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SATURDAY, JULY 6, 2024

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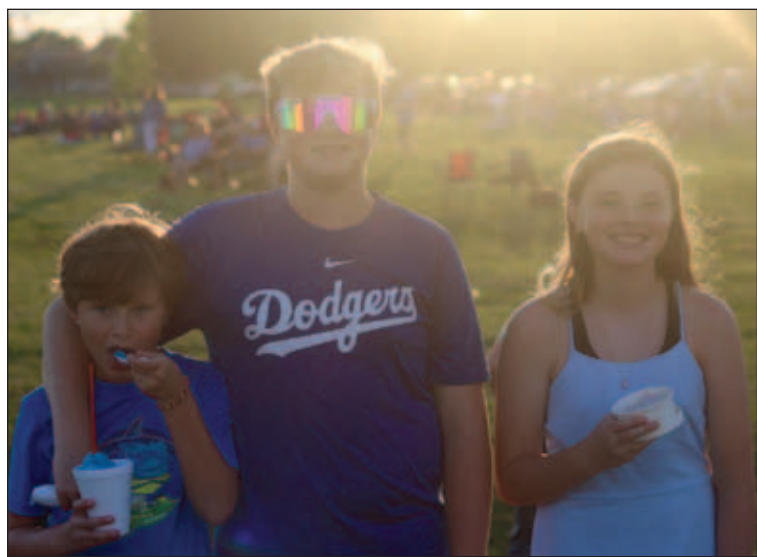


### Fireworks on the Hill

Twenty-one minutes of bright, booming fireworks elicited a wide range of "oohs and ahhs" during the annual Fireworks on the Hill event, hosted by Horizon Events. The Archbold Wilson Park in Ossian was packed with hundreds of people on Friday in anticipation of the show. Above right, Xavier Thomas excitedly sits with his mom and dad, Stacy and Josh Thomas, as they wait for the fireworks show.

At right, from left to right, Linux Ritchie, Raiden Ritchie and Lillian Ritchie beat the heat with a sweet treat before the fireworks show on Friday evening.

At bottom, Cylar Voglewede enjoys a ride on the shoulders of his grandpa, Sheriff Scott Holliday, while Tara Holliday (middle) smiles and Riley Voglewede snaps a sweet photo. (Photos by Sydney Kent)



## Man pleads not guilty to child molestation

By SYDNEY KENT

A man from Huntington, accused of molesting two young children in his care in May, has pled not guilty to the charges. Braxton Watson, 21, is facing one count of child molesting, a Level 1 felony, and an additional count of child molesting at a Level 4 felony. If convicted, Watson faces up to 52 years in prison.

According to a probable cause affidavit, the charges were filed after a woman told police that Watson allegedly sexually abused her daughters while living in their home in Bluffton in April and early May. Watson is reportedly related to the children.

The woman explained that after he moved out, a family member notified her that Watson was accused of molesting children in Huntington. This prompted her to ask her daughters if Watson had ever touched them inappropriately. One of the children reported details of Watson molesting her and showing her his naked body.

When police informed Watson of the crimes he was being accused of, he reportedly responded, "OK." Watson then denied the allegations and offered to take a lie detector test. He also offered that he was infected with a sexually transmitted disease and that the disease would have spread to the child from his fingers if the allegations were true.

During his initial hearing in late June, Watson entered a preliminary plea of not guilty. His bond is set at \$30,000. A pretrial conference is scheduled in the matter at 1 p.m. on Aug. 28 in the Wells Circuit Court.

sydney@news-banner.com

## Indiana awards \$51M in housing infrastructure boost

Ossian among those receiving funding

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

About a dozen Hoosier communities will split \$51 million in state funding for public infrastructure set to support construction of 2,400 homes.

It's the Residential Housing Infrastructure Assistance Program's first round of awards. Lawmakers authorized the revolving loan fund last year.

"We would have done what we had to do. But this very much helps," Jamestown Clerk-Treasurer Lori Hieston said.

Her Boone County community of nearly 1,000 residents is growing.

"When a house comes up for sale here in town, it gets sold pretty quickly," Hieston said.

The town also wants more local talent to serve a primary employer.

Fukai Toyotetsu Indiana Corp., a Jamestown-based automotive supplier, must

largely hire from out of town, per Hieston.

"(This is) providing an opportunity for housing where people can buy a house and live close to where they work," she said.

Jamestown is preparing for a 199-house development, but its sewer system can only take half the prospective addition. The town plans to use its \$1.1 million award to add another tank to the plant.

### Fund details

The program stems from 2023's House Enrolled Act 1005, led by homebuilder Rep. Doug Miller, R-Elkhart.

"I think we're really trying to look at Indiana and say we've got opportunities across the state to help areas that haven't been helped before," he said in committee.

The legislation allows awardees to use the money on sidewalks, curbs, sewer, water and other infrastructure.

(Continued on Page 2)

## U.S. employers added 206K jobs in sign of economic strength

By PAUL WISEMAN  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — America's employers delivered another healthy month of hiring in June, adding 206,000 jobs and once again displaying the U.S. economy's ability to withstand high interest rates.

Last month's job growth did mark a pullback from 218,000 in May. But it was still a solid gain,

reflecting the resilience of America's consumer-driven economy, which is slowing but still growing steadily.

Still, Friday's report from the Labor Department contained several signs of a slowing job market. The unemployment rate ticked up from 4% to 4.1%, a still-low number but the highest rate since November 2021. The rate rose in large part because 277,000 people

began looking for work in June, and not all of them found jobs right away.

The government also sharply revised down its estimate of job growth for April and May by a combined 111,000. And it said average hourly pay rose just 0.3% from May and 3.9% from June 2023. The year-over-year figure was the smallest such rise since June 2021 and will likely be wel-

comed by the Federal Reserve in its drive to fully conquer inflation. Most economists think the Fed will begin cutting its benchmark rate in September, and the details in Friday's jobs report did nothing to counter that expectation.

Just two sectors — government and a category that includes healthcare and social assistance, neither of which captures the economy's underlying strength —

accounted for roughly three-quarters of June's job growth. Economists also noted that job growth from April through June averaged 177,000, a decent figure but still the lowest three-month average since January 2021.

Other economists, while agreeing that the job market is slowing, suggested that it remains resilient.

"Both May and June hiring

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**Outside**

Beautiful day for a trip to the pool or Ouabache

Today	Sunday	Monday
High 79	High 84	High 89
Low 60	Low 65	Low 69

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Vol. 95 No. 209

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July 6, 2024

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## Housing boost

(Continued from Page 1)

Such expenses are usually built into the cost of residential development projects, but developer and builder groups testified infrastructure costs can hinder housing projects.

Lawmakers hoped to give residential development a boost with low-interest loans for infrastructure expenses.

The Indiana Finance Authority, the program's administrator, prioritized projects ready to move forward in the recently begun fiscal year, and in communities that have either recently completed housing studies or demonstrated a need for more inventory. Applicants

were also required to have secured other funding to contribute to their projects.

Jamestown was one of 11 communities to obtain an award through the program, which prioritizes rural communities. The law stipulates that 70% of the money go toward local units of government with populations under 50,000 people. The remaining 30% is available for larger cities.

According to an IFA memo, here are the recipients:

- Goshen, \$11 million
- Clarksville, \$8.6 million for two projects
- Auburn, \$5.5 million

- Indianapolis, \$5 million
- Michigan City, \$4.6 million
- Gas City, \$4.5 million for two projects
- Fort Wayne, \$4 million
- Vincennes, \$3.1 million
- Ossian, \$2.5 million
- Churubusco, \$1.1 million

Each community will start repayment within a year of a project's "substantial completion." They have 20-year fixed interest rates and level annual debt service.

Hieston called the initiative a "good opportunity."

"If we had to go secure money other ways, ... it would be a high interest rate," she added.

## Economic strength

(Continued from Page 1)

was above 200,000 even after revisions, and the trajectory looks stable," said Eric Winograd, U.S. economist at AllianceBernstein. "The best available evidence is that the labor market remains strong and that any deceleration remains modest."

The state of the economy is weighing heavily on voters' minds as the presidential campaign intensifies. Despite consistent hiring, relatively few layoffs and gradually cooling inflation, many Americans have been exasperated by still-high prices and assign blame to President Joe Biden.

Economists have been repeatedly predicting that the job market would lose momentum in the face of the high rates engineered by the Fed, only to see the hiring gains show continued strength. Still, signs of an economic slowdown have emerged in the aftermath of the Fed's series of rate hikes. The U.S. gross domestic product — the total output of goods and services — grew at a lethargic annual pace of 1.4% from January through March, the slowest quarterly pace in nearly

two years.

Consumer spending, which accounts for about 70% of all U.S. economic activity and which has powered the expansion the past three years, rose at just a 1.5% pace last quarter after growing more than 3% in each of the previous two quarters. In addition, the number of advertised job openings has declined steadily since peaking at a record 12.2 million in March 2022.

At the same time, while employers might not be hiring so aggressively after having struggled to fill jobs the past two years, they aren't cutting many, either. Most workers are enjoying an unusual level of job security.

Hal Lawton, CEO of Tractor Supply, a retail chain that caters to customers in rural areas, said his company still feels under pressure to increase wages. Average hourly pay at Tractor Supply, based in Brentwood, Tennessee, workers exceeds \$16. And with rent and food prices high, workers are still seeking pay raises.

"You've got a tight labor market, and frontline workers are feeling the pinch of their budgets," Lawton said.

"They're still out there looking for those wage increases."

During 2022 and 2023, the Fed raised its benchmark interest rate 11 times to try to conquer the worst streak of inflation in four decades, lifting its key rate to its highest point in 23 years. The punishingly higher borrowing rates that resulted, for consumers and businesses, were widely expected to trigger a recession. They didn't. The economy and the job market instead have shown surprising resilience.

