

The News - Banner

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THURSDAY, JULY 25, 2024 | BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection | \$1.00

Prible named 2024 Street Fair Grand Marshal

By HOLLY GASKILL
 In the last 12 years, Erin Prible has thrown numerous surprise parties. She's made celebrating others' successes a key part of her role as executive director of the Wells County Chamber of Commerce, in addition to connecting community members and promoting local businesses. And yet, nothing could have prepared her for the surprise that awaited outside her office door Wednesday morning. Following Prible's example, members of the Bluffton Free Street Fair Association ambushed her office, balloons and cookies in tow, to announce that Prible would serve as this year's grand marshal for the fair. "We would like to request your presence and your honor to be the grand marshal of 2024," stated Heather Morgan, representing the association. A visibly shocked Prible gasped. "Are you kidding? Oh my gosh, I'd be honored!" She quickly added jokingly, "You didn't have anyone else to pick?" Prible has steered the Chamber of Commerce since 2012, through which she led efforts to strengthen local businesses, (Continued on Page 2)



Members of the Bluffton Free Street Fair Association ambushed Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce Erin Prible at her office Wednesday morning with the grand marshal announcement. Above, Prible opens her door to discover Heather Morgan had brought a few guests and surprises to her appointment with Prible. Chamber Accounting Manager Rachel Reinhard and Project Manager Hattie Wondercheck cheer on Prible at left. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



Ossian Fire Department Chief Ben Fenstermaker addresses the crowd, explaining the need for the safe and effective equipment for firefighters. (Photos by Sydney Kent)

Ossian, Jefferson Township reach 2024 fire agreement; 2025 contract unresolved

By SYDNEY KENT
 After two hours of a heated discussion on Tuesday, a contract between the Jefferson Township Advisory Board and the Ossian Town Council has been amended. With the amendment, the board will pay up to \$35,000 for labor for firefighters in 2024. A contract has not been determined for 2025. In anticipation of a large crowd, the meeting was held at the Ossian Fire Department rather than the conference room at LPL Financial. Over 60 people attended. The issue of paying for fire protection has been a topic of discussion at both the advisory board and town council meetings for the past six months. The Ossian Fire Department services both the town of Ossian and Jefferson Township equally. However, the township has historically not paid for an equal portion of the costs. A new contract between the parties for 2025 has been negotiated — with no resolution in sight. The town of Ossian has requested that the board pay half of the costs for services without any stipulations. The board has asked that they pay specifically for equipment and other items not related to manpower. Because of their unwillingness to pay for manpower, the board's promised \$79,000 portion of services for 2024 could not be paid. To further complicate matters, in February the board passed a motion to approve a new tax rate for a fire truck, which would be in addition to the debt fund levy currently paying off an old fire truck. Over 50 people signed a remonstrance protesting the increased rate. During Tuesday's meeting, Heckber announced that the remonstrance was denied. Multiple township residents raised concerns about the increase on Tuesday. Audience members were not requested to identify themselves before speaking in



Firefighters handed out bottles of water to the crowd on Tuesday.

the public meeting. "I really appreciate your fire department, I want to keep it," an audience member said. "My question is this: you're saying that for 2025, our property taxes will go up for just one year and then drop down?" Heckber confirmed the question, adding that for a house valued at \$240,000, it would cost approximately \$70 with the increase. "So why don't I cut you a check for that today?" the woman continued. "Don't raise our taxes, because once they up go up —" "They never go down," the crowd collectively finished. Heckber explained that the tax would likely not go back down, as it is needed to support future fire pro-

(Continued on Page 2)

One pleads guilty to corrupt business influence charges

By SYDNEY KENT
 One-half of a married couple recently charged with corrupt business influence has pled guilty to the charges. Brett Allen Rowles, 28, is charged with one count of corrupt business influence, a Level 5 felony, and 23 counts of theft, all Class A misdemeanors. If the plea agreement is accepted by the court, all 23 counts of theft will be dismissed. According to a probable cause affidavit, in January Walmart Asset Protection reported that a married couple had allegedly stolen from the company over 20 times. Morgan Rowles, 24, was also charged with corrupt business influence, a Level 5 felony, and 19 counts of theft, all Class A misdemeanors. Both Morgan and Brett Rowles were reportedly employed by Walmart when the thefts occurred. Between Oct. 29 and Jan. 16, the couple allegedly stole over \$3,881.69 worth of products from multiple stores. Detective Cliff Thomas with the Bluffton Police Department reviewed the months worth of footage, noting that the couple would use the "Scan and Go" technology to scan several items while failing to scan or pay for the rest of their cart. Rowles is scheduled for a sentencing hearing in the matter at 9 a.m. on Aug. 28. Morgan Rowles is scheduled for a pretrial conference in her case at 1 p.m. on August 7. sydney@news-banner.com

Stakeholders gather to address infant, maternal mortality

By MIA HILKOWITZ, Indiana Capital Chronicle
 The Indiana Department of Health kicked off its two-day "Labor of Love" Summit on Tuesday with a series of informational sessions addressing women's health, teen pregnancy and infant wellbeing and outcomes. At the opening of the summit — which was attended by hundreds of physicians, nurses, caregivers and public health officials — Indiana State Health Commissioner Dr. Lindsay Weaver announced that IDOH would launch a new dashboard on Tuesday to track birth outcomes and infant mortality in the state. The dashboard is available on the IDOH's website as of Tuesday afternoon. Weaver said that infant and maternal outcomes are important markers of the greater health of a community. The IDOH partnered with dozens of organizations to host the event, including Riley Children's Health, the Peyton Manning Children's Hospital, Eskenazi Health and the Indiana Pregnancy Promise Program. "How we go about our work at the Department of Health, is an acknowledgement that we're not going to make improvements and continue to get better if we don't have all our partners," Weaver told the Indiana Capital Chronicle. "It's really everybody coming together and saying 'what can we do as a whole to improve?'" (Continued on Page 2)

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Today	Friday	Saturday											
High 79	High 79	High 82											
Low 58	Low 56	Low 64											

Street Fair Grand Marshal

(Continued from Page 1)
increase community partnerships and offer professional development opportunities. Among these accomplishments have been the creation of Wells County Women in Leadership and Wells County Drug Task Force. Most recently, the Chamber was received two awards from the Indiana Chamber Executives Association for Excellence in Innovation.

“Erin is a leader in our community, and we are thrilled to spotlight her in this capacity,” Morgan told The News-Banner.

“Looking back at the people who have been honored over the years — this is very humbling,” Prible paused to collect herself. “This is very unexpected. I never would have guessed anything like this. There’s so many other deserving people to be recognized.”

Being a Bluffton native, Prible was overwhelmed at the honor of being selected as grand marshal. “I’m a little speechless,” she continued. “The fair has been part of my life since I was little. We lived just down on Johnson Street, so the fair was a tradition for us, night after night, being able to come as a family and partake.” She added with a laugh, “As a kid, the Mouse Game was my absolute favorite — it probably still is one of my favorite games.”

That said, Prible also found a new love for Street Fair as she moved back to



The surprise announcement of Erin Prible (pictured at center) as this year’s grand marshal of the Bluffton Free Street Fair was celebrated by members of the Bluffton Street Fair Association, from left, Andrea Mann, Heather Morgan, Erica Lehman and Nathan Stauffer. (Photo by Holly Gaskill)

the community.

“To me, Street Fair is like a reunion — you see people you haven’t seen for so many years, and you run into them,” Prible smiled. “My husband and I take great joy in just walking up and down the streets ...

Being able to reconnect with people is probably the greatest joy for us as adults during Street Fair. It’s such a staple in our community and such a great asset. It’s such a cool thing.”

The 2024 Bluffton Free Street Fair will be Sept.

17-21. Prible and her husband, Mark, will lead the Opening Night Parade on Tuesday. This year’s theme, “Passport to Fun” is also inspired by Prible and the Chamber’s “passport” promotions of local businesses.

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2024 fire agreement

(Continued from Page 1)
tion. Several members pointed out that Heckber contradicted his earlier statement.

Ossian Fire Chief Ben Fenstermaker explained that both the board and the town have failed to keep tax rates up to accrue with the price of equipment. He also pointed out the various fire trucks parked in the parking lot outside of the meeting, noting the ones that needed to be replaced.

Board members Tim Baker and David Haiflich disagreed with Heckber, saying they favored paying more interest on a loan for a truck rather than raising the rate. However, the rate was passed due to Baker’s inability to vote virtually at the February meeting. The issue of virtual voting was also discussed. One audience member asked why the matter had not been handled.

“One of our members spends three months in Florida,” Heckber said, who is not in favor of virtual voting. “If you’re going to be a member of my board, I want them to be there personally.”

“Whose board is this?” the same audience member yelled back.

“They belong to the State Board of Trustees —” Heckber began.

“They are ours,” another person yelled, eliciting applause.

“The (cumulative) fire fund keeps collecting even after that loan is paid,” Baker said. “We did not want to start another board that came in and was paying it off, and they don’t realize it and they’re collecting from the tax-

payer.”

“Taxes won’t go up until we decide a budget,” board member AJ Springer pointed out. “Right now, it’s a moot point. We may have to start an entire new fire department.”

Springer referred to the relationship between the board and the department, citing a letter from council president Josh Barkley ceasing fire protection services to township residents outside of Ossian at the end of 2024. The services were to end due to the board’s refusal to sign a contract paying for 50% of fire protection services without stipulations.

During conversations over several contentious meetings, Baker and Haiflich insisted that they were willing to pay for their promised portion of the contract, however, purchases would need receipts provided with prior approval on an ongoing basis. They said they could compromise on a maximum of \$35,000 for manpower — something they were previously not willing to do. Springer attempted to pass the proposed contract from the town in April, however, neither Baker nor Haiflich seconded it.

Springer, along with several community members, have repeatedly asked Baker and Haiflich what their plan would be if they lost fire protection services. As of Tuesday evening, that question is still unanswered.

“This fire department has been the holy grail of the community forever,” a crowd member said. “You guys think you’re going to split it up — you’re

going to be in for one hell of a fight.”

