

Last race: Christian Eckes led every lap to take the Rackley Roofing 200 at Nashville Speedway. It was Eckes third win this season. Eckes finished ahead of Daniel Dye by more than two seconds.

Next race: July 12, Pocono, Pennsylvania.

FORMULA ONE British Grand Prix

Site: Silverstone, England.

Schedule: Friday practice, 7:30 a.m., 11 a.m.. Saturday practice, 6:30 a.m.; qualifying, 10 a.m.; Sunday race, 10 a.m. (ESPN). **Track**: Silverstone Circuit.

Race distance: 52 laps, 190.262 miles (306.198 kilome-

Next race: July 21, Budapest, Hungary. **INDYCAR**

Honda Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio

Site: Lexington, Ohio.

Next race: July 13, Newton, Iowa. NHRA DRAG RACING

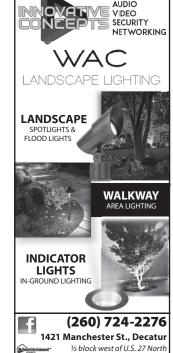
Last event: Antron Brown won in Top Fuel and Bob Tasca III won in Funny Car at Norwalk, Ohio. Next event: July 19-21, Kent, Washington.

WORLD OF OUTLAWS Gopher 50

Site: Spring Valley, Minnesota.

Last events: Logan Schuchart won the pole in the 30-lap finale, then held off the season's two winningest drivers in David Gravel and Sheldon Haudenschild, to win at Cedar Lake Speedway this past week. It was Schuchart's first win of the season and came on the track where he won his first race in 2016.





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New York Washington

IndyCar's hybrid engine

(Continued from Page 6)

be responsible. We want to educate our engineers. And we want to show off what we can do. Racing is meant to have a form of innovation, and it does. This is new.'

In some ways, IndyCar has been playing catch-up in the race to hybridization.

Formula 1 began tinkering with kinetic energy recovery systems 15 years ago, and new engine regulations a decade ago made hybrid engines standard. Similar designs have been used at prestigious endurance races, such as the 24 Hours of Le Mans and Daytona, while an entire series Formule E — has championed fully electric cars for the past decade.

NASCAR is expected to introduce a prototype of an electric stock car this weekend at its race in Chicago.

In other ways, the product produced by the engineering teams at Chevrolet and Honda is entirely novel.

Rather than relying on heavy batteries to store energy, such as the hybrid systems found in other racing series, IndyCar has turned to ultracapacitors. While it may not hold as much power, they have some advantages: They are much lighter and provide quick, powerful boosts, which can be deployed by drivers similar to the existing push-to-pass button.

The boost provides about 120 extra horsepower, pushing the total for IndyCar engines over 800 for the first time in decades.

This system, it's our first start, really," said Eric Warren, the executive director of global motorsports competition for General Motors. "It gives us an option that can fit in the current car. It's something the teams can digest. It gives more control to a driver, and as an engineer, of course we like more options. And it gives you a different strategy where you deploy."

It should speed up races in another way: Drivers can use the electric power to fire their own engines. In the past, crew members would have to use an external electric motor to crank the engine at the beginning of a race or if a car stalled.

Arrow McLaren isn't the only team with hybrid experience. Most of the major IndyCar teams — Team Penske, Chip Ganassi Racing, Rahal Letterman Lanigan Racing and Andretti Global, among others have worked with them through their IMSA sports cars programs, which went hybrid last year. Andretti has an all-electric Formula E team. IndyCar owner Roger Penske's son, Jay, also fields a Formula E team.

When it comes to the drivers, most have tested the hybrid system enough that they have an idea what to expect. But they also admit that the learning curve will be sharp as they learn its nuances, such as when to deploy that extra shot of power.

'I think it's something that our series needs," said Santino Ferrucci, who drives for A.J. Foyt Racing. "As far as technology goes, adding in that hybrid is going to add in a completely different dynamic to a driver, and I think it's going to make the series more challenging and it's going to be more rewarding to those that can process faster, be more adaptable."