Meanwhile, inflation has steadily declined from a 9.1% peak in 2022 to 3.3%. In remarks this week at a conference in Portugal, Fed Chair Jerome Powell noted that price increases in the United States were slowing again after higher readings earlier this year. Powell did caution that further evidence that inflation is moving toward the Fed's 2% target level would be needed before the policymakers would cut rates.

"This is the kind of report that the Federal Reserve wants to see," said Gus Faucher, chief economist at PNC Financial Ser-

vices Group. "This looks pretty darn good. The labor market is not as strong as it was last year at this time. But the labor market at that time was unsustainably strong."

Chris Thomas, an engineering manager in Christiansburg, Virginia, said he can see first-hand that the job market has lost momentum. When Thomas began a previous job hunt back in 2021, when tech startups were desperate to hire, he landed interviews with about a third of the companies he applied to. It took him just a month to find a job.

But after he was laid off in April from a job at a startup, it was clear that the landscape had changed. First, he sought leads through his network of friends and business associates. No luck. Then he sent out hundreds of resumes to positions he thought he was qualified to take. He drew few responses.

Finally, after a nearly three-month search, Thomas landed a job at the end of June.

"This is a very, very different job market than the one we had three years ago," he said.

## Local Roundup

### Friends of the Shelter will meet Monday afternoon

Friends of the Shelter, the organization that provides support for the Bluffton/Wells County Animal Shelter, will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, July 8, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

### Regional Sewer District board will meet Monday

The board of the Wells County Regional Sewer District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, July 8, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda are:

- Superintendent report and updates.
- Project updates from the engineer.
- Discussion of property acquisition.

### Ossian Town Council will meet Monday evening

The Ossian Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, July 8, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

### Wells County SWCD board will meet Tuesday evening

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

### Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

### Southern Wells will hold work session Tuesday

The board of the Southern Wells Community Schools will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, in the central office board room to discuss the building project.

### Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 9, at the school district's central office, 312 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

### Visitors Commission will meet Wednesday morning

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, July 10, at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

Topics on the agenda are:

- Staff resignations and recommendations.
- Trip requests.
- Donations.

### Bluffton parks board will meet Thursday evening

The Bluffton parks

board will meet at 6:30 p.m. Thursday, July 11, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

### Area Plan Commission to meet Thursday evening

The Wells County Area Plan Commission will meet at 7 p.m. Thursday, July 11, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Jason and Casandra Meyer have requested approve for a 7,890 sq. ft. building and parking area at 10350 N.S.R. 1 in Ossian. The lot is currently zoned B-3.
- Updates regarding the Vision 2035 Comprehensive Plan, revitalization and trails, and housing studies.

## Weather

Saturday, July 6, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:18 p.m. Friday)

**High:** 80; **Low:** 63; **Precipitation:** 0.01 inches of rain  
**Wabash River Level** (at the Main Street bridge): 2.00 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Partly sunny, with a high near 79. West wind around 10 mph.

**Tonight:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 60. West wind around 5 mph becoming calm after midnight.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 65. Calm wind.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 89.

**Monday Night:** A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 69.

**Tuesday:** A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 81.

**Tuesday Night:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms before 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 65.

**Wednesday:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms after 8 a.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

**Wednesday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

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

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

## Fed highlights its political independence as presidential campaign heats up

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve is highlighting the importance of its political independence at a time when Donald Trump, who frequently attacked the Fed's policymaking in the past, edges closer to formally becoming the Republican nominee for president.

On Friday, the Fed released its twice-yearly report on its interest-rate policies, a typically dry document that primarily includes its analysis of job growth, inflation, interest rates and other economic trends. The report includes short text boxes that focus on often-technical issues such as monetary policy rules.

The report is typically released the Friday before the Fed chair testifies to House and Senate committees as part of the central bank's semi-annual report to Congress.

Many of the boxes appear regularly in most reports, like one that focuses on employment and earnings for different demographic groups. Friday's report, however, includes a new box titled, "Monetary policy independence, transparency, and accountability." It is there that the Fed stressed the vital need for it to operate independent of political pressures.

"There is broad support for the principles underlying independent monetary policy," the report says. "Operational independence of monetary policy has become an international norm, and economic research indicates that economic performance has tended to be better when central banks have such independence."

Such statements suggest that the Fed is seeking to shore up support in Congress for its independence, which Chair Jerome Powell earlier this week mentioned as a crucial bulwark against political attacks on the Fed.

A spokesperson for the Fed declined to comment on the inclusion of the text box.

"I do think support for the Fed's independence is very high, where it really matters on Capitol Hill, in both political parties," Powell said Tuesday during a monetary policy conference in Portugal.

Before the pandemic struck in 2020, Trump, as president, repeatedly badgered the Fed to lower its benchmark interest rate, which can reduce the cost of consumer and business borrowing and stimulate the economy.

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## Senior Citizen's Lunch

Thursday, July 18<sup>th</sup> • 11:30am

### New Hope Lutheran Church

8824 N. State Road 1 • Ossian, IN 46777

### Performance by: Senior Saints

The Senior Saints, an energetic group of 71 retirees from 31 churches in the greater Fort Wayne area, will present Way to Go! A musical about methods of travel through the ages. The program includes songs and narration. Songs include Wait for the Wagon, Cruising Down the River, The Wabash Cannon Ball, Bicycle Built for Two, and In My Merry Oldsmobile. Songs of faith include Life's Railway to Heaven, Walking with the King, Just a Closer Walk, Precious Lord Take My Hand, Jesus Led me All the Way and I'll Fly Away.

Call or text 260-415-1462 or  
 260-223-4830 to reserve your spot.

Free will offering to defray cost.



OBITUARIES

Sally J. Bracke, 66

Sally J. Bracke, 66, of Ossian, passed away on Saturday, June 29, 2024. She was born on Jan. 29, 1958, in Elgin, Ill., to Loyal and Lorraine Humbracht.

Sally retired from her position as Deputy Clerk Treasurer for the Town of Ossian in 2021, after 27 years of service. She also ran her own business, Sew Creative Custom Embroidery, for about 30 years. The business started as a hobby, an outlet for Sally's abundant creativity. Before long, demand increased, and soon Sally owned three commercial embroidery machines, producing a wide range of custom embroidered projects for customers across the country. Sally also expressed her creativity through making quilts and unique gifts for her grandchildren and cross-stitching intricate pieces. She enjoyed cooking and baking for a family of eager tasters, reading, watching true crime documentaries with her husband, winning against everyone at Wheel of Fortune, playing with her dogs, and — her favorite — simply spending time with her family. The best sound in the world, she said, was her kids laughing together. Sally's surviving family include her husband of nearly 48 years, Steve Bracke; daughter, Marissa Bracke;



sons, Alex (Jilayne Willhoite) Bracke and Charles Bracke; grandchildren, Theodore, Annabelle, and Isaac Bracke; brothers-in-law, Paul (Terrie) Bracke, John Holzinger and Phil Shafer; sisters-in-law, Lisa (Glen) Kinney and Laura Bracke; nephews and niece, Patrick Shafer, Austin (Sarah) Kinney, Michael (Lindsay) Kinney, Phillip (Maribel) Bracke, Kyle Bracke, Craig Bracke and Rose Bracke.

Sally was preceded in death by her parents; sisters, Mary Shafer and Carol Humbracht; brother, L. Lamont Humbracht; and her nephew, Sam Shafer.

No service will be held. An open house Celebration of Life will be held on Saturday, July 27, 2024 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Steve Bracke residence, 401 Ingle Drive in Ossian. All who loved Sally, called her a friend, or whose lives were touched by her in some way are welcome to attend.

The family requests no flowers. Instead, memorials may be made to Sally's favorite charities, Humane Fort Wayne.

Elzey-Patterson-Rodak Funeral Home, Ossian is handling arrangements. Condolences and memories may be left online at [www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com](http://www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com)

Shirley Ann Guldice, 70

Shirley Ann Guldice, 70, of Bluffton passed away Thursday morning, July 4, 2024, in Muncie.

She was born on Feb. 5, 1954, in Wells County to James and Betty (Booher) Marshall.

Shirley graduated from New Haven High School with the class of 1972. Shirley worked as a respiratory therapist before attending and graduating from Ivy Tech in the Nursing Program. She worked as an LPN at Christian Care from many years and retired from Woodcrest in Decatur in 2015. She was very talented and enjoyed cooking and baking.

On May 28, 2008, Shirley and Winfred "Wimp" Guldice were married. They enjoyed seven years together before Wimp preceded her in death on July 30, 2015.

Survivors include two sisters, Donna K. (Paul) Morgan of Liberty Center and Kathy S. (Gary) McDonald of Montpelier. She is



also survived by a niece, Melissa (Brady) Johnson of Liberty Center; a nephew, James Hess of Fort Wayne; and her aunt, Beverly DeArmond of Bluffton; along with great-nieces and nephews.

Funeral Services will take place at 2 p.m. on Monday, July 8, 2024, at the Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton with Rev. Lyle Breeding officiating. Burial will follow at Elm Grove Cemetery in Bluffton.

Visitation will take place from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Monday, prior to the service at the funeral home.

Memorials may be made in Shirley's memory to Stillwater 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 family at [www.thomarich.com](http://www.thomarich.com).

Joellen F. Meyer, 73

Joellen F. Meyer, 73, of Ossian, Indiana passed away early Thursday morning, July 4, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

She was born on June 16, 1951 in Huntington, Indiana to Kyle and Joan (Fisher) Mason. Joellen was united in marriage to Lloyd Meyer on September 2, 1972 at the Markle United Methodist Church and he survives.