“We’re looking at buying a tanker,” a firefighter from the Preble Fire Department said. “If you wait a year it’s already another \$100,000, or so on. We’re arguing about an average of \$70 a year (for the tax increase). What’s my insurance going to in January at midnight when I don’t have fire coverage?”

He also pointed out that an advisory board member attempted to seek fire protection services from the Preble Fire Department rather than working out a contract with the OFD.

“This whole pissing match needs to stop,” another audience member added. “Where are you getting the people? You can start (a fire department), that’s nice, but those trucks will sit there. That is just foolishness. If my house burns, you all are responsible.”

“We are five months away from this contract ending,” someone else member added. “Are you guys making an attempt to negotiate a new contract?”

“No one here puts in more time and dedication than that man does,” Council member Jeff Kemfer said, referring to Fenstermaker. Kemfer’s comment elicited a round of applause. “What does it matter if (a truck) belongs to you or the town?”

“It belongs to the people,” Fenstermaker said.

A meeting to discuss the contract for 2025 has not yet been scheduled. The News-Banner will continue to report on updates.

sydney@news-banner.com

In speech to Congress, Netanyahu vows ‘total victory’ in Gaza and denounces U.S. protesters

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu pledged in a scathing speech to Congress on Wednesday to achieve “total victory” against Hamas and denounced American opponents of the war in Gaza as “idiots,” taking a combative stance in a visit the Biden administration has hoped will yield progress in negotiations to end the fighting.

Netanyahu used the high-profile address to a joint meeting of Congress to emphasize longstanding and close ties between the United States and Israel. But the speech put in sharp relief the divisions in American society stirred by the war, with dozens of Democratic lawmakers boycotting the address

and thousands of protesters outside the Capitol condemning the war and the humanitarian crisis created by it.

Some of the protests near the Capitol turned chaotic, including within a few hundred yards of the tightly guarded Capitol grounds. Protesters outside nearby Union Station lowered American flags and raised Palestinian ones. Officers on streets surrounding the Capitol brawled with demonstrators, swinging batons and spraying tear gas.

Speaking for nearly an hour to frequent applause from U.S. lawmakers, as well as stony silence from many leading Democrats, Netanyahu said the U.S. has a shared interest in his country’s fight against Hamas and other

Iran-backed armed groups.

“America and Israel must stand together. When we stand together something really simple happens: We win, they lose,” said Netanyahu, who wore a yellow pin expressing solidarity with the Israeli hostages held by Hamas.

But the Israeli leader soon pivoted to a darker tone as he derided those protesting the war on college campuses and elsewhere in the U.S., gesturing to demonstrations happening on the streets outside the Capitol. He called protesters “useful idiots” for Israel’s adversaries, and said critics of his conduct of the war were supporters of Hamas.

Netanyahu — making his first trip abroad since the war

started — made no direct mention of months of U.S.-led mediation for a cease-fire and hostage-release. Yet his remarks, while combative, did not appear to close the door on a deal.

“Israel will fight until we destroy Hamas’s military capabilities and its rule in Gaza and bring all our hostages home,” he said. “That’s what total victory means. And we will settle for nothing less.”

Hostages freed from Gaza and families of those still in captivity listened in the House chamber. Security removed protesters in the gallery who rose to display T-shirts with slogans demanding an end to the war and the freeing of remaining hostages.

Weather

Thursday, July 25, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:04 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 81; Low: 67; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.32 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 79. North wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Mostly clear, with a low around 58. North wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Sunny, with a high near 79. Calm wind becoming east around 5 mph in the morning.

Friday Night: Clear, with a low around 56. East wind around 5 mph becoming calm.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 82.

Saturday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 64.

Sunday: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 83.

Sunday Night: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 68.

Monday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 85.

Monday Night: A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 71.

Tuesday: A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 86.

Maternal mortality

(Continued from Page 1)
Indiana has implemented several programs in recent years to lower its maternal and infant mortality rates.

Focused conversations

Tuesday marked the 12th anniversary of the summit. Eden Bezy, assistant commissioner and director of the IDOH maternal and child health division, said the agency expanded the event to last two days this year due to past high attendance and demand. This year’s summit also aims to help local health departments implement new solutions.

“We have been working with them to do (maternal child health) related work in their communities so they can learn from the experts and from one another,” Bezy said. “We’re also emphasizing our clinical partners who, again, have a lot of experience in this and want to share what they know with their colleagues around the state.”

The summit includes more than 50 panels and information sessions over two days that address a wide range of maternal and infant health topics. Several of these sessions discussed how medical providers could use trauma and data informed practices to best serve patients from different backgrounds and ages.

One session, for instance, focused on how providers could build trust and relationships with pregnant women in the Haitian Creole community. During this panel, attendees learned about the various cultural and gender norms within this community, and how providers can take these factors into consideration to deliver the best support.

The Haitian Association of Indiana estimates there are over 10,000 Haitians living in Indianapolis.

Other panels addressed how medical and social service providers could help improve outcomes for preterm infants, navigate bereavement and mental health support for patients who lose a pregnancy or infant, and specialized treatments for pregnancy-associated conditions.

Latest data on maternal mortality in Indiana

Mary Pell Abernathy, a maternal fetal medicine specialist at Union Hospital

in Terre Haute, and Cameron Willett, director of the IDOH’s maternal mortality programs, also shared key findings from a recent Indiana Maternal Mortality Review Committee report, which looked at data on pregnancy-related and associated deaths from 2018-2022.

According to the report, there were 72 pregnancy associated deaths in 2022. Of these cases, 55 deaths were associated with, but not directly related to pregnancy, and 12 were directly related. However, five deaths were labeled “pregnancy-associated but unable to determine relatedness.”

Willett said analyzing aggregate data over a five year time-span, rather than looking at a single year of reports, gives public health officials a better idea of the average state of maternal mortality in Indiana.

When looking at the five year aggregate data, Willett said she saw that non-hispanic black women are dying at higher rates in Indiana compared to women of other racial demographics. The data also reflected that most of the reported deaths occurred when a patient was 43 days to one year postpartum, and that more than half of the deaths occurred in urban areas.

“We like to say that just because the care is in a county, doesn’t mean that these women are accessing it,” Willett said.

The committee found that 80% of pregnancy-associated deaths were preventable—which Willett said showed there are ways to improve outcomes.

Abernathy also shared the committee’s recommendations for local health departments, medical and social service providers, and law enforcement. The recommendations include funding substance use resources and education, identifying at-risk youth, establishing additional training for law enforcement and removing firearms from all households with a history of domestic violence. She also said the state should encourage legislation to increase the number of certified forensic pathologists in Indiana. Because county coroners are elected positions in Indiana, Abernathy said a lack of expertise can impact the quality of information collected.

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No fee to attend, a light meal will be provided. Please RSVP for a meal count.
Lynne Huffman, Wells Co. SWCD
260-824-1930 ext. 3
Lynne.Huffman@in.nacsd.net
SPEAKERS
Brian Tonner
Tonner Precision Services - Equipment Modification
Jonathan Patterson
Crop Performance - Nutrient Placing & Efficiency
Chris Steele
New Heights Ag - Drone
Sara Day
NRCS - Soil Health
Presented by:
Wells, Huntington, Grant, Blackford, Wabash Co. SWCDs
Lower Salamonie River Watershed 319
Indiana Department of Environmental Management
USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service

OBITUARIES

Sharon Helms, 71

Sharon K. Helms, 71, of Roanoke, passed away Tuesday, July 23, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice Home. Sharon was born on May 18, 1953, in Huntington, the daughter of Richard Wilkerson and Pauline (Walters) Wilkerson. Before moving to Roanoke, she lived in Bluffton for over 30 years. Survivors include her sons, Allen Helms of Angola, and Roger (Andrea) Helms of Warren; seven grandchildren; and 12 great-grandchildren. Visitation will be from noon to 2:30 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9, 2024, at Bailey-Love Mortuary, 35 West Park Dr. in Huntington. A Celebration of Life Service will follow at 2:30 p.m., with Pastor Jason Fields officiating.

First Bank of Berne is Top 100 Farm Lender

First Bank of Berne has announced it has been listed for the fourth consecutive year as a Top 100 Farm Lender in the nation by the American Bankers Association, the largest banking trade association in the United States. The prestigious Top 100 list is determined by farm loan volume and is compiled by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

“We are proud that the American Bankers Association has recognized First Bank of Berne as one of the top ag lenders for the fourth year in a row,” said Jayde Ketring, First Bank of Berne Agribusiness Banking Manager. “Of course, I must give credit to our wonderful team of knowledgeable and experienced ag bankers, who make it their mission every day to exceed our customers’ expectations. Enabling local farms and agribusinesses to achieve their goals is what we love doing.”