Still, the hybrid system also marks the end of an era

'We grew up falling in love with this sport with the framework of what it is now. At the same time if you look at where the world is going, where manufacturers are going, you got to evolve," Arrow McLaren driver Alexander Rossi said. "It's an exciting time for the series to take that step towards the future. It's something that's important to all of us and the partners

News-Banner Scoreboard

BASKETBALL

11 11 New York

.389 Atlanta .389 Chicago Indiana 11 13 Washington 5 15 .250
WESTERN CONFERENCE GB Pct .700 .684 W 14 13 11 10 4 4 6 6 6 10 15 16 Minnesota Seattle .647 .500 .211 Las Vegas Phoenix Los Angeles

Los Angeles 4 15 .211 9:
Dallas 4 16 .200 1
Wednesday's Games
Phoenix 104, Dallas 96
Thursday's Games
Connecticut 78, Minnesota 73
Washington at Las Vegas, late
Friday's Games
Atlanta at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago at Seattle, 10 p.m.
Las Vegas at Los Angeles, 10 p.m.
Saturday's Games
New York at Indiana, 1 p.m.
Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.
Sunday's Games

Sunday's Games
Atlanta at Connecticut, 1 p.m. Dallas at Las Vegas, 3:30 p.m. Chicago at Seattle, 6 p.m.

AMERICAN LEAGUE

W .632 .607 .547 Baltimore New York 55 54 47 43 39 39 43 Boston Tampa Bay 48 .448 **Central Division** 31 38 40 48 64 Pct **W** 54 49 48 39 25 Cleveland Minnesota .635 .563 .545 Kansas City Detroit

L 41 42 W Seattle Houston 48 45 48

GB

BASEBALL

East Division GB 2 7½ 11½ 16 GB 6 7½ 16 31

Chicago West Division Pct .539 .517

Chicago White Sox 8, Cleveland 2 Boston 7, Miami 2 Cincinnati 3. N.Y. Yankees 2 Houston 9, Toronto 2 Detroit 9, Minnesota 2 Kansas City 4, Tampa Bay 2 San Diego 6, Texas 4 Oakland 5, L.A. Angels 0 Baltimore 4, Seattle 1

Thursday's Games Minnesota 12, Detroit 3, 7 innings Houston 5, Toronto 3 Cleveland 8, Chicago White Sox 4 Cincinnati 8, N.Y. Yankees 4 Boston 6, Miami 5, 12 innings San Diego 3, Texas 1 Oakland 5, L.A. Angels 0 Seattle 7, Baltimore 3 Tampa Bay at Kansas City, late.

Tampa Bay at Kansas City, late.

Friday's Games

L.A. Angels (Canning 3-8) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 0-3), 2:20 p.m.

Boston (Houck 7-6) at N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 4-7), 7:05 p.m.

Chicago White Sox (Thorpe 2-1) at Miami (Muñoz 1-3), 7:10 p.m.

Detroit (Olson 2-8) at Cincinnati (Spiers 2-1), 7:10 p.m.

San Francisco (TBD) at Cleveland

San Francisco (TBD) at Cleveland (Bibee 7-2), 7:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (TBD) at Texas (Lorenzen 4-4), 8:05 p.m.
Houston (Dubin 1-1) at Minnesota

Kansas City (Ragans 5-6) at Colorado (Freeland 0-3), 8:10 p.m.

Baltimore (Suárez 4-2) at Oakland

(Harris 1-2), 9:40 p.m. Toronto (Gausman 6-7) at Seattle (Castillo 6-9), 9:40 p.m.

Saturday's Games
Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 1:05 p.m.
Houston at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m.
L.A. Angels at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 Tampa Bay at Texas, 4:05 p.m. Baltimore at Oakland, 4:07 p.m.

Chicago White Sox at Miami, 4:10 Detroit at Cincinnati, 4:10 p.m. San Francisco at Cleveland, 4:10

p.m.
Toronto at Seattle, 4:10 p.m.

Kansas City at Colorado. 9:10 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE East Division

W L Pct

Philadelphia 57 30 .655

(Bibee 7-2), 7:10 p.m. Philadelphia (Nola 9-4) at Atlanta

Philadelphia (Nola 9-4) at Atlanta (Fried 7-3), 7:20 p.m. Kansas City (Ragans 5-6) at Colo-rado (Freeland 0-3), 8:10 p.m. Arizona (Cecconi 2-6) at San Diego (Vásquez 2-4), 9:40 p.m. Milwaukee (Peralta 6-4) at L.A. Dodgers (Glasnow 8-5), 10:10 p.m. Saturday's Games

SUDOKU

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

King Classic Sudoku

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Difficulty: $\star \star \star \star \star$ 7/5									

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.