She was a member of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ossian, Indiana where she also faithfully served on the Ladies Aid.

She was a registered nurse for over 50 years. She graduated from the St. Joseph School of Nursing in 1971.

Following her pinning, she was employed by Wells Community Hospital, Lutheran Hospital, the Indiana Medical Associates (Lutheran Medical Group Internal Medicine), and Stillwater Hospice.

Joellen had a very caring and calming spirit. This was evidenced by her devotion to her family. This caring also extended to her extensive volunteering in various community non-profit organizations including CASA, where she was a guardian ad litem and the ASK Clinic. In her spare time, she provided asparagus along with other gardening produce. She found relaxation in painting, sewing projects, traveling with Lloyd, cooking and baking (Lloyd never went hungry), and becoming knowledgeable about the birds



of Indiana. She found great enjoyment in supporting the activities of her children and grandchildren.

She is survived by her husband, Lloyd Meyer of Ossian, Indiana; two daughters, Tonya Meyer of Decatur, Indiana and Amy Meyer of Costa Rica; son, Kevin (Amanda) Meyer of Plainfield, Indiana; brother, Roger (Debra) Mason of Austin, Texas; two sisters, Rhonda (Jay) Lehman of Fort Worth, Texas and Stephanie (Jef) Heuerman of Taylors, South Carolina; and five grandchildren, Grant Meyer, McKae Meyer, Seth Meyer, Kameron Gaddis, and Maelyn Gaddis.

Lehman of Fort Worth, Texas and Stephanie (Jef) Heuerman of Taylors, South Carolina; and five grandchildren, Grant Meyer, McKae Meyer, Seth Meyer, Kameron Gaddis, and Maelyn Gaddis.

Joellen was preceded in death by her parents. A funeral service will be held at 11:00 a.m. Tuesday, July 9, 2024, at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ossian, Indiana with Pastor Samuel Wirgau and Pastor Anthony Dodgers officiating. Burial will follow Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Cemetery.

Family & friends will be received from 2 to 5 and 6 to 8 p.m. Monday, July 8, 2024, at Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church and one hour prior to services on Tuesday also at the church.

Preferred memorials are to Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church; Parkview Cancer Institute; or Stillwater Hospice Home.

Arrangements are by Zwick and Jahn Funeral Home of Decatur, Indiana.

Kenneth W. Springer, 81

Kenneth W. Springer, 81, passed away on Friday, June 28, 2024 at Stillwater Hospice Home. Kenneth was born Oct. 20, 1942, in Fort Wayne, son of the late Gotthold J. and Alberta (Meyer) Springer.

He was a U. S. Army Veteran and had worked as an electrician for General Electric, retiring in 2001. Kenneth was a member of St. Mark Lutheran Church and Lion's Club International.

Surviving are his wife, Edith "Eydie" Springer of Decatur; son, Chad Springer of Fort Wayne; brother, Bruce (Deborah) Springer of Fort Wayne; and Joyce (William) Hoover of Yoder.

In addition to his parents, he was pre-



ceded in death by his brother, Keith Springer.

Funeral services will be on Saturday, July 13, 2024, at 11:00 a.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church, 16933 Thiele Road, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46819, with visitation one hour prior. Visitation for Kenneth will also be on Friday, July 12, 2024 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at St. Mark Lutheran Church.

Burial will be at Oak Lawn Cemetery, Ossian, Indiana. Contributions in Kenneth's memory may be made to St. Mark Lutheran Church, Stillwater Hospice, or Donor's Choice. Please visit [www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com](http://www.elzey-patterson-rodak.com) to leave condolences.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

We have had a fantastic Kehoe Concert series so far and the fun continues next Friday with Hotel California – The Original Tribute to The Eagles (Canada).

For over three decades now, Hotel California has been recreating the legendary sound of The Eagles and thrilling audiences worldwide. The band set the bar in 1986 and has remained the industry-leading substitute for The Eagles ever since. Playing to huge outdoor and arena audiences, sharing bills with some of rock's legends, and going places no tribute band has gone before.

Join us for a FREE Friday night concert featuring HOTEL California on July 12 at Kehoe Park from 8-10 p.m. Bring your lawn chair and a few dollars to purchase something delicious from Yergy's BBQ food truck or something cold to wash it down from 2 Pour Guys, who will serve adult beverages (ID required). This concert is sponsored by the generosity of Patricia Troxel.

Next week is shaping up to be a great week to go to the Wells Community Pool. The following businesses will offer free admission, so get in line early and enjoy some fun in the sun.

Monday, July 8: Indiana Party Rentals to the first 35

Tuesday, July 9: Pitties Properties and Pitties Dog House to the first 100

Wednesday, July 10: Mattress Furniture Store to the first 100

Thursday, July 11: Wells County Tusk Force to the first 75

Friday, July 12: Bluffton Optimist Club to the first 58 kids in line

Mark your calendars for the next free Theater Thursday. Join us on July 18th

at 10 am for the showing of the "Barbie Movie," rated PG-13, at the Wells County Public Library.

Now that July is here, we are offering a discounted rate to become a member of the Bluffton City Gym. A single membership only costs \$50, and a family can get in for just \$75 from now until the end of the year. Stop by the Parks office on the 2nd floor of City Hall for details.

Free tennis lessons start back up on July 8 and will run for two more weeks.

There is still time to fill out your Wells County Summer Bingo Card. We have partnered with Visit Wells County to offer you a chance to win amazing prizes while enjoying local activities. Whether you explore the town's attractions, indulge in delicious eats, or attend community events, every experience could be your ticket to victory.

1. Print out your bingo card at <https://www.visitwellscounty.com/blog/2024-summer-bingo>

2. Check off boxes as you complete activities between now and August 31. Completed rows/columns earn you one prize chance; black out the entire card for three chances. You can also earn entries by posting selfies of yourself completing activities with the hashtag #WanderingWellsCounty or @VisitWellsCounty Facebook page.

3. Return your card to the Bluffton Parks office by Sept. 6. We are giving away 10 VERY COOL prize baskets with Wells County and Bluffton Parks gear AND some gift cards to local businesses.

It is open to residents and non-residents of all ages (although some activities require minors to be accompanied by an adult).

Have a great week!

Obituary Policy

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

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

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

VISITATION & SERVICES

Judy L. Pinkerton

Calling: 5 - 8 p.m. Saturday, July 6 and 12 - 2 p.m. Sunday, July 7. Service: 2 p.m., Sunday, July 7 at the funeral home.

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Police Notebook

INCIDENTS County:

Wednesday, 1:09 p.m., 6400E 100N, Bluffton. Report of issues with pigs and goats. Owner was actively installing fence around the pasture and advised he was making it bigger.

Wednesday, 4:38 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served on Maiquito McDaniel.

Thursday, 2:21 a.m.,

North Main Street and Charles Deam Court, Bluffton. Chelsea Ridley taken to the Wells County Jail.

Thursday, 2:40 a.m., 3500 East Market Street, Petroleum. Report of a tree down in the roadway. Tree removed.

Thursday, 6:08 p.m., 20 block of West Walnut Street, Penoto. Report of an issue over a loose dog.

Friday, 2:39 a.m., 1900 South No Number Road?,

Bluffton. Subject reported loud karaoke party in the area.

Ossian: Thursday, 12:38 a.m., 5700N 450E, Ossian. Report of a vehicle circling the area. Caller was intoxicated however advised that extra patrol would be posted and to call again once he sobered up.

Thursday, 10:31 a.m., Silo Farms. Search warrant executed, multiple electronic devices and discs detained.



From our family to you ...

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

This short essay is from



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

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

2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6

The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. [ 2 CORINTHIANS 10:4 ]

SATURDAY | JULY 6

OUR ARMOR IN CHRIST

Pastor Bailey's newfound friend shared with him the story of his abuse and addiction. Though the young man was a believer in Jesus, because of his exposure to sexual abuse and pornography at an early age, he was plagued with a problem that was bigger than he was. And in his desperation, he reached out for help.

As believers in Christ, we wage war with unseen forces of evil (2 CORINTHIANS 10:3-6). But we've been given weapons to fight our spiritual battles. They aren't the weapons of the world, however. On the contrary, we've been given "divine power to demolish strongholds" (v. 4). What does that mean? "Strongholds" are well-built, secure places. Our God-given arms include "weapons of righteousness in the right hand for attack and the left hand for defense" (6:7 NLT). Ephesians 6:13-18 expands the list of things that help protect us, including the Scriptures, faith, salvation, prayer, and the support of other believers. When faced with forces bigger and stronger than us, appropriating these munitions can make the difference between standing and stumbling.

God also uses counselors and other professionals to help those who struggle with forces too big to tackle alone. The good news is that in and through Jesus, we needn't surrender when we struggle. We have the armor of God!

ARTHUR JACKSON

Who might you reach out to for support in your personal struggle? What spiritual armor will you put on?

Dear Jesus, You're more powerful than any force—seen or unseen. I need Your presence and power to be at work in me today.

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The World's Largest Ball of Paint weighs over 10,000 lbs. The surrounding walls are signed by visitors who've added their own layer.

## Notes on life from the World's Largest Ball of Paint

For at least 12 hours last weekend, I held a world record.

The journey was two years in the making, more or less, beginning when I read "The Anthropocene Reviewed" by Indiana author John Green. The memoir is a compilation of "reviews" of seemingly unrelated and everyday items as they relate to Green's personal stories or beliefs about life.

Indianapolis receives four stars by Green's ranking, tying with Diet Dr.

Pepper the World's Largest Ball of Paint. I'm familiar with the first two, but the latter caught my attention.