Presidential recognition

Gina Eisenhut, left, the current president of the Bluffton Rotary Club, presented Jordan Arnold with a plaque Tuesday commemorating Arnold’s year as the club’s president. (Photo by Doug Brown)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

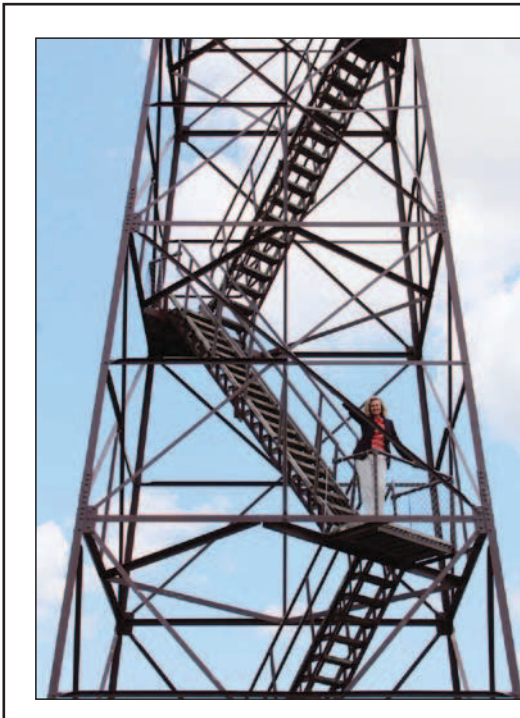
- City:**
 Tuesday, 3:14 p.m., 400 block of East South Street. Report of car parts and junk behind home.
 Tuesday, 3:14 p.m., 400 block of East South Street. Report of overgrown weeds.
 Tuesday, 3:34 p.m., Extreme Auto. Firearm returned from recently purchased vehicle.
 Tuesday, 4:35 p.m., South Wayne and East Cherry streets. License to carry permit located.
 Wednesday, 3:49 a.m., Taco Bell. Report of a suspicious vehicle.
 Wednesday, 10:36 a.m., 500 block of East South Street. Report of a suspicious man walking in front of house.
County:
 Tuesday, 2:00 p.m., 100 South and South Adams Street, Bluffton. 15 year-old warned for disregarding stop sign on his dirt bike and driving illegally on the street.
 Tuesday, 4:06 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Tessa Karbach.
 Wednesday, 9:36 a.m., Wells County Jail. Protection order served to Katie McAfee.
 Wednesday, 10:34 a.m., 3400 block of North Main Street, Bluffton. Report of theft.
Ossian:
 Tuesday, 6:49 p.m., 8500 North S.R. 1, Ossian. Multiple callers reporting deer in driveway, deer was hit but still alive. Officer put deer down.
 Wednesday, 4:32 a.m., 100 block of West Lafever Street, Ossian. Report of a driver that struck two parked cars.
- ARRESTS**
 Robert Earl Manns, 57, Geneva; sex offender - registration violation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.
 Daniel William Graham, 32, Bluffton; probation violation, a Level 4 felony. No bond set.
 Tessa Lynne Karbach, 38, Fort Wayne; probation violation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.
 Rose Marie Bay, 47, Bluffton; operating without ever obtaining a license, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

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.

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A president comes to Ouabache

Indiana University President Pamela Whitten visited Ouabache State Park last Wednesday, sharing photos of her excursion to see the bison (above) and climb up the restored fire tower (at left). (Photos submitted)



Pictured in the photo from left are FCS Chief Operations Officer Lisa Antrim, Fr. David Viola of St. Joseph Catholic Church, FCS Administrative Assistant Emily Wyatt and FCS Chief Executive Officer Paige Hamilton. (Photo submitted)

St. Joseph Catholic Church sponsors Annual Duck Race

St. Joseph Catholic Church provided a \$2,000 sponsorship for the 19th Annual Duck Race to benefit Family Centered Services, Inc. The goal of this race is to assist in sustaining FCS’s youth and family serving programs. As a nonprofit social service agency, local fundraising is crucial to FCS’s ability to provide lifesaving and life changing services to children and families. Family Centered Services’ mission is to strengthen the community by empowering families and youth through services that educate and inspire. For more information on FCS, visit fcs-inc.net or call 260-824-8574.

Chronicle-Tribune lodges formal complaint against city of Marion with public access counselor

By MORGAN KELLER
The Chronicle-Tribune
 MARION, Ind. — The Chronicle-Tribune filed a formal complaint against the City of Marion with the Indiana Public Access Counselor of Indiana Tuesday.

The complaint argues that the City of Marion wrongfully denied a public records request by the Chronicle-Tribune. The Chronicle-Tribune submitted a public records request to the city on June 28 requesting any written communication from the city to city employees regarding how city employees should interact with and respond to the media. The paper made this request in an attempt to better understand the city’s policies regarding the media.

Whitney Gilbert works for the city as city attorney Michael Hotz’s administrative assistant. She told the Chronicle-Tribune on Friday, June 28 that the city needed two weeks to “research and determine the resources necessary to fulfill” the request and that the city would contact the paper on or before Friday, July 12 with further information about the request.

The Chronicle-Tribune received that further information on Monday, July 15. Gilbert said, “The one-page document regarding media communications will cost .10” and gave the

paper some time frames during which the paper could stop by the office to pick up the document in question.

When the Chronicle-Tribune arrived at city hall to pick it up, however, a security guard relayed a message from Gilbert that she did not have the document with her at that moment, but that Hotz would email it to the paper and that Gilbert would follow up later.

Shortly after that, Gilbert sent another email saying, “Please disregard my email from this morning. I misunderstood and misspoke in when I said there was a document available for you at this time. Corporate Counsel should be providing a determination shortly regarding your request.”

“I see. It surprises me that such a simple and reasonable request is running into so many roadblocks. Now I’m especially curious about what this document(s) may contain,” Chronicle-Tribune Managing Editor Morgan Keller said in her reply to Gilbert. “What timeline can I expect Mr. Hotz to follow in providing that determination? It has already been more than two weeks to even get a determination about if you’ll comply with my request.”

The next morning, Tuesday, July 16, the Chronicle-Tribune

received a denial of the request from Hotz, “due to its lack of specificity. The sheer volume of emails generated since the mayor took office makes it unfeasible to conduct a reasonable search.”

“In addition, to the extent that documents responsive to your request were to exist, they would be excluded from disclosure pursuant to Ind. Code 5-14-3-4,” Hotz’s denial continued.

“Well, if they found a document, then the search wasn’t unreasonable,” PAC Luke Britt told the Chronicle-Tribune over the phone when giving an informal ruling on the matter. “Usually, when something’s not specific enough, it’s not going to yield anything because they don’t even search because it’s too big of a parameter. ...They shouldn’t give you the runaround. They should have given you that document on the spot.”

The Chronicle-Tribune asked Britt if the portion of the PAC handbook that says, “A denial must

include a statement of the specific statutory reason for nondisclosure of the information” means that Hotz should have specified which portion of Ind. Code 5-14-3-4 applied to the denial.

“Yeah, you shouldn’t have to guess which of the 27 subsections may or may not apply to your request,” Britt said.

Britt concluded his informal opinion by telling the Chronicle-Tribune that the matter does warrant a formal complaint and that he would keep an eye out for it.

According to the formal complaint guide from the PAC website, once a complaint is filed and accepted, the Office of the Public Access Counselor notifies the alleged offending agency. A notice of formal complaint letter and a copy of the complaint are sent to the agency, which has approximately 20 business days to respond. Typically, an opinion will be issued within 40 to 45 days after a complaint is submitted.

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Tax reform is essential for the future of Indiana agriculture

It's the heat of the summer, which means farmers are constantly monitoring the weather, tending to livestock, and focusing on pest and disease management for their crops. Unfortunately, this summer also finds landowners reeling from property tax statements that hit mailboxes during planting season.

Farmers are experiencing a 27% increase in their farmland taxes this year after a 16% increase in 2023. Some farmers' bills are increasing as much as 60 to 70% due to their local school district's debt obligations. No one should see an increase like that in one year, let alone multiple years in a row.

The Indiana State and Local Tax Review Taskforce met on June 18 and heard testimony from Katrina Hall, INFB's resident tax expert and senior director of policy strategy and advocacy, on behalf of agriculture. She shared information about farmland property tax increases and the elements of the farmland formula that impact the base value. She also requested on behalf of our members that any future reform will address stability and predictability, lasting relief, fairness between classes and ability to pay.

State Rep. Jeff Thompson, chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, intends to focus this upcoming budget session on reducing the complexity of the property system, addressing some tax base problems — like farmland values — and closely examining how to effectively and fairly control the growth of tax levies. He has predicted that it will take multiple legislative sessions to accomplish the breadth of tax reforms being discussed.

In the meantime, Indiana Farm Bureau formed its own tax task force and is taking a deep dive into what's impacting a farmer's tax burden. Many different elements have been discussed by our internal task force, and we'll continue to work with leadership in the House and Senate, as well as other stakeholders to find solutions.

Where do we go from here?

Right now, we're trying to get to the root of the problem to lower the tax burden on the assessment and levy side. We've had members from all over the state reviewing policy priorities from county Farm Bureaus throughout the summer, and property taxes were among the highest on that list. We will finalize our 2025 policy on taxes and other issues at our annual delegate session in August and look forward to sharing those with legislators to hopefully find some relief.

How can you help? Talk to your state legislators about your personal stories and how your tax bills have increased. They've been having conversations about legislation for the 2025 session throughout the summer, so we encourage you to have those conversations with your elected officials now so tax issues can be at the forefront.

We all have a vested interest in easing our tax burden. This is especially true for our farmers and rural communities who are grappling with predictions of lower farm income and struggling commodity markets. Farmers will be lucky to break even this year and won't see profit margins large enough to weather these exorbitant tax bills.

Success in agriculture means greater food security and a stable economy in Indiana, of which the ag industry is a primary driver.

Randy Kron of Evansville has been president of Indiana Farm Bureau since 2016.



Randy Kron

Hoosier Opinions

With Biden gone, Democrats rally around worst possible candidate

It wasn't really a surprise that President Joe Biden announced Sunday that he will no longer be a candidate for a second term. After all, Biden was under crushing pressure from some of the most powerful forces in the Democratic Party — congressional leaders, fundraisers, former President Barack Obama, and especially former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. In the time-honored Washington way, once Biden relented and stepped aside, people who just hours earlier had their boot on his neck raced to express their heartfelt respect and admiration for his judgment, selflessness, and patriotism.

What was a surprise was the speed with which the party apparatus ran to embrace Vice President Kamala Harris as the new Democratic nominee for president. Before Biden's decision, there was a lot of talk about possible replacements at the top of the ticket — not just Harris but Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and others. But once Biden withdrew, there was a stampede to Harris. By Monday, a majority of House Democrats, a majority of Senate Democrats, a majority of Democratic governors, all of the state party chairs and, most important, a majority of the nearly 4,000 delegates to the Democratic National Convention had committed to support Harris.

That is consistent with what this column has said all along — that it would be very unlikely that Democrats, obsessed with identity, and especially with race and gender, would dump the first woman vice president of color in favor of someone else who polls better. So, in that way, the move to Harris makes perfect sense. But viewed another way, the race to crown Harris makes less sense, because she is a provably terrible candidate, possibly the worst candidate Democrats could field in their current situation.

In case you've forgotten, Harris ran for president in the 2020 Democratic primaries. It started well and ended badly.