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Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings **HOOSIER LOTTERY** Cash 5 — 01-05-09-11-

Lotto Plus — 27-29-36-

Cash4Life — 08-10-31-34-40, Cash Ball: 03

Ouick Draw Midday — 06-11-16-19-21-29-30-31-36-37-38-42-44-46-55-57-58-63-71-80, BE: 71

Daily Three-Midday -09-05-04, SB: 07 Daily Three-Evening —

04-02-04, SB: 04 Daily Four-Midday — 00-03-07-00, SB: 07 Daily Four-Evening -

09-08-06-05, SB: 04 **Quick Draw Evening** 03-04-14-24-26-28-29-31-32-33-37-41-45-48-51-

58-59-61-74-76, BE: 32 Hoosier Lotto — 05-19-23-27-31-45

POWERBALL

02-26-33-55-57 Power-

ball: 22; Power Play: 2X Thursday's Drawings

HOOSIER LOTTERY Cash 5 — 01-14-17-23-

Cash4Life — 09-30-35-

37-50, Cash Ball: 01 Quick Draw Midday — 11-19-20-21-23-28-29-35-42-43-51-53-55-58-59-61-

64-67-68-73, BE: 53 Daily Three-Midday — 01-02-09, SB: 05 Daily Three-Evening —

04-01-06, SB: 07 Daily Four-Midday — 03-06-05-05, SB: 05 Daily Four-Evening -

05-03-07-03, SB: 07

Quick Draw Evening 04-09-12-14-16-20-24-27-34-36-39-44-46-47-59-61-67-69-72-78, BE: 67

Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$16.6 million **MEGA MILLIONS**

Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$162 million POWERBALL

Saturday): \$20 million

Estimated jackpot (for

Public

JULY 7-JULY 14 - Online Only Various consignors, seller. Advertising, furniture, antiques, primitives, artifacts, band instruments, Bluffton American Legion helmets, stereo equipment, electronics, collectibles, sports memorabilia, retail video games, tools, lawn & garden, household. Preview & online bidding assistance July 9 & 11, 3-6 p.m., 102 South Jefferson St., Ossian. Sale manager Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com.
JULY 11 - 10 a.m. - Online

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kjauction.com. JULY 14-JULY 21 - (Online Only Auction) - Dave and Brenda Double, seller. 40 Year collection of trains, 2 realistic model train railway layouts, professionally milled lumber, downsizing custom craft store, shop tools, porcelain & other dolls, antiques, furniture, McCoy cookie jars, Hull pottery, Sure-Trac utility trailer, Commercial Cyclone Rake. Preview: July 11 and 18 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 540 W US 224, Uniondale. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, Steffen Group, www. steffengrp.

com, 824-3006. 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, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

Public Notices

NOTICE In accordance with Indiana

Code 5-15-6-3 requiring prior notification to individuals when records will be destroyed:

Notice to any individuals born in the year 2002, who received special education services in Adams and/or Wells Counties. Please contact Adams Wells Spe-cial Services no later than August 9, 2024 if you wish to receive copies of your special education records. All records requested for pick-up and not picked up and nonrequested records for persons born in the year 2002 will be permanently destroyed after August 16, 2024. If you wish to request records, you must call (260)824-5880 to do so. Records must be picked up by the person who received services unless otherwise legally designated.

nb 6/18 through 8/7

42 41 30 43 46 57 Miami Central Division
W L Pct 2 36 41 45 45 48 GB **W** 52 45 42 41 40 .591 .523 Milwaukee 6 St. Louis Cincinnati Pittsburgh **West Division** L 34 43 45 44 57 **W** 53 48 GB Los Angeles San Diego 48 San Francisco 43 42 Arizona Colorado Wednesday's Games
Washington 7, N.Y. Mets 5
Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 4, 10 innings
Boston 7, Miami 2