The World's Largest Ball of Paint is located in the small town of Alexandria, Indiana — roughly an hour's drive from Bluffton. At its core is a baseball, painted by Mike Carmichael and his three-year-old son, Mike Jr., in 1977. The original goal was 1,000 layers of paint, with intentions to cut it in half and see what the cross-section would look like. However, the ball grew into a point of curiosity for the Carmichael family and their friends, and they continued.

As word spread about the oddity, strangers began stopping by and were invited to add their own layers of paint. The ball was officially certified as the Guinness World Record holder at approximately 17,944 layers.

I mentally bookmarked the roadside attraction for a rainy day at the time. Last Saturday, the forecast called for rain.

As my friend Allyson and I pulled up to the rural address, we came upon two buildings — one for the Carmichaels, and one for the Ball (which only feels appropriate to capitalize due to its size). The heaving mass of dried paint was immediately visible through the paned window — and none of the photos did it justice. I immediately laughed and snapped my own picture from the parking lot.

We were greeted at the door by Mike Jr. and his two Great Danes. A family from Wisconsin had just finished adding a layer, and their two young kids were giddily picking out t-shirts. The mom indicated they were on a roadside attraction road trip, and the site was the first they could interact with.

After they left, Mike took out a permanent marker and wrote "29,182" on the Ball — our new layer.

We picked out purple paint and got to work with rollers, Mike helping us get the top and bottom. I suppose nearly 50 years and 30,000 layers make someone a professional, and I certainly appreciated the expertise — measuring more than 14 ft. around and 10,377 lbs., painting a layer on the World's Largest Ball of Paint was no small task.

"Which came first — the building or the Ball?" I asked. Mike laughed, "The ball." It stands suspended on a hook, held up by a metal frame, inside the building. They used to weigh it annually, but the most recent addition was a constant scale. By Mike's observations, each layer of paint adds roughly 1 lb.

Mike said his dad and daughter — now the third generation — man the building during the week, and he comes in on weekends. An average Saturday sees 5-6 groups, but the summer gets more unpredictable.

Mike told me he adds the occasional layer here or there, but said he mostly enjoys helping others and hearing about people's trips and the many reasons they stop by. The family doesn't exactly advertise beyond a sign in their yard and the occasional news headline, but thousands come every year.

The whole experience felt a little bit like magic. Painting a giant blob is unabashedly silly, and Mike's generosity is simply infectious. As we signed our certificates and the wall, I'm sure Allyson and I looked no different than those giggling kids from Wisconsin. In "The Anthropocene Reviewed", Green described it as a "beautiful foolishness," which I find quite appropriate.

Mike then told us we were likely the last visitors of the day, and we were the world record holders for the night.

Multiple times in the following hours, Allyson and I returned to the same astonishment — for decades, the Carmichaels have freely given their time and resources for the World's Largest Ball of Paint, yes, but also for the joy of every person who has added their layer. For a world record that really doesn't mean much, their kindness means the world.

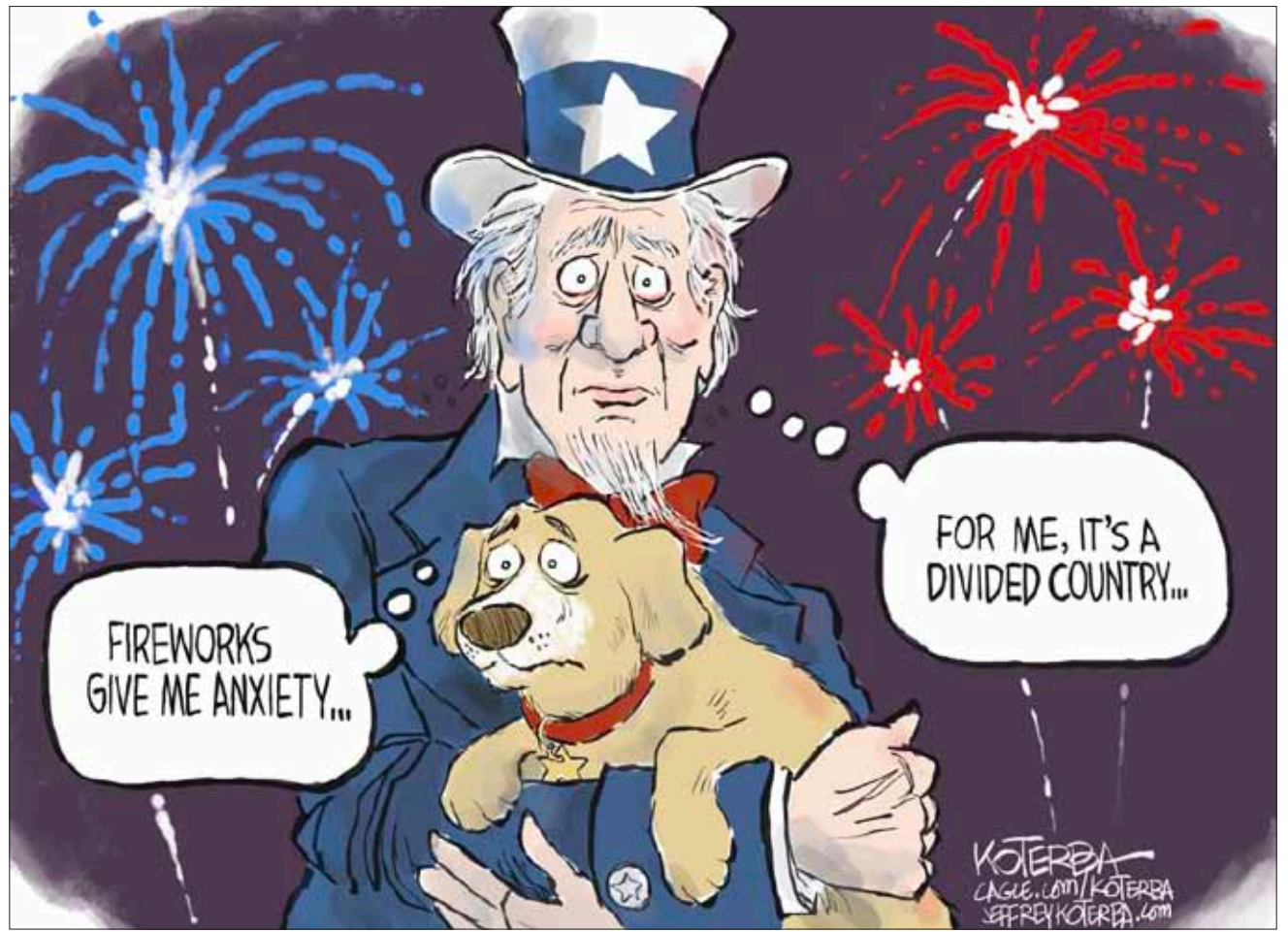
I don't necessarily recommend every person should start painting a baseball, but I do hope to share in that same generosity and joy.

The World's Largest Ball of Paint is located at 10686N 200W in Alexandria. Guests are asked to call ahead at 765-724-4088 to ensure someone is around. Should you visit, whether next weekend or on a rainy day in two years, I'd love to hear what layer you add.

holly@news-banner.com



Holly Gaskill



## Don't despair, 'normal' U.S. politics are abnormal. Happy Fourth!

In the wake of this July 4 commemoration of the grandest day in humanity's political history, Americans wonder whether their politics will ever again be normal. Jon Grinspan has a strangely reassuring message: Normal is abnormal.

He curates, on Constitution Avenue, the politics collection at the National Museum of American History, whose bazillion artifacts include: the teacup Abraham Lincoln placed on a windowsill before departing for Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865. Hoods worn by prisoners who were hanged for complicity in Lincoln's assassination. The Emancipation Proclamation printed as a tiny (about 3 inches by 2 inches) booklet distributed by Union soldiers to Black Southerners. A bug-with-flapping-wings lapel pin worn by "gold bugs," who were gold-standard voters in late-19th century campaigns about the national currency.

And two torches: One was carried by the same partisan in nighttime parades during presidential campaigns from 1860 to 1904. The other was carried during the 2017 neo-Nazi rally in Charlottesville, Va.

Political torches, like the parades they illuminated, were extinguished in the century that began in 1900 as American politics became calmer — and voter participation plunged. Today's relative civility — really — is, Grinspan says, the residue of a long reaction against the tumults of post-Appomattox presidential campaigns, in which a perpetually excited public elected generally unexciting presidents.

Grinspan, 40, a University of Virginia PhD, recalls that while writing "The Age of Acrimony" (2021), he would cross the National Mall, encountering tourists wearing red MAGA caps, and anti-MAGA protesters waving signs saying "This Is Not Normal." He would return to artifacts telling of politics "more heated than anything we've seen."

Politics during the span of a single lifetime in the 19th century witnessed the loudest campaigns and highest voter participation in U.S. history. Turnout averaged 77 percent in presidential years, and was highest among the poor and working class. Many in the upper crust recoiled from the contamination of participation.

In the resonant year 1876, when the nation's population was 45 million, the Philadelphia World's Fair welcomed 10 million visitors, who, Grinspan says, marveled at "a wondrous future of telephones and typewriters, hamburger steaks and syrupy soda water." Ten years later, an Atlanta pharmacist mixed carbonated water with a syrup — the birth of what became Coca-Cola.

But the years after Appomattox included a presidential impeachment and three presidential assassinations.

Boys born the day Lincoln died were not old enough to vote when James Garfield was shot in 1881; boys born that day were not yet voters when William McKinley was murdered in 1901. Gunfire reportedly punctuated all Philadelphia elections between 1870 and 1900. In 1884, the Republican National Committee shipped 600 revolvers to Cincinnati poll watchers. Americans worried that carnage comparable to the 1871 Paris Commune (perhaps 20,000 dead) was coming.