Harris chose Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Jan. 21, 2019, to make her announcement. By early March, she had climbed to third place in the 20-plus-candidate field, with 12% support, behind only Bernie Sanders and Joe Biden, according to a CNN poll. By late April — using the CNN poll throughout — she had slipped to sixth place, with 5% support, behind Biden, Sanders, Elizabeth Warren, Pete Buttigieg and Beto O'Rourke, according to the same poll.

By late June, though, she had shot up to 17% support, behind only Biden. But by mid-August, she crashed, from 17% down to 5%. By November, she slipped further to 3%, well behind where she started 10 months earlier. By the time the next poll was taken, in December, she was out of money, out of support and out of the race. She announced her withdrawal on Dec. 3, 2019, two months before the Iowa caucuses.



Byron York

There's a reason Harris rose in the race and a reason she fell. The short version is that, for Democratic voters, Harris seemed appealing when she first started her campaign, and then they liked her less and less as they got to know her. Familiarity with the candidate killed her hopes.

Her high point led to her low point. In a June 27 debate, Harris attacked Biden for Biden's opposition of mandatory school busing nearly 50 years earlier, in the early 1970s. "There was a little girl in California who was part of the second class to integrate her public schools, and she was bused to school every day," Harris said to Biden. "That little girl was me."

Nationally, the debate shot Harris into the top ranks of the field in terms of the attention paid to her. What voters saw afterward, though, was a candidate who had few ideas, who rambled, sometimes semi-coherently, when speaking, and who was not the centrist

many Democrats were seeking.

For example, at her peak, Harris, who was then a Democratic senator from California, and who earlier, as state attorney general, focused on "environmental justice," announced that she would file a bill expanding the progressive idea of "justice" to virtually every aspect of American life. "Environmental justice is interconnected with every aspect of our fight for justice," she said in a statement to the left-wing publication Grist. "From racial justice and economic justice, to housing justice and educational justice, we cannot disentangle the environment people live in from the lives they live." Referring to the riots taking place across the country, she added, "These crises we are experiencing have exposed injustices in our nation that many of us have known and fought our entire lives."

It's not entirely clear what that meant, but it is clear that to non-progressive ears, it didn't sound good. And on other issues, as an MSNBC commentator noted Monday, beyond attacking Donald Trump, Harris in 2020 "struggled to affirmatively say what she stood for." She was, in short, a terrible candidate who improbably ended up as Biden's running mate and then vice president of the United States.

Now that Biden's infirmities have finally caught up with him, Harris appears to have the inside track to the Democratic presidential nomination. The Trump campaign should take her seriously, not because she is a good candidate, but because she will automatically have the vote of the millions of Americans who would vote for anyone other than Trump. That alone means she could win. So her GOP rivals should see the Harris campaign as a formidable opponent. But at the same time, it should be noted — and Harris herself will likely make it clear soon enough — that she is perhaps the worst candidate Democrats could choose to run for president.

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Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, July 25, the 207th day of 2024. There are 159 days left in the year.

Today's Highlight in History: On July 25, 1972, the notorious Tuskegee syphilis experiment came to light as The Associated Press reported that for the previous four decades, the U.S. Public Health Service, in conjunction with the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama, had been allowing poor, rural Black male patients with syphilis to go without treatment, even allowing more than 100 of them to die, as a way of studying the disease.

Also on this date:

In 1866, Ulysses S. Grant was named General of the Army of the United States, the first officer to hold the rank.

In 1943, Benito Mussolini was dismissed as premier of Italy by King Victor Emmanuel III, and placed under arrest. (He was later rescued by the Nazis and re-

asserted his authority.)

In 1956, the Italian liner SS Andrea Doria collided with the Swedish passenger ship Stockholm off the New England coast late at night and began sinking; 51 people — 46 from the Andrea Doria, five from the Stockholm — were killed. (The Andrea Doria capsized and sank the following morning.)

In 1960, a Woolworth's store in Greensboro, North Carolina that had been the scene of nearly six months of sit-in protests against its whites-only lunch counter dropped its segregation policy.

In 1978, Louise Joy Brown, the first "test tube baby," was born in Oldham, England; she'd been conceived through the technique of in-vitro fertilization.

In 1994, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Jordan's King Hussein signed a declaration at the White House ending their countries' 46-year-old formal state of war.

Two-lined spittlebug

Angelkeep Journals

All facts about a two-lined spittlebug had been placed into eight sentences on Wikipedia. Two of those dealt strictly with a two-lined spittlebug invasion of Hawai'i. Too quickly their infestation covered 70,000 ha. Ha! Ha? What's a ha? Research time. A ha was the symbol for hectare. What's a hectare? One hectare was a metric land unit within a square of ground with 100 meters per side, or 10,000 square meters. In Americanese, that meant one ha per 2.471 acres.

That's hardly significant for Angelkeep. Angelkeep measured 1.07 acres according to Wells County Assessor Laura Roberts. Not even half of one ha.

Haha (as in, the columnist was snickering as he wrote.)

Probably the same person that gave us "ha," suggested the scientific name for the two-lined spittlebug as *Prosaena bicincta*. Say, who named it that in 1830? Really Say did name it. Thomas Say identified it, named it, just like he did for the Say lightning bug, now Indiana's official insect. Ha, Angelkeep was not sticking with that scientific name. A two-lined spittlebug hardly needed a description. The common name described it. Well almost.

The black wings of two-lined have two orange lines. They are horizontal to the wing length, dividing the wing area into equal parts. Orange lines on black are the exact reversal of the black lines on a basketball. Ha, Angelkeep was surprised that Indiana Fever and Caitlin Clark have not tried to capitalize financially on two-lined spittlebug. Clark-Spittlebug apparel might be a game-changer.

Wiki failed to mention two-lined had a third line. The thorax of two-lined had a horizontal red-orange line dividing the black central body portion. The head area and largest joints of the legs held a deep maroon-red color, with smaller parts in black. Angelkeep math, be it metric or American, calculated $2 + 1 = 3$. So why not a three-lined spittlebug?

Wiki measured two-lined spittlebug as nine millimeters. Angelkeep called that 3/8s of an inch. Say, that makes sense.

Expect to find one at Ouabache State Park. Why? Two-lined spittlebugs love to dine on redbud trees. If you experienced Ouabache in the spring, you noticed all roads in the park seemed to be lined with redbuds in bloom. The CCC boys of 1992 planted redbuds along the roads knowing full well of the spectacular beauty that would unfold each spring, long after they were dead and gone. Angelkeep possessed mature redbud trees, over two decades growth, thanks to the gift of a bundle of sticks with roots from Kirk Roberts back in Y2K.

Angelkeep studied the underside of two-lined spittlebug when encountered at Angelkeep. It somewhat resembled the bottom of a painted turtle, but much smaller. It seemed noteworthy to mention the two lines of orange on the wings ran through



Alan Daugherty

the wing and appeared on the underside of each wing.

The abdomen bottom had been divided into squares, many squares. The abdomen resembled a stained glass window. The exception was the fact that the red-orange color matching the single line on the thorax divided the sections. The squares themselves were black interiors, the area that if a stained glass window would have been the bright colors surrounded by black lead lines.

Six feet had the terminal digit of each leg in black. It appeared as though it had dressed to the nines and worn dressy black shoes on each foot. They stood out against the dramatic difference of the larger red leg portions attached.

It's been three days shy of a full year since two-lined spittlebug introduced himself to Angelkeep and politely posed for so many photos. On the photo op day, it had been raining. Two-lined walked along a plant stem with large beads of water being carried on its wings looking like pearls of Waterford Crystal glass. Waterford Crystal, hand-made in Waterford, Ireland, remained popular but in small quantity at Angelkeep due to expense. Ireland's flag was three-striped. One orange stripe. Orangemen were from Ireland, but that's political. Angelkeep wrote nature, not politics. Angelkeep and politics was as uninviting as two-lined spittlebugs in Hawai'i.

Note to self: Why was there a reversed apostrophe in of Hawai'i? Research time.

First, look for the return of two-lined spittlebug.

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

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Sunday afternoon at the museum



Museum's ice cream social

The Annex of the Wells County Historical Museum was the place to be Sunday afternoon for the annual Ice Cream Social. Serving up ice cream and all of the fixings were Becky Behning and Elaine McAfee, at right. Visitors could view the Wells County Military displays as they enjoyed their ice cream as well as check out the antique Model A Ford cars that were brought from Fort Wayne by members of the Old Fort Model A Car Club. (Photos by Barbara Barbieri)



Star of the show

A 1911 Model T Ford took bragging rights for being the oldest car in the Wells County Historical Museum's parking lot Sunday afternoon as the museum's annual Ice Cream Social and visit from Model A Ford cars took place. The car, restored over a four year period by Jay Bolante of Columbia City arrived by trailer as Bolante and his wife Dale and friends Rose and Dan had been at another nearby car show and heard about the Ice Cream Social and Model A car gathering.

Fremion art in Fort Wayne Museum of Art exhibit featuring 'Hoosier Salon' art

The art by Indiana artists and work chosen for the "Artists of the Hoosier Salon From the Permanent Collection" show will continue through Oct. 6, at the Fort Wayne Museum of Art. Among the artists are Wells county artist Joel Fremion.

Other Fort Wayne area artists included are Peggy Brown, Jim McBride, John Hrehov and John Kelty

A lecture about the exhibit will be presented on Friday, Sept. 27, at 7 p.m. by Mark Ruschman, Senior Curator of Art and Culture, Emeritus, for the Indiana State Museum and Historic Sites. (Reservations needed to fwmoa.org/events, \$15 members or \$20 non-members).

Other exhibits and their of closing dates are as follows:

The work of jewelry artist Bill Smith titled "Jewelry's Maverick" will be on view through Aug. 4th.

The art installation drawn pieces of textile art by Rowland Ricketts will be view-

able through Sept. 1st.

"Sam Gilliam: His Art of Printmaking" will be on view through Oct. 27. Thirty-four of his prints will be shown. "Diverse Directions: Rethinking the Landscape" featuring natural landscapes will be hung through Dec. 8.

Gallery Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday (until 8 p.m. on Thursdays) and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday. Admission is \$10 adults, \$8 students and seniors, \$25 per family and free Thursdays from 5 to 8 p.m.