Cincinnati 3, N.Y. Yankees 2 Atlanta 3, San Francisco 1 Philadelphia 5, Chicago Cubs 3 San Diego 6, Texas 4 Milwaukee 3, Colorado 0 Arizona 12, L.A. Dodgers 4

Thursday's Games

Washington 1, N.Y. Mets 0

St. Louis 3, Pittsburgh 2, 10 innings Cincinnati 8, N.Y. Yankees 4 Chicago Cubs 10, Philadelphia 2 Boston 6, Miami 5, 12 innings San Diego 3, Texas 1

San Francisco 4. Atlanta 2 Colorado 4, Milwaukee 3 Arizona at L.A. Dodgers, late Friday's Games
L.A. Angels (Canning 3-8) at Chicago Cubs (Steele 0-3), 2:20 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Severino 5-2) at Pittsburgh (Skenes 4-0), 6:40 p.m. St. Louis (Gray 9-5) at Washington (Corbin 1-8), 6:45 p.m.

Corbin 1-3), 6-45 p.m.
Chicago White Sox (Thorpe 2-1) at
Miami (Muñoz 1-3), 7:10 p.m.
Detroit (Olson 2-8) at Cincinnati (Spiers 2-1), 7:10 p.m.
San Francisco (TBD) at Cleveland

Saturday's Games
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NOTICE OF PUBLIC SALE

Bluffton-Harrison M.S.D. is holding a public sale of obsolete equipment on Friday, July 19, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Bluffton-Harrison Elementary School Multi-Purpose Room Interested parties will enter through Door #12. All items are being sold "as-is" and are individually priced. Buyers are responsible for transporting any purchased items. Only cash will be accepted. Items include student chairs, tables, floor scrubber, mitre cut off saw, sand-ers, band saw, file cabinets, bicycles, and other various items

SUDOKU ANSWER

Questions about Biden's age reminiscent of Reagan's '84 campaign

By LAURIE KELLMAN **Associated Press**

The age question for presidential candidates is more than four decades old. President Ronald Reagan answered it with a pledge to resign if he became impaired, and later with a clever joke that reset his campaign from a stumbling debate performance to a 49-state landslide and a secand term

"I will not make age an issue of this campaign," Reagan said to the question he knew was coming in perhaps the most famous micdrop moment in campaign history. "I am not going to exploit for political purposes my opponent's youth and inexperience."

The audience roared, even Democratic Vice President Walter Mondale laughed — and Reagan's reelection was back on track.

Today, Democratic President Joe Biden, 81, is struggling for such a redemptive moment after a disastrous debate performance against Republican former president Donald Trump, 78. Those 90 minutes last week set off alarms among Democrats hoping Biden would keep Trump from returning to the White House — and heightened concern among voters long skeptical of how either elderly man would govern

a complex nation of more than 330 million people for four more years.

More than two dozen people who have spent time with the president privately described him as often sharp and focused. But he also has moments, particularly later in the evening, when his thoughts seem jumbled and he trails off mid-sentence or seems confused, they said. Sometimes he doesn't grasp the finer points of policy details. He occasionally forgets people's names, stares blankly and moves slowly around the room, they said.

Biden has vowed to stay in the race, despite signs of eroding support on Capitol

"I am running ... no one's pushing me out," Biden said on a call Wednesday with staffers from his reelection campaign. "I'm not leaving. I'm in this race to the end and we're going to win."

But the question facing him is far more intimate, according to one expert who covered Reagan's health during his presidency.

"The most important debate of the campaign is the one taking place right now in Joe Biden's head between the part of mind telling him he's the chosen one, and the more selfaware part," said Rich Jaroslavsky of the University of California Berkeley, formerly of the Wall Street Journal.

A nation ever more accustomed to dealing with

At its heart, the question - how old is too old to be president? — is about competence. And Americans have never had wider personal experience with the effects of aging than they do

A surge of retiring baby boomers means that millions more Americans know when they see someone declining. For many, this widespread experience made Biden's halting performance during Thursday's debate a familiar reality check.

Trump seemed more vigorous, even though he lied about or misstated a long list of facts. When he challenged Biden to a cognitive test, Trump flubbed the name of the doctor who had administered his. For now, he's ceding the spotlight.