On trams or trains, a European visitor marveled, Americans polled one another about impending elections. The public, diversified by immigration, had, Grinspan says, few shared holidays or folk festivals but was united around the "new democratic folk culture" provided by political campaigns, often lubricated by lager in working-class saloons. In an atomized, highly mobile society of the uprooted and restless (in one Wisconsin county, 89 percent of teenage males there in 1860 were gone by 1870, and 90 percent of those in 1870 were absent in 1880), individuals found "communal momentum" in being mobilized by parties.

"Young men marching in torchlit processions," Grinspan says, achieved fraternity. In a society churned by Darwinian strivers, "the parties offered a countervailing sense of community": Life might be unequal, "but during campaigns, Americans wrapped themselves in the same uniforms, lit the same torches." But "the same forces that made the political culture so popular could be its undoing."

The growing middle class, repelled by mass tumults, wanted a politics of sober individualism. An advocate for eight-year presidential terms thought this might tranquilize "a nervous and excitable people like ourselves." The most telling reform was the secret ballot.

Hitherto, voting was done in often raucous public places, voters casting ballots printed by the parties, so straight party-line voting was the norm. With secrecy came privacy: A curtain emphasized the individual alone with his conscience, insulated from crowds. Parades were replaced by pamphlets: In 1896, Republicans printed them in German, Italian, Swedish, Greek, Polish and Yiddish.

In Germany, Italy and elsewhere, uniformed, torch-bearing marchers were coming. But America, Grinspan notes, "experienced a twentieth century generally calmer than the nineteenth." On this less-than-happy national birthday, if you pine for normality, be careful: Which one?

georgewill@washpost.com.



George Will

*On this less-than-happy national birthday, if you pine for normality, be careful: Which one?*

## Biden claims to know right from wrong

At a rally in Raleigh, North Carolina, following his universally criticized debate performance, President Biden attempted to draw a distinction between himself and Donald Trump: "I know how to tell the truth. I know right from wrong."

Knowing right from wrong presumes a standard that is universal, not personal. Try arguing with the supermarket cashier that the price for the pound of meat you are trying to buy is not what is written on the label but what you think it should be. The next word you hear might well be "security!"

One might think that a "good Catholic," as Pope Francis recently called President Biden, means that he believes and practices the doctrines of his church and that might be his standard. Those doctrines include that unborn life is sacred and should be preserved. Biden has done the opposite, refusing to endorse minimal protections at any stage of a baby's development. What about marriage? Catholic doctrine teaches it is reserved for a man and a woman. Biden promotes everything but traditional marriage, seemingly endorsing same-sex marriage and the LGBTQIA+ agenda.

How about obeying the laws, which set standards of their own, contrasting right from wrong and imposing penalties for violations? Biden fails that test as well, ignoring



Cal Thomas

immigration laws, the border and the Supreme Court's ruling against "forgiving" some student loan debt.

Knowing what is true and what is false is the ultimate test when it comes to discerning right from wrong. While many politicians fudge the truth by making poll-tested statements appealing to voters, Biden has taken lying to a whole new level (and yes, one can compile a list of Trump's lies, too, but Trump isn't making a similar claim).

You can Google "Joe Biden lies" and get a long list, but here is a brief one put together by The Washington Examiner.

He said in 2008, a helicopter he was riding in was "forced down" near Osama bin Laden's lair in Afghanistan. Actually, it was just waiting out a sandstorm.

He has falsely claimed to be a coal miner and from a family of coal miners, a claim stolen from British politician Neil Kinnock.

In 2007, he said he was "shot at" while in Iraq. The truth is that he was in the green zone when a mortar landed several hundred yards away.

Biden said in 1993 that he called Slobodan Milosevic a "damn war criminal" to his face during the siege of Sarajevo. Three out of four aides in the meeting did not corroborate.

Biden has said he was a civil rights leader, participating in sit-ins. Nope.

Biden said he criticized former

President George W. Bush in several long meetings. A Bush aide said he couldn't remember Biden in any meetings and added that the former president "would never sit through two hours of Joe Biden."

The president recently retold how his Delaware house caught fire, almost killing his wife, dog, and cat and melting his Corvette. Fox and the Associated Press reported that it was just a small kitchen fire.

Then there is his million miles "flown" story told to Amtrak conductor Angelo Negri. Biden claims that Negri congratulated him during a train trip to visit his dying mother. CNN tore that story apart, writing, "Biden's story is false in two ways. First, he could not possibly have had this exchange with Negri: He did not reach the million-miles-flown mark as vice president until September 2015, according to his own past comments, but Negri had died more than a year earlier, in May 2014. Second, Biden's mother was not dying at the time he reached the million-miles-flown mark. In fact, she had died more than five years prior."

There are many, many more, including a claim his uncle was eaten by cannibals after being shot down during World War II, getting arrested while on his way to see Nelson Mandela in prison and that he is the first in his family to graduate from college.

Knowing right from wrong includes telling the truth. Biden falls short of that standard.

tcaditors@tribpub.com

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# Call to Worship

This page is dedicated to the building of a more spiritual and greater church-going people and is made possible by the Advertisers on this page who want as their return to see more people go to church.



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10 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**FIRST REFORMED CHURCH OF BLUFFTON**  
301 W. Cherry St.  
9:15 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10:30 - Worship.

**FIRST UNITED METHODIST**  
325 W. Washington St.  
blufftonfirstumc.com  
9:30 a.m. - Worship. 10:45 - Sunday School.

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

**GRACE BAPTIST**  
1621 S. 350 E.  
Stogdill Rd. Ext.  
gbcbluffton.com  
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 10 a.m. & 6 p.m. - Worship.

**GRACE BIBLE**  
6626 Village Way, Berne  
gracebibleberne.com  
9 a.m. - Sunday classes. 10 a.m. - Collective Worship.

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

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

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

## A Joyful Noise ...



### A KINGDOM TO SING ABOUT

The United States waited almost 155 years before it could finally brag to other nations that it had adopted a national anthem.

Francis Scott Key had written the anthem in 1814, and many people and organizations sang it as an unofficial anthem afterward, but legislators didn't officially endorse Keys' glaring red rockets, bursting bombs, broad stripes, and bright stars until the Veterans of Foreign Wars convinced 5 million people to sign a petition, which prompted President Herbert Hoover on March 4, 1931, to sign the song into law and history.

Before that, though, many also sang "America the Beautiful" and "My Country 'Tis of Thee" as unofficial anthems. However "America the Beautiful" presumably put too many baseball players to sleep. And maybe legislators didn't want to adopt "My Country" and forever sing a tune identical to England's national anthem, "God Save the King." Kind of hard to sing that and celebrate an armed insurrection against the king at the same time.

Of course, Hoover and Congress had plenty of other candidates from other countries. The CIA Factbook lists 239 countries with national anthems, including the creatively-titled "Patriotic Song," which Bolivia adopted in 1852.

But one day, by God's grace, the saints of God with their own national anthems will one day unite under one new anthem, as the Apostle John writes in Revelation 5:9.

"The four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb ... and they sang a new song, saying:

*'You are worthy to take the scroll,  
And to open its seals;  
For You were slain,  
And have redeemed us to God by Your blood  
Out of every tribe and tongue and people and nation,  
And have made us kings and priests to our God;  
And we shall reign on the earth.'*

But God will not wait until His Son returns to establish this Kingdom on earth. As the gospels testify, Jesus came to reign through faithful, holy citizens who unleash His love and glory through a new covenant.

In fact, according to "King Jesus Claims His Church" by Finny Kuruvilla, Jesus described His disciples as "ekklēsia," a common term used for the political gatherings of the Greco-Roman city-state. Furthermore, Jews who translated the Old Testament into Greek used that word for the assemblies of national Israel.

Of course, people can't reign with the ekklēsia until

they repent of their sin, or their own revolution against the almighty God, as most modern gospel presentations and evangelists rightfully emphasize.

But I pray that these presentations and evangelists — and all Christians — won't end the Gospel at the end of the Romans Road. I hope they'll preach a gospel that focuses first and foremost on the good news of the Kingdom, the King, and His new song.

And while believers worldwide wait for the day when they'll sing the anthem of Revelation 5:9, I've asked brothers and sisters now to share songs that stir in believers' hearts patriotic passion and thankful tears — and an ever greater devotion to a Kingdom not of this world, but one that is transforming it each day.

"How Great Thou Art," by Carl Boberg and Stuart K. Hine. I like a lot of Christian genres, but worship songs are my favorite. This one so excellently captures the awe and wonder of God's creation, dominion, salvation, and glory.

"All Glory be to Christ," by Dustin Kensrue. The focus is on Christ and how we can do nothing without the Lord building the house. All glory to Him!

"King of Kings," by Brooke Ligertwood and Hillsong Worship. I think it highlights the human condition while pouring out praise to God.

"Hark! The Herald Angels Sing," by Charles Wesley. It is a great tune. It addresses the fall, the Messiah, and our second birth. The gospel message presented with joy.

"All Hail the Power of Jesus' Name," by Edward Perronet and James Ellor. It lifts up Jesus! It presents a call to all Christians — regardless of denomination, language, or geographical location to worship. It tells angels to get involved. It's a powerful song.

"Nearer My God to Thee," by Sarah F. Adams and Lowell Mason. It says, "Upward I fly."

"The Hallelujah Chorus," by Handel. The words speak for themselves. Jesus is King of kings and Lord of lords. Keeping that glorious and majestic thought is awe inspiring. As the words of America's national anthem lifts one one's patriotic spirit, "The Hallelujah Chorus" lifts one's soul to lofty heights of worship, as well as inspiring a feeling of allegiance.