Family Tours will be offered on Aug. 10 and Sept. 14, 10:30 a.m., free with general admission and RSVP to fwmoa.org/events. Tours for families with children PreK-12.

2nd Thursday will feature the Hoosier Salon Exhibit and tour with curator Sue Slick, beginning at 5 p.m., free admission. Meet Hoosier Salon artist Scott Kilmer see his watercolors.

Events at Emens Auditorium on the campus of Ball State

Entertainment at Ball State University's Emens Auditorium over the next few months will include:

The Princess Bride: An Inconceivable Evening with

Cary Elwes: Sept. 14
Crowder: Sept. 20
The Book of Mormon: Sept. 24

Cirque Musica (Holiday Wonderland): Dec. 8, 6 p.m.

Oak Ridge Boys: American Made Christmas Farewell Tour: Dec. 21, 7:30 p.m.
Tickets now on sale with more information at 765-285-1539.

Northern Gospel Singing Convention August 2 & 3

The Northmen will present the 25th annual Alan Godsey Memorial Northern Gospel Singing Convention August 2 at 5 p.m. and August 3 at noon and 4 p.m. at the Memorial Coliseum (YMCA), 123 Sutter Way, Marion, IN.

Featured are over 30 Christian music artists from

across the country. Evening concert tickets are \$10 in advance or \$12 at the door. Matinee concert tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door. Tickets are available at the ticket office, P.O. Box 25634, Fort Wayne, IN 46825. For more information call Cathy Godsey-Anderson at 260-348-5164.

Concerts on FW's Sweet Breeze

A series of concerts are being offered on Fort Wayne's canal boat Sweet Breeze. Light refreshments are included.

The schedule includes: Addison Agen: Saturday, July 27; Sam Dell (Ohio singer/songwriter): Friday, Aug. 16; Dan Dickerson of Harp Condition & flautist Amber Fiechter: Saturday, Sept. 14; and The Raging Bunch: Saturday, Oct. 12.

Tickets may be purchased online at ridesweetbreeze.com or call 2260-427-6000.

Cookbook author at Broken Vessel for meet & greet

Cookbook author Eden Noble will be in Bluffton on Sunday, July 28, from 1 to 4 p.m. at Broken Vessel to greet readers and for book signing.

Noble, the mother of three children, is the author of "Feeding the Nobles" that champions JERF (Just Eat Real Food). In her book she shares her secrets for preparing those meals for her family.

A Talk with Tego



Chloe is a 14-week-old, domestic short hair female.



Nugget is a two-year-old, Labradoodle male.



Cleo is a 14-week-old, domestic short hair female.



Tego

Tego's Tips: Sensitive dogs are prone to anxieties when separated from their owners for short periods of time.

These are just a few pets available for adoption at the Wells County Animal Shelter, 1613 W. Cherry St., Bluffton. For more information call 824-6063.

Swiss Days at Swiss Heritage Village July 26-27

Berne's Swiss Heritage Village will be celebrating during Berne Swiss Days with a variety of events on Friday and Saturday, July 26-27.

Friday events

Indoor museum and 12 historical buildings open.

Horse Pull: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Saturday events

Site open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with events to include a tractor pull, antique engine and tractor show, car show, vendors and apple dumplings served in the barn.

The village is open Monday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Oct. 31, closed Sundays and holidays. More information at swissheritage.org or call 260-589-8007.

Swiss Days Quilt Show July 25 through 27

The Swiss Days Quilt Show will be held Thursday, July 25 from 6 to 9 p.m., Friday, July 26 from 9 to 6 p.m. and Saturday, July 27 from 9 to 3 p.m. at the First Mennonite Church, Family Life Center, 566 West Main Street in Berne.

Admission fee: \$5.00 - 12 and under free
Quilt Categories include: hand and machine quilted items, opportunity/raffle quilt, viewer's choice awards, quilts by kids (18 and under), challenge quilts and quilts for sale.

Zanesville Lions Club Summer Festival

Saturday, July 27

8:30am - 7:00pm

Car Show Information

DJ Rich McCoy

Registration - 8:30am-12:00pm

Registration Fees -

Pre-Register \$8.00 - Day of Show: \$10.00

2:00pm Awards

After 2pm Join The McCoy's for Line

Dancing & Hula-Hoop Contest

Trophies - 50/50 Drawing

Dash Plaques to the first 50 Entries

Door Prizes

Available on site Biscuits & Gravy,

Coffee & Donuts & Snacks

Community Events

10:00am Parade

Craft/Flea Market Booths

Events at Ball Diamond

Church of God - Pancakes & Sausage, Brats & Onion Rings

Old-Time Baseball Game

Lions Concessions - Apple Dumplings/Ice Cream Sundaes and Floats

Downtown - County Line Pizza (open)

Sis & Bubs Dine-In Restaurant

Town Wide Garage Sales

Contact 705-0534 if you want listed Sales Open Friday & Saturday

Breakfast & Lunch on Friday at the church during garage sales

Free House & Wagon Rides

Sponsor - Farmers & Merchants Bank

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For further information on event activities, check out these Facebook Sites:

Zanesville Lions Club - Summer Festival - Town of Zanesville - Tower Life Center

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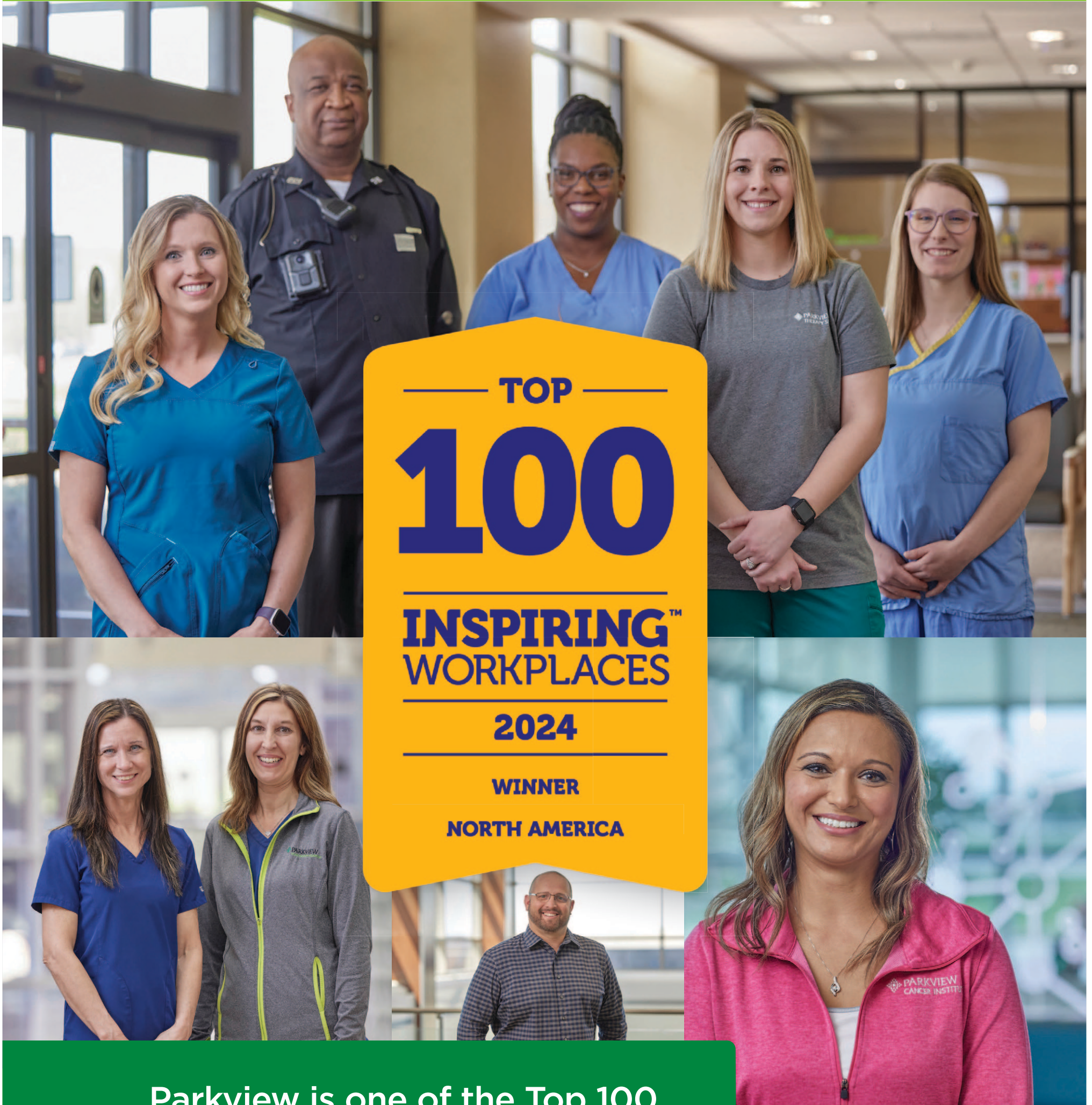
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France beats U.S. and Morocco gets a win against Argentina in a wild start to Olympic soccer

By JAMES ROBSON
AP Soccer Writer

MARSEILLE, France (AP) — On a wild opening day for the Olympic men's soccer tournament, the United States came within the width of the crossbar from taking the lead against host nation France.

Within moments, Alexandre Lacazette had the ball in the back of the Americans' net — and when Michael Olise added a second for the French, they were on their way to a 3-0 win.

"It was unfortunate — on another day maybe it goes in," said Djordje Mihailovic, whose long-range effort came back off the bar when the Group A game in Marseille was still goalless in the second half. "I think most importantly, (we need to) emotionally recover because we were in the game for the first 70 minutes, even after they scored, we responded very well."

Earlier in the day, Morocco beat Argentina 2-1 in a game that was suspended for about two hours because fans invaded the pitch deep into stoppage time. And the U.S. looked like it could produce another upset when repeatedly opening France up in the first Olympic game for American men since 2008.

"I can't say anything to the players. They were in the right spot," U.S. coach Marko Mitrovic said. "I have that feeling inside that we didn't deserve to lose this way."