"Is this an episode, or is this a condition?" Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., 84, wondered on MSNBC, reflecting the question dominating Democratic circles this week. "It's legitimate of both candidates.'

Reagan faced the same questions even before he was elected as the oldest president to that point. In 1980, at 69, he pledged to

resign if he sensed serious cognitive decline while in

"If I were president and had any feeling at all that my capabilities had been reduced before a second term came, I would walk away," he told the New York Times on June 10, 1980. "By the same token, I would step down also."

That didn't happen. Reagan served two full terms, leaving office in 1989. He announced in 1994 that he had been diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He died in 2004.

Neither Trump nor Biden has made a similar pledge, and their campaigns did not respond to requests for comment Wednesday.

For Reagan, the age issue faded in his first term as any health questions focused on his recovery from a nearly fatal assassination attempt in 1981. He seemed headed for an easy reelection. And debates seemed natural settings for the smooth-talking former Hollywood actor. But his performance in the first showdown with Mondale in the 1984 campaign brought the age issue roaring back.

The president, then 73, rambled and hesitated. He seemed to lose his train of thought at one point, and appeared tired at others. No one had seen him

perform publicly in such a way, recalled Jaroslovsky, who co-authored a story headlined: "New Question in Race: Is Oldest U.S. President Now Showing His

Important differences between 1984 and 2024

Reagan's age — really, his fitness for a second term was now indelibly part of the 1984 race, a striking parallel to what is happening in 2024 in the aftermath of Biden's shaky debate performance. But there are key differences.

Reagan was leading going into the first debate, while Biden and Trump were virtually tied. Onstage, "Biden was terrible out of the gate," said Jaroslovsky, the founder of the Online News Association.

Then, as now, Jaroslovsky said, the embattled president's supporters provided vigorous spin.

Reagan's operation said he had been tired. There was sniping about the staff overpreparing him, Jaroslovsky said. Biden's team cited fatigue from two overseas trips that had exhausted even younger staffers. It was a bad night, they said. Blame flew at the president's aides. Democrats on Capitol Hill griped that Biden's performance had damaged their chances at the polls. And press critics asserted that reporters had failed to hold the president and his staff to account.

By Tuesday, pressure was building on Biden to withdraw from the race and open a difficult process for Democrats to nominate someone else. The crisis rippled across the Democratic Party just over six weeks before its convention in Chicago. It's not clear that Biden and Trump will debate a second time.



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2 women in Chicago and Cleveland police officer are among those killed in July Fourth shootings

By The Associated Press

Two women in a home in Chicago, a police officer serving a warrant in Cleveland and an armed person making threats in Yellowstone National Park were among those killed in shootings on the Fourth of July, historically one of the nation's deadliest days of the year.

Violence and mass shootings often increase in the summer months, with more people gathering for social events, teens out of school and hotter temperatures.

Three boys, ages 8, 7 and 5, were also wounded in the shooting on Thursday in Chicago, which police say resulted from an apparent personal dispute. The women killed were 42 and 22.

Two vehicles pulled up into a neighborhood in the city's south side and multiple people got out and fired shots at the home, Deputy Chief Don Jerome said. Multiple shell casings from both a rifle and a handgun were found at

the scene, he said. The police officer killed in Cleveland was identified as Jamieson Ritter. The 27-year-old officer was part of a team dispatched to serve a man a warrant for felonious assault around 1 a.m., police Chief Dorothy Todd said, according to local news outlets. That man was seen fleeing the home and allegedly fired a gun multiple times, striking the

officer, according to Todd. Also on Thursday, in Yellowstone gunfire was

exchanged between a person who authorities say had been making threats and park rangers.

The shooting happened at Canyon Village, an area in the central part of the park that has a campground, lodging and a visitor center, park officials said in a statement. The statement did not say exactly where the shots were fired and whether visitors were impacted by what it called "a significant law

enforcement incident" that began overnight.

The ranger was in stable condition at a hospital, according to the statement, which did not specify how the ranger was injured.

On Wednesday evening, a 13-year-old girl was fatally shot at a mall in a Seattle suburb after a fight broke out between two groups of teenagers and one of the teens fired a handgun, police in Lynnwood, Washington, said.

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