"The Spiritual Conflict," author unknown. I can see saints following King Jesus on an army of white horses the first phrases of that song.

"A Mighty Fortress is Our God," by Martin Luther. It includes the gospel message along with the battle between good and evil.

baumofchet@gmail.com



by Chet Baumgartner

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
9450 S 300 W, Poneto  
9 & 10:45 a.m. - Worship.

**ST. JOSEPH CATHOLIC**  
1300 N. Main St.  
Saturday: 7:45 a.m. - Prayer. 8 a.m. - Mass. 8:30 - Rosary. 4 p.m. or by appointment - Confessions. 5 p.m. - Mass. Sunday: 7:30 & 10 a.m. - Mass.

**ST. LUKE CHURCH**  
4960W-100N, Decatur  
stlukechurch.in  
9 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Sunday School.

**ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN**  
16933 Thiele Rd.  
stmarkfw.org  
8:45 a.m. - Sunday School.  
10 a.m. - Worship.

**ST. MARK'S LUTHERAN (NALC)**  
5912 N. Sugar St., Uniondale  
10 a.m. - Worship. 10:15 - Children's Sunday School.

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

**THE CHURCH AT MCNATT**  
9221 W 800 S-90,  
Montpelier  
8:30 a.m. - Coffee fellowship. 9:15 - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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# USA Basketball men's Olympic team arrives for camp in Vegas

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

LAS VEGAS (AP) — There's something that Kobe Bryant once said that has stuck with U.S. men's Olympic basketball coach Steve Kerr and seems especially important now.

It was about how other nations have made big strides in basketball, how the gap between the rest of the world and the U.S. is closing and how that's been a great thing for the NBA. And Bryant's response, paraphrased, was basically, "so what?"

His point: If everyone else is getting better, then the U.S. better find ways to do the same.

"Maybe we'll show that one to the guys," Kerr said. "I love that. And it has to be our attitude this summer."

After months of planning, it's time for the U.S. Olympic team — one that will go to the Paris Games later this month seeking a fifth consecutive gold medal — to take the floor. The first practice for the squad is Saturday, the start of a four-day training camp before its exhibition opener against Canada on Wednesday.

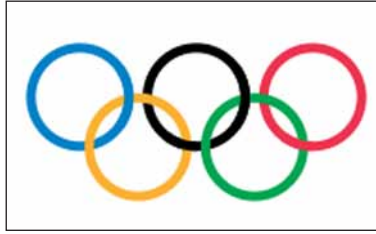
Players began arriving Thursday in Las Vegas; Stephen Curry was the first to check in for camp, perhaps underscoring how anx-

ious he is for what will be his first Olympics. The 12 players have all known each other for years, but the task of becoming a team starts in earnest Saturday.

"I feel like it starts when it gets there, because that's when you really see each other eye-to-eye," said Bam Adebayo, who is seeking his second gold medal after winning one at the Tokyo Games three years ago. "You have those conversations, you have those many conversations within what we're going through, what we're trying to do. And that's when it's time to really be honest about what we want to do."

That part is easy: Win gold.

The how-to-do-it part, that's the key. Last year brought another humbling World Cup experience for the U.S.; after finishing seventh in 2019, the Americans were fourth at Manila. But the argument — or justification, for lack of a better word — for those stumbles was that the U.S. wasn't sending the best possible roster to those tournaments. Getting the big names like Kevin Durant and LeBron James for the Olympics, that's one thing. Getting them for



the World Cup and asking them to represent their country in back-to-back summers, that's something else.

Tyrese Haliburton and Anthony Edwards were on that World Cup team last summer and were picked for this Olympic

team as well.

"Obviously, last year we didn't do what we wanted to do," Haliburton said. "And that was frustrating because any time you get to represent USA Basketball, the expectation is to win. And we weren't able to do that."

This team was put together with a very different ending in mind. James is back on the Olympic team for the first time since 2012 and seeking a third gold. Durant is going for what would be a men's Olympic record fourth basketball gold, and five other players — Adebayo, Devin Booker, Jrue Holiday, Jayson Tatum and Anthony Davis — each have one. The first-time Olympians are Haliburton, Edwards, Curry, Kawhi Leonard and Joel Embiid, someone who the U.S. convinced to play despite a strong push by France for the Philadelphia star to repre-

sent the host nation in Paris.

As far as choosing a starting lineup, good luck.

"It's a good problem to have," Kerr said. "I'm guessing that all 12 players on this roster will be in the Hall of Fame someday. So, how do you pick five out of 12? The idea is, you find combinations that click, and you find two-way lineups that can be effective at both ends. Our big job in Las Vegas is to find five-man combinations that fit and to just ask all 12 guys to fully commit to the goal of winning a gold medal no matter what it looks like, no matter who's playing."

The Americans play their first exhibition against Canada in Las Vegas, then have games at Abu Dhabi (against Australia and Serbia) and London (against South Sudan and Germany) before the Paris Games start. The U.S. opens Olympic play July 28 against Serbia and will also have group games against South Sudan and the winner of Sunday's qualifier in Puerto Rico — either Mexico, Lithuania, Italy or Puerto Rico.

"We've got 39 days or so to get locked in to go get this gold medal, 12 amazing, talented guys ready to come together for one goal," Curry said when he arrived to check in for camp. "I'm hyped for it all."

# Wrestler Kyle Snyder looks to become fourth American to win two Olympic gold medals

By **CLIFF BRUNT**  
AP Sports Writer

Kyle Snyder already has one of the best resumes ever for a U.S. wrestler, and he's just now hitting his prime.

At age 20, he became the youngest American wrestler to win Olympic gold when he achieved the feat at the 2016 Rio de Janeiro Games, and then he claimed silver at the Tokyo Games. He was a three-time NCAA champion at Ohio State and has won three world championships.

Now 28, Snyder looks to add to his legacy at the Paris Olympics. If he wins gold in the 97-kilogram freestyle category, he would join George Mehnert, John Smith and Bruce Baumgartner as the only American two-time gold medalists.

He says he's his best version of himself heading into Paris.

"My body feels stronger and in better condition than it's ever been," he said. "So I feel really good. And technically, I'm getting better and better and focusing on the right things in practice."

Snyder has been solid in the years since Tokyo, winning a world championship in 2022 and claiming bronze at the 2023 worlds.

He won't have an easy path back to the top of the podium. He may have to contend with 21-year-old Akhmed Tazhudinov of Bahrain, who defeated him 10-0 on his way to a world championship in 2023.

Snyder said the 6-foot 2 Tazhudinov has exceptional reach and is a technically sound defensive wrestler who excels at taking advantage of his opponents' mistakes.

"He just wrestles in a lot of weird positions and scrambles well," Snyder said. "He's able to think while he's on the mat and make adjustments."

U.S. men's freestyle coach Bill Zadick said Snyder is at his best when challenged.

"I think Kyle Snyder is the type of guy that thrives at that opportunity and that challenge," Zadick said. "He wants to be the guy that has the toughest road, the greatest competition. And he wants to be the guy. He likes to test himself. He likes to know where it's at."

One challenger who won't be there is Abdulrashid Sadulaev, who beat Snyder for the gold in Tokyo. Sadulaev competed there as part of the Russian Olympic Committee. The International Olympic Committee did not include Sadulaev on its list of eligible athletes from Russia and Belarus for the Paris Game. He had been barred from Olympic qualifiers in April by United World Wrestling, the sport's governing body, for his support of the Ukraine-Russia war.

Snyder believes he will be prepared, regardless of the opponent. He said he became a dominant wrestler because he challenged the best in practice along the way.

"Ever since I was a kid, I always thought I was going to win in everything I ever did," he said. "I don't know why I felt that way. I wrestled people that were older, better and stronger and bigger, and they kicked my butt. And then the next time we wrestle, I'd think I'd win. And then they kicked my butt. And we did that for a long time, and eventually I'd catch up to them."

Snyder adds a high level of intelligence to exceptional physical tools and his willingness to be tested. Zadick said that even when Snyder was a teenager, he was "like a 30-year-old pro, 28-year-old pro, trapped in a 17-year-old body."

"He's really sharp, really smart," Zadick said. "I think he's thinking in an innovative way and adding new things to his style and being creative. And so, I'm excited for him. He just loves that. He loves what he does. And, he's just full of passion. And that's exciting. And I think it bodes well for anybody that has that kind of drive and fire inside them."

Now, Snyder is the guy up-and-comers learn from. Heavyweight Mason Parris is making his Olympic debut, and he already has latched onto Snyder to help him prepare.

"He's a guy I've always looked up to growing up, and it's awesome that I'm able to pick his brain and learn a lot of stuff from him — a guy that is a veteran like him," Parris said. "He's an awesome dude, and I'm grateful I could train with him sometimes and learn from him."

# Steele pitches 2-hitter for 1st career complete game in Cubs victory

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**  
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Justin Steele pitched a two-hitter for his first career complete game, Seiya Suzuki homered and the Chicago Cubs beat the Los Angeles Angels 5-1 on Friday.

Steele (1-3) dazzled in his first victory in 13 starts this season. The left-hander threw 95 pitches, striking out seven and walking two, while lowering his ERA from 3.20 to 2.95.

The crowd of 36,948 cheered when he came out for the ninth inning and roared when Brandon Drury grounded out to end the game. Steele hugged catcher Tomás Nido.

"That was special," Steele said. "Wrigley's a special place. Fans are aware at all times of what's going on. They knew it was a special moment for me, to myself. The field, the crowd, and energy — everything behind me — it's truly special. The Wrigley faithful, it's really hard to put into words how special they are."

The Cubs won their second straight after losing eight of 10. The Angels dropped their fifth in a row since a season-high six-game win streak.