The United States never came closer than Mihailovic's effort, and France made the most of its fortune — responding with stunning strikes from Lacazette in the 61st minute and Olise in the 68th.

Loic Bade added the third with a header in the 85th.

"I knew it was going to be tough. You guys never give up," France coach Thierry Henry told American reporters afterward. "That fighting spirit is always in you. You always believe that you can come back. I know that. I played in MLS, I coached in MLS, so I know that's something that you have."

It was two moments of quality that ultimately put France in control, with former Arsenal striker Lacazette driving low from around 20 yards past U.S. goalkeeper Patrick Schulte.

New Bayern Munich signing Olise curled a shot from distance into the same corner.

Bade's header effectively put the game away and saw France move to the top of Group A, ahead of New Zealand, which beat Guinea 2-1.

"There was definitely stuff to make us feel good going into the next two matches," Mihailovic said.

Morocco 2, Argentina 1

Morocco secured an unforgettable win

over Argentina — but not before furious fans invaded the pitch to protest what appeared to be an equalizer by Cristian Medina in the 16th-minute of stoppage time.

Objects were thrown onto the field and security had to restrain fans, causing the game in Saint-Etienne to be suspended for nearly two hours and the crowd being told to leave the stadium.

The goal was eventually ruled offside just before play resumed, drawing celebrations from Morocco players as the final minutes concluded.

It was a chaotic and dramatic start to the tournament after Argentina, which won gold medals at the 2004 and 2008 Olympics and is considered among the favorites in France, mounted a comeback after going 2-0 down on goals from Soufiane Rahimi on either side of halftime.

Giuliano Simeone struck in the 68th minute and Argentina peppered Morocco goalkeeper Munir El Kajoui with shots before Medina's header from close range appeared to tie it.

That caused outrage from Morocco fans, who rushed the field, while others threw trash, and the game was officially put on hold.

Rahimi had put Morocco ahead in first-half stoppage time, then converted on a penalty kick in the 49th, which proved to be the decisive goal against an Argentina team that included four members of the squad that won the 2022 World Cup in Qatar.

Spain 2, Uzbekistan 1

Sergio Gomez scored the winning goal in Spain's victory over Uzbekistan to open Group C.

The match at Parc des Princes in Paris was the first official competition of the Olympics and drew some 35,000 fans.

Marc Pubill scored in the 29th minute for Spain, which won the gold medal at the 1992 Olympics. The team has won silver twice since then, most recently at the Tokyo Games.

Eldor Shomurodov converted on a penalty kick in first-half stoppage time to tie it for Uzbekistan, which was making its first Olympic appearance.

Gomez had a penalty saved by Abduvohid Nematov in the 59th minute, but some three minutes later he scored from about 12 yards out.

New Zealand 2, Guinea 1

Ben Waine scored the go-ahead goal and New Zealand won its Group A opener over Guinea in Nice.

New Zealand was awarded a penalty in the 24th minute, but Guinea goalkeeper Soumaila Sylla dove to punch away captain Matthew Garbett's attempt. New Zealand quickly recovered and Garbett scored a minute later for a 1-0 lead.

Colts' QB Anthony Richardson reports to Colts camp without any throwing restrictions

WESTFIELD, Ind. (AP) — Team doctors have cleared Colts quarterback Anthony Richardson for practice, and general manager Chris Ballard said Richardson will be under no restrictions when Indianapolis holds its first training camp practice Thursday.

Ballard spoke to reporters Wednesday after players reported to camp in an Indianapolis suburb.

"I'm not expecting any limitations right now," Ballard said.

Richardson was the No. 4 overall pick in the 2023 NFL draft but started only four games and finished only one because of various injuries. He had



Anthony Richardson

season-ending surgery on his throwing shoulder last October.

The former Florida star did participate in the team's offseason workouts but was held out of the final mini-camp practice as a precaution in early June because of soreness in the shoulder.

Coach Shane Steichen said then that the coaches and doctors would closely monitor Richardson's throws in camp and throughout the preseason.

Last week, Richardson said he was feeling well and ready for camp as he donated dozens of helmets to the Speedway High School football team.

Browns place RB Nick Chubb on PUP list from knee injury

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer

CLEVELAND (AP) — Cleveland Browns star running back Nick Chubb was placed on the physically-unable-to-perform list Wednesday as he continues to recover from a season-ending left knee injury and two surgeries.

The team made the expected move with Chubb, a four-time Pro Bowler, one day before opening training camp in West Virginia.

While Chubb was the biggest name on the PUP list, he wasn't alone. Starting offensive tackles Jack Conklin and Jerrick Wills Jr. were also placed there along with defensive tackle Dalvin Tomlinson due to knee injuries.

Tomlinson's addition was a surprise. He was on the field for practices during the team's mandatory minicamp in June. The severity of his injury was not immediately known. Coach Kevin Stefanski will address the media on Thursday.

The 30-year-old Tomlinson started 16 games last season after signing as a free agent in 2023.

Conklin suffered a season-ending injury in the 2023 opener.

Chubb's season ended a week later with a grotesque injury on a carry near the goal line against Pittsburgh. The



Nick Chubb

28-year-old sustained a torn anterior cruciate ligament and other damage to the same knee he hurt while playing at Georgia.

It's not known when Chubb will be ready to play, but the Browns are betting he'll be back at some point this season. Chubb has rushed for 6,511 yards and scored 48 touchdowns in his five-plus seasons with Cleveland.

Not surprisingly, Chubb has pushed himself to get back and was recently seen squatting nearly 600 pounds in a viral video.

Chubb spoke to reporters for the first time since the injury in June and expressed confidence he'll be back as good as ever.

The team restructured Chubb's contract in April. He was entering his final year of a three-year, \$36.6 million deal he signed in 2021. Chubb agreed to take a salary cut but can earn back money through incentives.

The Browns also placed cornerback Greg Newsome II (hamstring) and running back Nyheim Hines (knee) on the active/non-football injury (NFI) list. All the injured players remain on the roster and can return to the field once they pass a physical.

NBA signs new 11-year media rights deal with Disney, NBC, Amazon

By TIM REYNOLDS and
JOE REEDY AP Sports Writers

The NBA signed its 11-year media rights deal with Disney, NBC and Amazon Prime Video on Wednesday after saying it was not accepting Warner Bros. Discovery's \$1.8 billion per year offer to continue its longtime relationship with the league.

The media rights deals were approved by the league's Board of Governors last week and will bring the league about \$76 billion over those 11 years.

WBD had five days to match a part of those deals and said it was exercising its right to do so, but its offer was not considered a true match by the NBA. That means the 2024-25 season will be the last for TNT after a nearly four-decade run — though not long after the NBA signing was announced, WBD said it would take "appropriate action" and said it believes the NBA has to accept its offer.

"The digital opportunities with Amazon align perfectly with the global interest in the NBA," Commissioner Adam Silver said in a statement. "And Prime Video's massive subscriber base will dramatically expand our ability to reach our fans in new and innovative ways."

Turner Sports strongly disagreed with the NBA's move, saying it believes the league "grossly misinterpreted our contractual rights."

"We have matched the Amazon offer, as we have a contractual right to do, and do not believe the NBA can reject it," TNT Sports said in a statement. "In doing so, they are rejecting the many fans who continue to show their unwavering support for our best-in-class coverage, delivered through the full combined reach of WBD's video-first distribution platforms. ... We will take appropriate action."

TNT said it continues looking forward to the coming season, "including our iconic 'Inside the NBA.'"

Under the new deal, Amazon Prime Video will carry games on Friday nights, select Saturday afternoons and Thursday night doubleheaders that will begin after the conclusion of Prime Video's "Thursday Night Football" schedule. Prime Video will also take over the NBA League Pass package from WBD.

"Warner Bros. Discovery's most recent proposal did not match the terms of Amazon Prime Video's offer and, therefore, we have entered into a long-term arrangement with Amazon," the league said Wednesday. "Throughout these negotiations, our primary objective has been to maximize the reach and accessibility of our games for our fans. Our new arrangement with Amazon supports this goal by complementing the broadcast, cable and streaming packages that are already part of our new Disney and NBCUniversal arrangements. All three partners have also committed substantial resources to promote the league and enhance the fan

(Continued on Page A2)

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News-Banner Scoreboard NBA media rights deal

BASKETBALL

WNBA				
EASTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
New York	21	4	.840	—
Connecticut	18	6	.750	2½
Indiana	11	15	.423	10½
Chicago	10	14	.417	10½
Atlanta	7	17	.292	13½
Washington	6	19	.240	15

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Minnesota	17	8	.680	—
Seattle	17	8	.680	—
Las Vegas	16	8	.667	½
Phoenix	13	12	.520	4
Los Angeles	6	18	.250	10½
Dallas	6	19	.240	11

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	60	41	.594	—
New York	60	44	.577	1½
Boston	54	47	.535	6
Tampa Bay	51	51	.500	9½
Toronto	46	55	.455	14

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	61	40	.604	—
Minnesota	56	45	.554	5
Kansas City	56	46	.549	5½
Detroit	50	53	.485	12
Chicago	27	77	.260	35½

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	53	49	.520	—
Seattle	53	51	.510	1
Texas	50	52	.490	3
Los Angeles	45	57	.441	8
Oakland	41	63	.394	13

Tuesday's Games

Cleveland 5, Detroit 4

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	61	41	.598	—
San Diego	54	50	.519	8
Arizona	52	50	.510	9
San Francisco	48	54	.471	13
Colorado	38	65	.369	23½

Tuesday's Games

San Diego 4, Washington 0

Wednesday's Games

St. Louis 2, Pittsburgh 1

Thursday's Games

San Diego 12, Washington 3

Friday's Games

Cleveland at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.

Minnesota at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.

Cincinnati at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.

San Diego at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.

Texas at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.

N.Y. Yankees at Boston, 7:10 p.m.

Chicago Cubs at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.

L.A. Dodgers at Houston, 8:10 p.m.

Seattle at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.

Oakland at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	64	38	.627	—
Atlanta	54	46	.540	9
New York	53	48	.525	10½
Washington	47	55	.461	17
Miami	37	65	.363	27

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	59	43	.578	—
St. Louis	53	49	.520	6
Pittsburgh	52	50	.510	7
Cincinnati	49	53	.480	10
Chicago	49	55	.471	11

Midwest League

High-A Midwest League

Dayton 5, Fort Wayne 4

West Division				
W	L	Pct	GB	
San Diego	54	50	.519	8
Arizona	52	50	.510	9
San Francisco	48	54	.471	13
Colorado	38	65	.369	23½

Tuesday's Games				
W	L	Pct	GB	
San Diego 4, Washington 0				
St. Louis 2, Pittsburgh 1				
Miami 6, Baltimore 3				
N.Y. Mets 3, N.Y. Yankees 2				
Philadelphia 3, Minnesota 0				
Milwaukee 1, Chicago Cubs 0				
Arizona 6, Kansas City 2				
Boston 6, Colorado 0				
L.A. Dodgers 5, San Francisco 2				
Cincinnati at Atlanta, p.p.d.				

Wednesday's Games				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Pittsburgh 5, St. Louis 0				
Cincinnati 9, Atlanta 4, 1st game				
Minnesota 5, Philadelphia 4				
Milwaukee 3, Chicago Cubs 2				
Colorado 20, Boston 7				
Miami 6, Baltimore 3				
San Diego 12, Washington 3				
N.Y. Mets 12, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Arizona at Kansas City, late				
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, late				
Cincinnati at Atlanta, p.p.d., 2nd game				

Thursday's Games				
W	L	Pct	GB	
San Diego (Cease 9-8) at Washington (Corbin 2-9), 12:05 p.m.				
Baltimore (Burnes 10-4) at Miami (Muñoz 1-5), 12:10 p.m.				
San Francisco (Webb 7-8) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-0), 4:10 p.m.				
Atlanta (Sale 13-3) at N.Y. Mets (Severino 7-3), 7:10 p.m.				

Friday's Games				
W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland at Philadelphia, 6:40 p.m.				
Cincinnati at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.				
San Diego at Baltimore, 7:05 p.m.				
Atlanta at N.Y. Mets, 7:10 p.m.				
Chicago Cubs at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.				
L.A. Dodgers at Houston, 8:10 p.m.				
Miami at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.				
Washington at St. Louis, 8:15 p.m.				
Pittsburgh at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.				
Colorado at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.				

Saturday's Games				
W	L	Pct	GB	
San Diego 12, Washington 3				
N.Y. Mets 12, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Arizona at Kansas City, late				
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, late				
Cincinnati at Atlanta, p.p.d., 2nd game				

Sunday's Games				
W	L	Pct	GB	
San Diego 12, Washington 3				
N.Y. Mets 12, N.Y. Yankees 3				
Arizona at Kansas City, late				
San Francisco at L.A. Dodgers, late				
Cincinnati at Atlanta, p.p.d., 2nd game				

(Continued from Page A1)

experience.” The new package on Amazon also includes at least one game on Black Friday and the quarterfinals, semifinals and championship game of the league’s in-season tournament, the NBA Cup.

“Over the past few years, we have worked hard to bring the very best of sports to Prime Video and to continue to innovate on the viewing experience,” said Jay Marine, global head of sports for Prime Video. “We’re thrilled to now add the NBA to our growing sports lineup, including the NFL, UEFA Champions League, NASCAR, NHL, WNBA, NWSL, Wimbledon, and more. We are grateful to partner with the NBA, and can’t wait to tip off in 2025.”

ESPN and ABC will keep the league’s top package, which includes the NBA Finals. ABC has carried the finals since 2003.

ESPN/ABC will combine for nearly 100 games during the regular season. More than 20 games will air on ABC, mainly on Saturday nights and Sunday afternoons, while ESPN will have up to 60 games, mostly on Wednesday nights with some Friday games. ABC and ESPN will also combine for five games on Christmas Day and have exclusive national coverage of the final day of the regular season.

During the playoffs, ESPN and ABC will have approximately 18 games in the first two rounds each year and one of the two conference finals series in all but one year of the agreement.

The return of NBC, which carried NBA games from 1990 through 2002, gives the NBA two broadcast network partners for the first time.

NBC will have up to 100 regular-season games, including on Sunday night once the NFL season has

ended. It will air games on Tuesdays throughout the regular season, while a Monday night doubleheader would be exclusively streamed on Peacock.

NBC will also have the All-Star Game and All-Star Saturday Night. During the playoffs, NBC and/or Peacock will have up to 28 games the first two rounds, with at least half on NBC.

NBC and Amazon will also carry one of the two conference finals series in six of the 11 years on a rotating basis. NBC will have a conference final in 2026-27 followed by Amazon the next season.

“The return of NBA basketball to the NBC Sports family comes with enormous benefits and excitement for our fans,” Silver said. “And through its multiple platforms — especially NBC and Peacock — and its expansive resources, NBCUniversal promises to build on the deep tradition and history of the NBA on NBC.”

Josh Naylor singles home his brother Bo with the go-ahead run late, Guardians edge Tigers

By BRIAN DULIK
Associated Press

CLEVELAND (AP) — Josh Naylor singled with two outs in the eighth inning, scoring younger brother Bo Naylor with the go-ahead run, as the AL Central-leading Cleveland Guardians edged the Detroit Tigers 2-1 on Wednesday night.

Bo Naylor drew a walk against Beau Brieske (1-1), then stole second base. Following an intentional walk to José Ramírez, Josh Naylor lined a ball up the middle that second baseman Colt Keith could only deflect into center field.

Hunter Gaddis (4-2) struck out all three batters in the eighth, and Emmanuel Clase pitched the ninth for his AL-high 31st save to complete a combined two-hitter.

Guardians ace Tanner Bibee left after five innings with leg cramps. The right-hander winced while walking onto the field to begin the sixth and spent several minutes stretching his legs, to no avail.

Bibee gave up one run on Matt Vierling’s homer in the first, striking out four.

Vierling’s opposite-field shot to right was his career-high 13th home run.

Cleveland improved to 33-14 at Progressive Field, the second-best home mark in the majors.

Tigers starter Jack Flaherty — a prime candidate to be moved before the July 30 trade deadline — worked six innings, allowing one unearned run with six strikeouts. The right-hander is 2-0 with a 1.02 ERA in three July starts.

Cleveland tied the score at 1 in the fifth on Steven Kwan’s RBI single. Bo Naylor came home after hitting a single, then advancing to second on a passed ball by Carson Kelly.

Kwan, who leads the majors in hitting, went 1 for 4, dropping his batting average to .345.

Tigers shortstop Javier Báez, who is hitting .178, batted ninth for the first time this season and was 0 for 3. Detroit manager A.J. Hinch said the decision “is not a slap in the face to him. We’re just trying to construct a lineup to give Cleveland different looks.”

Salt Lake City celebrates the announcement that it will host the 2034 Winter Olympics

By HANNAH SCHOENBAUM
Associated Press

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Salt Lake City was formally awarded the 2034 Winter Olympics and Paralympics following a vote Wednesday by the International Olympic Committee in Paris, giving Utah its second Games after hosting in 2002.

About a thousand sports fans gathered in downtown Salt Lake City at 3 a.m. local time — 11 a.m. in Paris — to watch the long-anticipated announcement on a livestream. Some dressed in ski gear in the summer heat, while others donned Team USA merchandise and waved flags with the Olympic rings. The crowd erupted in cheers as Olympic officials made their final decision to return to a city where they said the local enthusiasm was palpable even two decades after it first hosted.

Utah’s capital city was the only candidate for 2034 after the Olympic committee gave Salt Lake City exclusive negotiating rights last year. Climate change and high operational costs have reduced the number of cities willing and able to welcome the Winter Games.

Utah has capitalized on low interest elsewhere, pitching itself to Olympic officials as an eager repeat host if the committee eventually adopts a permanent rotation of Winter Olympic cities. Olympic Games Executive Director Christophe Dubi said Salt Lake City would be a prime candidate for such a plan.

Local leaders had their sights set on hosting multiple times even before Salt Lake City welcomed its first Games, bid team spokesperson Tom Kelly said. Remnants of the 2002 Games are nestled throughout the city and have kept the Olympic fever alive. Organizers of the 2034 Games touted that enduring enthusiasm throughout the selection process and showed visiting Olympic officials how they have preserved nearly all the venues used in 2002.

“Enthusiasm for the Games was always our feeling, on the first minute to the last minute, in every interaction we had, both at the venues and in our meetings with athletes, sports leaders, politicians and the private sector,” Karl Stoss, chairman of the International Olympic Committee’s Future Host Commission, told the full committee Wednesday morning in Paris.

Darrell Robinson of Herriman, Utah, celebrated with his family in the early hours Wednesday after his daughter, who was too young to remember Utah’s first Olympics, begged him to join her at the Salt Lake watch party. Robinson also was present when it was announced that the city would host the 2002 Games, and he said it was amazing to relive that moment.

The 2002 Games closely followed the

Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and provided a unifying atmosphere that Robinson said was needed at the time.

“Everyone was really united, and we were able to invite all these countries and just heal,” he said. “That’s something we need again.”

Wednesday’s local party coincided with a state holiday marking the date Mormon pioneers discovered the Salt Lake Valley in northern Utah. A drone show lit up the sky over City Hall, and parade floats lined the streets, merging the two celebrations into one.

In its final presentation to Olympic officials, the Utah bid team outlined its plan for one of the most compact layouts in Olympic history, with all venues within a one-hour drive of the athletes village on the University of Utah campus. The plan requires no new permanent construction, with all 13 venues already in place and each having played a role when the city first hosted.

What was expected to be a simple coronation turned into a complicated political negotiation in which the Olympic committee strong-armed Utah leaders into helping them lobby the U.S. government to end an FBI investigation into a suspected doping coverup.

Before the vote, Olympic officials inserted into Salt Lake City’s host contract a clause effectively demanding that local organizers, including Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, push to shut down the probe or risk losing the Games. Cox agreed to the committee’s demands and celebrated the final decision, but he said after the vote that the shakeup nearly delayed the bid agreement.

Securing the bid was central to Cox’s goal of cementing the state as North America’s winter sports capital. He and other local leaders were in Paris for the presentation, while many winter Olympians stayed in town to train and join in the festivities.