Steele won 16 games last season and made his first All-Star team. He missed

six weeks this year after straining his left hamstring in the opener at Texas and has been on a roll, with a 1.67 ERA in his past eight starts.

This time, he got the run support he needed.

Suzuki hit a two-run drive in the first inning against Griffin Canning (3-9), driving a 2-2 pitch to the basket for his 12th home run and fourth in nine games. Ian Happ added RBI singles in the third and fifth after driving in a career-high six runs in Thursday's romp over Philadelphia. Nido doubled and scored in the sixth, and third baseman Miles Mastrobuoni made some slick plays, including one on the game's first pitch when he lunged to his right to snag Taylor Ward's line drive.

"It was Cubbie baseball, you know?" Mastrobuoni said. "This locker room's very talented. When we put the things together, I'll take this team up against anybody."

Shut out the previous two games at Oakland, Los Angeles scored and got its only hits in the fifth. Keston Hiura singled and came home from second on Ward's base hit.

Canning lasted 4 1/3 innings, allowing four runs and six hits.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASKETBALL

### WNBA

#### EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	17	3	.850	—
Connecticut	16	4	.800	1
Chicago	7	11	.389	9
Indiana	8	13	.381	9½
Atlanta	7	12	.368	9½
Washington	5	16	.238	12½

#### WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	14	6	.700	—
Seattle	13	6	.684	½
Las Vegas	12	6	.667	1
Phoenix	10	10	.500	4
Dallas	5	16	.238	9½
Los Angeles	4	15	.211	9½

#### Thursday's Games

Connecticut 78, Minnesota 73  
Las Vegas 98, Washington 77

#### Friday's Games

Dallas 85, Atlanta 82  
Chicago at Seattle, late  
Las Vegas at Los Angeles, late

#### Saturday's Games

New York at Indiana, 1 p.m.  
Washington at Minnesota, 8 p.m.

#### Sunday's Games

Atlanta at Connecticut, 1 p.m.  
Dallas at Las Vegas, 3:30 p.m.  
Chicago at Seattle, 6 p.m.  
Phoenix at Los Angeles, 7 p.m.

## BASEBALL

### MLB

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

##### East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	55	32	.632	—
New York	54	36	.600	2½
Boston	48	39	.552	7
Tampa Bay	44	44	.500	11½
Toronto	39	48	.448	16

##### Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	54	32	.628	—
Minnesota	49	38	.563	5½
Kansas City	48	42	.533	8
Detroit	40	48	.455	15
Chicago	26	64	.289	30

##### West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	48	41	.539	—
Houston	45	42	.517	2
Texas	40	48	.455	7½
Los Angeles	36	51	.414	11
Oakland	33	56	.371	15

#### Chicago Cubs 5, L.A. Angels 1

Boston 5, N.Y. Yankees 3, 10 innings  
Detroit 5, Cincinnati 4  
Chicago White Sox 3, Miami 2  
San Francisco 4, Cleveland 2  
Colorado 4, Kansas City 2  
Tampa Bay at Texas, late  
Houston at Minnesota, late  
Baltimore at Oakland, late  
Toronto at Seattle, late

#### Saturday's Games

Boston (Winckowski 2-1) at N.Y. Yankees (Cole 1-1), 1:05 p.m.  
Houston (Brown 6-5) at Minnesota (Ryan 5-5), 2:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels (Anderson 7-8) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 1-6), 2:20 p.m.  
Tampa Bay (Bradley 3-4) at Texas (Heaney 3-9), 4:05 p.m.  
Baltimore (Povich 1-2) at Oakland (Medina 1-3), 4:07 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Crochet 6-6) at Miami (Chirinos 0-0), 4:10 p.m.  
Detroit (TBD) at Cincinnati (Greene 5-4), 4:10 p.m.  
San Francisco (Harrison 4-3) at Cleveland (Allen 8-4), 4:10 p.m.  
Toronto (Rodriguez 0-3) at Seattle (Hancock 3-3), 4:10 p.m.  
Kansas City (Lugo 11-2) at Colorado (Gomber 1-5), 9:10 p.m.

#### Sunday's Games

Chicago White Sox at Miami, 1:40 p.m.  
Detroit at Cincinnati, 1:40 p.m.  
San Francisco at Cleveland, 1:40 p.m.  
Houston at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m.  
L.A. Angels at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.  
Tampa Bay at Texas, 2:35 p.m.  
Kansas City at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.  
Baltimore at Oakland, 4:07 p.m.  
Toronto at Seattle, 4:10 p.m.  
Boston at N.Y. Yankees, 7:10 p.m.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

##### East Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	58	30	.659	—
Atlanta	47	39	.547	10
New York	42	44	.488	15
Washington	41	47	.466	17
Miami	30	58	.341	28

##### Central Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	52	36	.591	—
St. Louis	46	41	.529	5½
Pittsburgh	42	45	.483	9½
Cincinnati	42	46	.477	10
Chicago	41	48	.461	11½

##### West Division

Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	53	35	.602	—

#### San Diego 48 43 .527 6½

San Francisco 44 45 .494 9½  
Arizona 43 44 .494 9½  
Colorado 31 57 .352 22

#### Friday's Games

Chicago Cubs 5, L.A. Angels 1  
Pittsburgh 14, N.Y. Mets 2  
Detroit 5, Cincinnati 4  
Chicago White Sox 3, Miami 2  
San Francisco 4, Cleveland 2  
St. Louis 7, Washington 6, 11 innings  
Philadelphia 8, Atlanta 6  
Colorado 4, Kansas City 2  
Arizona at San Diego, late  
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, late

#### Saturday's Games

L.A. Angels (Anderson 7-8) at Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 1-6), 2:20 p.m.  
N.Y. Mets (Peterson 3-0) at Pittsburgh (Falter 4-6), 4:05 p.m.  
St. Louis (Lynn 4-3) at Washington (Gore 6-7), 4:05 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox (Crochet 6-6) at Miami (Chirinos 0-0), 4:10 p.m.  
Detroit (TBD) at Cincinnati (Greene 5-4), 4:10 p.m.  
San Francisco (Harrison 4-3) at Cleveland (Allen 8-4), 4:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee (Peralta 6-4) at L.A. Dodgers (Paxton 7-2), 7:15 p.m.  
Philadelphia (Suarez 10-2) at Atlanta (Schwellenbach 1-4), 7:15 p.m.  
Kansas City (Lugo 11-2) at Colorado (Gomber 1-5), 9:10 p.m.  
Arizona (Pfaadt 3-6) at San Diego (Waldrone 5-7), 9:40 p.m.

#### Sunday's Games

N.Y. Mets at Pittsburgh, 1:35 p.m.  
Philadelphia at Atlanta, 1:35 p.m.  
St. Louis at Washington, 1:35 p.m.  
Chicago White Sox at Miami, 1:40 p.m.  
Detroit at Cincinnati, 1:40 p.m.  
San Francisco at Cleveland, 1:40 p.m.  
L.A. Angels at Chicago Cubs, 2:20 p.m.  
Kansas City at Colorado, 4:10 p.m.  
Arizona at San Diego, 4:10 p.m.  
Milwaukee at L.A. Dodgers, 4:10 p.m.

#### Midwest League

##### High-A Midwest League Game

Thursday, July 4  
Fort Wayne 9, Lansing 1  
Friday, July 5  
Lansing 9, Fort Wayne 3  
Saturday, July 6  
Lansing at Fort Wayne, 6:35 p.m.  
Dayton at Lake County, 7 p.m.  
West Michigan at Great Lakes, 7:05



# Brad Pitt movie about Formula 1 will simply be called 'F1'

LONDON (AP) — Brad Pitt's movie about Formula 1 coming to cinemas next year will simply be called "F1," the racing series said Friday.

Seven-time world champion Lewis Hamilton is a co-producer of the project, which collected footage at F1 circuits around the world this year and last.

Footage was taken at Silverstone — home of the British Grand Prix — and at the Hungaroring near Budapest; as well as the historic Spa Francorchamps in Belgium; Japan's popular Suzuka track; and Abu Dhabi's Yas Marina circuit.

Pitt was at Silverstone on Friday and walked through the paddock area.

# IndyCar issues penalties to 3 drivers for use of unapproved engines

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — IndyCar has issued six-position starting grid penalties to drivers Felix Rosenqvist, Marcus Armstrong and Pietro Fittipaldi ahead of Sunday's Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course for their teams' unapproved engine changes during last month's test at Iowa Speedway.

The race will mark IndyCar's long-awaited introduction of a hybrid engine for cars in its top series. A release on Friday stated the teams violated Rule 16.1.2.3.2, where use of a fifth or additional engine is considered an unapproved change-out and cannot earn manufacturer points. A full-season entrant can earn engine points for a fifth engine only if they have completed mileage with its first four engines. The road and street course penalty is six positions and nine for oval events.

Qualifying is Saturday for Sunday's 80-lap race over the 2.258-mile course in Lexington, Ohio.

Rosenqvist drives for Meyer Shank Racing and stands 10th in points with one pole position, two top-five and five top-10 finishes in eight starts this season. Armstrong, of Chip Ganassi Racing, is 15th with two top-fives and three top-10s, while Fittipaldi is 19th with Rahal Letterman Lanigan.

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**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

**THIS OUT!**

**PLACE A THREE** day garage sale line classified ad in the Bluffton News-Banner and receive a free garage sale kit. Contact the office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

**Pets**



**FOR SALE MINI DACHSHUNDS** Looking for loving homes for mini male and female dachshund puppies they are very playful and loving they have good personalities. I will be giving them their first shots and deworming and vet check. Asking \$750.00 260 701 0666 andyryan121@hotmail.com

**EMPLOYMENT**

**Help Wanted**

**WELLS COUNTY COMMUNITY** Corrections is seeking an exceptional Administrative Assistant to manage the administration of client files, front desk, and general fiscal accounting operations. Responsibilities include providing executive assistance to the Director and Administration Operations Coordinator and management of the day-to-day office operations. This position is ideal for a well-organized self-motivated individual who possesses outstanding administrative and clerical skills who wants a stable long-term position within a small operation. Our ideal candidate is a detailed oriented self-starter with the ability to take the initiative and work with minimal supervision in a team environment. Candidates applying must be dependable, a team player with a flexible attitude, and have the ability to prioritize the workload under pressure and multiple tasks in a fast-paced changeable environment and show Integrity and be sensitive to confidential information. The ideal candidate is professional and has excellent communication and technical skills. Candidate must have previous experience with small office or team operations and proficiency in the use of Microsoft Office professional software. The position requires detailed data entry as well as acuity working with numbers and budgets and the use of financial software as part of daily operations. Beginning Salary \$39,921 with benefits. Send resume to Attn. Executive Director Poindexter, Wells County Community Corrections, Suite 107, 102 West Market Street, Bluffton, IN. 46714 or blake.poindexter@wellsindiana.org.

**SOUTHERN WELLS COMMUNITY** School is seeking a second shift custodian. \$20.31 per hour with benefits. Please send a resume of contact rking@swraiders.com

Need more employees! A 20 word, line classified in the Bluffton News-Banner for a month is \$52. Contact the office, 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or classifieds.news-banner.com.

**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.

**VEHICLES**

**Campers/RV's**

**2018 THOR HURRICANE**, Model 31Z, Class A RV, \$79,000, 260-307-3225.

**Auto/Trucks**

**INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC.** Huge Repo Sale July 11, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

**SERVICES**

**Services**

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**Services**

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

**TIMESHARE CANCEL-LATION EXPERTS** - Over \$50,000,000 in timeshare debt and fees cancelled in 2019. Get free informational package and learn how to get rid of your timeshare! Free consultations. Over 450 positive reviews. Call 877-329-1207 (I)

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**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 Special 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 non-requested 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 hspaxlp

SECTION 00 113  
**ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS**  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the **Town of Zanesville**, Indiana, by and through its Town Council, hereinafter referred to as the Owner, will receive sealed bids for:

**TOWN OF ZANESVILLE 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENTS (2024-1 CCMG FUNDING) SMUTS STREET & WOODVIEW DRIVE**

Bids may be forwarded by registered mail addressed to the Owner in care of the Town Council, Town Hall, 17736 Wayne Street, Zanesville Indiana 46799 or delivered in person to the bid opening and will be considered by the Owner at a public meeting called to receive such bids, provided the same shall have been received not later than **1:00 p.m., local prevailing time, on Monday July 22nd, 2024 at the Town Hall, 17736 Wayne Street, Zanesville Indiana 46799.** Bids received after the bid opening process has begun will be returned unopened.

Bids shall be submitted in an enclosed opaque sealed envelope, marked "TOWN OF ZANESVILLE 2024 STREET IMPROVEMENTS (2024-1 CCMG FUNDING)". Bids will be evaluated and may be held up to ninety (90) days, but it is the intent that an award of project and sign contracts in August 2024 and all work to be completed by June 2025.

Work includes construction and/or improvements for street milling and resurfacing, new storm sewer and drainage improvements, pavement markings, related appurtenances, and site restoration.

The work to be performed and the bids submitted, including any and all separate and combination bids, shall include sufficient and proper sums for all General, Construction, Mechanical, Electrical, Installation, Labor, Materials, Tools, Equipment, Taxes (both Federal and State), Permits, Licenses, Insurance, Service Costs, and so forth, incident to and required for the construction of the facilities.

All materials furnished and labor performed incident to and required for the proper and satisfactory execution of the contracts shall be furnished and performed in accordance with the requirements of the contract documents as defined in the General Conditions of the Construction Contract, and any addenda thereto, prepared by the Engineer, DLZ Indiana, LLC. Said drawings are on file for viewing in the office of the following: the Engineer, 825 South Barr Street, Fort Wayne, Indiana 46802; the Owner, the Town of Zanesville, 17736 Wayne Street, Zanesville, Indiana 46799.

Each bid shall be accompanied by a Certified Check or acceptable Bidder's Bond made payable to the Owner, in a sum of not less than five percent (5%) of the total amount of the highest aggregate proposal, which check or bond will be held by the Owner as evidence that the Bidder will, if awarded a contract or contracts, enter into the same with the Owner upon notification from him to do so within fourteen (14) days of said notification.

Approved Performance and Payment Bonds guaranteeing faithful and proper performance of the work and materials, to be executed by an acceptable surety company, will be required of each Contractor at the time of contract execution. The bond will be in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price and must be in full force and effect for a period of twelve (12) months from the date of written acceptance of and final payment of the work.

Failure to execute a contract and to furnish a Performance and Payment Bond as hereinafter set out will be cause for forfeiture to the Owner of the amount of money represented by the Certified Check or Bidder's Bond, as and for liquidated damages.

Bids shall be properly and completely executed on bid forms provided by the Engineer which shall include the Non-Collusion Affidavit. Each bid shall also include the revised Indiana Questionnaire Form No. 96, all as required by Statute.

No bids shall be withdrawn after the opening of bids without the consent of the Owner for a period of ninety (90) days after the scheduled time of receiving same.

The Owner reserves the right to reject any bid, or all bids, or to accept any bid or bids, or to make combination of bids as may seem desirable, and to waive any and all informalities in the bidding.

The Project Manual, Technical Specifications, and all bid documents can be purchased through ARC, 455 Fernhill Ave., Fort Wayne, IN 46805, Phone (260) 483-8066, fortwayne.orders@e-arc.com.

**TOWN OF ZANESVILLE, INDIANA TOWN COUNCIL,**  
By: **Tara Bowersock,**  
Clerk Treasurer  
nb 7/6, 7/12 hspaxlp

**SUDOKU**

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

**King Classic Sudoku**

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

Difficulty: ★★★★★

7/6

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**July**  
**GOODS & SERVICES**  
**DIRECTORY**



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Attorney  
Gerret J. Swearingin

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**Jim Baker**

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Aug. deadline is **Tues., July 23!**

**SUDOKU ANSWER**

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

**Lottery Numbers**

**Friday's Drawings**  
**HOOSIER LOTTERY**

**Cash 5** — 05-06-29-33-45  
**Cash4Life** — 06-23-24-53-57, Cash Ball: 03  
**Quick Draw Midday** — 03-04-15-19-21-23-25-27-34-35-42-43-48-53-56-62-71-73-74-77, BE: 73  
**Daily Three-Midday** — 03-04-02, SB: 00  
**Daily Three-Evening** — 06-00-01, SB: 02  
**Daily Four-Midday** — 03-05-09-04, SB: 00  
**Daily Four-Evening** — 02-05-03-09, SB: 02  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 07-08-10-20-22-24-25-26-28-40-43-53-54-56-59-60-64-67-69-75, BE: 43  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$16.6 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
06-15-32-54-67, Mega Ball: 04, Megaplier: 3X

**POWERBALL**  
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$20 million

**Public Sale Calendar**

**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 only - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 100+ skid loader attachments, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 1 trip 40' high side shipping container w/side doors, dome shelter container, various truck take off parts, dump trucks, 2012-2014 Freightliner M2106 box trucks, day cabs, sleepers, utility trucks, bucket trucks, utility & semi trailers, SUV's, pickup trucks, 100+ skid steer attachments & much more! Accepting consignments, 815 Adams St., Decatur. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, 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 Wolhuter, 260-336-2219, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177. **Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management**, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

**JULY 20 - 9 a.m. Real Estate, 9:30 Personal Property - Charles (Chuck) Bertsch Estate, owner.** 3898E 400N, Bluffton. 1 1/2 story, 2-bedroom home, 36x56 pole barn, 1 acre, Lancaster Township. Hit & Miss engines (Fairbanks Morse 5 hp, Fairbanks Morse 1 1/2 or 2 hp, more), oil well display, 25-30 long guns and pistols, ammo, drill press, mill, snowblowers, trailer, M80 Military hot water heater, chain saws, welders, industrial 3 phase motors, tandem bike, yard tools, hand tools, Dixon ZTR zero turn mower, garden tractors, rear tine tiller, more. Open house July 9, 4-6 p.m. **Miz Lehman Realtors/Auctioneers**, Berne, www.mizlehman.com, 260-589-2903.

**JULY 27- 10 a.m. - Elmer J. Jr. & Delila Mae Graber, owners.** 8350S 850W, South Whitley. Productive, tillable land, home, outbuildings, Whitley County. Offered in 4 Tracts, 38±A. Tract 1: 12.5±A farmland, soils: Pewamo, Blount loam, Glynwood loam. Tract 2: 5.5±A, 7 bedroom home, outbuildings. Tract 3: 2±A, 40'x90' pole building. Tract 4: 18±A farmland, soils: Pewamo, Glynwood loam, Blount loam. Purchase individually or combination. Inspection: July 10, 5-7 p.m., July 20, 10 a.m.-noon. Sale manager, Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, **Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc.**, schraderauction.com, 800-451-2709.

**JULY 28 - 4 p.m. - Online Only - Multiple consignors, owners.** 1,000+ lots! 50+ firearms, long guns & hand guns, large selection of ammo, gun safe, Honda generator, hand tools, household items, lawn & garden, 300 lots of collectable vintage dollhouses, mini dollhouse furniture sets with accessories and much more! Preview July 25, 3-5 p.m., 812 Elm Street, Decatur. Pick up July 29, 1-6 p.m., July 30, 9 a.m.-noon. **Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC**, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.