American freestyle skier Christopher Lillis, a gold medalist at the 2022 Winter Olympics in Beijing, said the 2034 Games will be a dream come true for young people with Olympic aspirations. He has been training at nearby Utah Olympic Park and said the sports facilities in the area are “top notch.”

Kate Cross, the mother of a young girl who described herself as a “future gold medalist skier,” said the Olympics are the ultimate source of inspiration. Cross moved to Utah a few years after the 2002 Games and is excited to attend Olympic events in person for the first time — possibly as the parent of an athlete.

“We’re out here in the middle of the night because she’s too excited to sleep,” Cross said. “It’s given her something to strive for, a 10-year plan. As a parent, it’s amazing to see your kid that motivated.”

Steer drives in 3, Reds beat Braves

By CHARLES ODUM
AP Sports Writer

ATLANTA (AP) — Spencer Steer drove in three runs with three extra-base hits, Elly De La Cruz also had three hits, including a home run, and the Cincinnati Reds beat the slumping Atlanta Braves 9-4 on Wednesday.

The second game of a scheduled split doubleheader was postponed due to inclement weather and has been rescheduled for Sept. 9.

Steer drove in a run with a first-inning triple off Allan Winans (0-2) and had a two-run double in the fourth. Steer added another double and scored two runs. Jake Fraley also had three hits, including a two-run homer in the first.

Cincinnati won both games of the shortened series.

Steer said the Reds, who had 12 hits, were “spraying line drives all over the field.”

Winans gave up seven runs in only 2 2/3 innings in Atlanta’s fourth consecutive loss.

The Braves may look to boost their depleted rotation before the July 30 trade deadline.

Atlanta has lost two prominent starting pitchers to injuries. All-Star left-hander Max Fried was added to the 15-day injured list with forearm neuritis, a nerve inflammation, on Sunday. Ace right-hander Spencer Strider had season-ending Tommy John surgery in April.

Braves All-Star second baseman Ozzie Albies is expected to miss about eight weeks with a fractured left wrist. Reigning NL MVP Ronald Acuña Jr. was lost with a season-ending knee injury in May, and Michael Harris II has been on the injured list since June 15 with a hamstring injury.

With the losses and injuries mounting, the Braves, who lead the NL wild-card standings, held a players-only meeting on Tuesday.

The Braves left the bases loaded in the third and fifth innings and stranded 11 runners overall.



NASCAR CUP SERIES
Last race: Hendrick Motorsports driver Kyle Larson held off Ryan Blaney and Tyler Reddick in overtime to collect the Indianapolis victory he tried to get at the Indy 500 in May. Larson’s try at the motorsports double two months ago ended as rain delayed the IndyCar event. Larson flew to Charlotte and the Coca-Cola 600, where rain also delayed that NASCAR Cup Series race. Larson never got on the track as rain and the late hour ended any attempt at finishing the race.
Next race: Aug. 11, Richmond, Virginia.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES
The Xfinity Series takes a longer break than the Cup Series with about a month off before racing at Michigan in mid-August.
Next race: Aug. 17, Brooklyn, Michigan.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES
The Truck Series is also off until Richmond, returning to the track on Aug. 10.
Next race: Aug. 10, Richmond, Virginia.

FORMULA ONE
Belgian Grand Prix.
Site: Wallonia, Belgium.
Schedule: Friday practices, 7:30 a.m. and 11 a.m.; Saturday practice, 6:30 a.m., qualifying 10 a.m.; Sunday race, 9 a.m. (ESPN).
Track: Circuit de Spa-Francorchamps.
Race distance: 44 laps, 308.052 kilometers (191.414 miles).
Next race: Aug. 25, Zandvoort, Netherlands.

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

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7/25

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Verified Petition of Indiana Michigan Power Company for Approval of Modifications to its Industrial Power Tariff - Tariff I.P., Cause No. 46097.

Notice is hereby given that on July 19, 2024, Indiana Michigan Power Company filed a Verified Petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission for approval of modifications to its Tariff I.P., - more specifically, for approval of additional terms for customers whose contract demands exceeds 150 MW or is reasonably expected to grow to exceed 150 MW at one or more aggregated premises. These terms include: 1) A contract term for an initial period of twenty (20) years and provisions to address assignment of rights or delegations of obligations under the Contract; 2) A Contract Termination Fee that would only apply should there be a permanent closure during the contract term; 3) Provisions that allow a customer to reduce its contract capacity by up to twenty (20) percent during the contract term; 4) A ninety (90) percent monthly minimum billing demand; and 5) An increased minimum amount of collateral to be provided by the customer. This notice is provided to the public under Ind. Code § 8-1-2-61(a). A copy of the Verified Petition and other submissions in this proceeding is on file with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, PNC Center, 101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The telephone number of the Commission is (317) 232-2701. Anyone wishing to protest, challenge, or intervene in this action may do so by contacting the Commission.

nb 7/25
hspaxlp

Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 16-19-22-31-34
Lotto Plus — 10-15-23-35-40-42
Cash4Life — 02-11-17-19-29, Cash Ball: 03
Quick Draw Midday — 06-07-10-16-19-20-22-24-31-36-38-41-46-51-52-53-54-63-65-78, BE: 63
Daily Three-Midday — 01-03-08, SB: 09
Daily Three-Evening — 04-04-05, SB: 09
Daily Four-Midday — 00-04-08-03, SB: 09
Daily Four-Evening — 06-04-08-01, SB: 09
Quick Draw Evening — 02-05-08-11-14-29-30-33-35-37-42-52-60-64-69-70-74-76-77-78, BE: 78
Hoosier Lotto — 14-19-22-33-40-46

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31-36-56-58-69 Powerball: 20; Power Play: 2X

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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

SUDOKU ANSWER

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

NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATIONS
Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of Rock Creek Twp, Wells County, Indiana that the proper legal officers will consider the following additional appropriations in excess of the budget for the current year at their regular meeting place at 1870 W 300 N - Bluffton, at 6:00 o'clock PM, on the 29th day of August 2024.

Fund Name: EMS - Fire	Amount
Major Budget Classification:	
Capital Outlays	\$ 20,000
Total for EMS - Fire Fund:	\$ 20,000
Fund Name: Fire	Amount
Major Budget Classification:	
Capital Outlays	\$ 7,600
Total for Fire Fund:	\$ 7,600
Fund Name: Cumulative Fire	Amount
Major Budget Classification:	
Capital Outlays	\$ 50,000
Total for Cumulative Fire Fund:	\$ 50,000

Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance (DLGF). The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the appropriations made within fifteen (15) days of receipt of a Certified Copy of the action taken.
Dated 07/16/2024
Doug Dohman
(Fiscal Officer)
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Biden uses Oval Office address to explain decision to quit 2024 race

WASHINGTON (AP) — Insisting that “the defense of democracy is more important than any title,” President Joe Biden on Wednesday will explain in an Oval Office address his decision to drop his bid for reelection and to throw his support behind Vice President Kamala Harris.

The address offered the public their first chance to hear directly from Biden his rationale for dropping out of the 2024 after weeks of insisting he believed himself to be the best candidate to take on former President Donald Trump, whom he has called an existential threat to the nation’s democracy. It also gave Biden a chance to try to shape how history views his one and only term in office.

“The defense of democracy is more important than any title,” Biden said. “Nothing, nothing can come in the way of saving

our democracy. And that includes personal ambition.”

Said Biden, “I revere this office, but I love my country more.”

Biden’s candidacy faced a crisis of confidence from Democrats after his abysmal debate against Trump nearly a month ago, where he spoke haltingly, appeared ashen and failed to rebut his predecessor’s attacks. It sparked a mutiny within his party over not just whether he was capable of beating Trump in November, but also whether at 81, he was still fit for the high-pressure job.

Biden tried to outlast the skepticism and quell the concerns with interviews and tepid rallies, but the pressure to step aside only mounted from the party’s political elites and from ordinary voters.

On Sunday afternoon, while isolating at his Rehoboth Beach, Delaware,

home with COVID-19, Biden finally bowed in a letter posted to his account on X announcing his decision to leave the race, followed up later by an endorsement of Harris.

“I have decided the best way forward is to pass the torch to a new generation,” Biden said, saying he wanted to make room for “fresh voices, yes, younger voices.”

He added, “That is the best way to unite our nation.”

Biden’s address was being carried by the major broadcast and cable news networks. He pledged to remain focused on being president until his term expires at noon on Jan. 20, 2025, saying he would work to end the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza, fight to boost government support to cure cancer, and call for Supreme Court reform.

The president was hoping to use the address to outline

the stakes in the election, which both Biden and Harris have framed as a choice between freedom and chaos, but he tried to steer clear of overt campaigning from his official office and never mentioned Trump by name.

“The great thing about America is here, kings and dictators do not rule,” Biden said. “The people do. History is in your hands. The power is in your hands. The idea of America — lies in your hands.”

Biden was also looking to make the case for his legacy of sweeping domestic legislation and the renewal of alliances abroad. The way history will remember his time in office and his historic decision to step aside

is intertwined with Harris’ electoral result in November, particularly as the vice president runs tightly on the achievements of the Biden administration.

His advisers say he intends to hold campaign events and fundraisers benefiting Harris, albeit at a far slower pace than if he had remained on the ballot himself.

Harris advisers will ultimately have to decide how to deploy the president, whose popularity sagged as voters in both parties questioned his fitness for office.

Biden, aides say, knows that if Harris loses, he’ll be criticized for staying in the race too long and not giving her or another Democrat

time to effectively mount a campaign against Trump. If she wins, she’ll ensure his policy victories are secured and expanded, and he’ll be remembered for a Washingtonian decision to step aside for the next generation of leadership.

Press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said Wednesday that any question of Biden resigning his office — which would allow Harris to run as an incumbent — was “ridiculous.”

Jean-Pierre said Biden has “no regrets” about his decision to stay in the race as long as he did, or his decision to quit it over the weekend. She said Biden’s decision had nothing to do with his health.

NASA telescope spots super Jupiter that takes more than a century to go around its star

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — A super Jupiter has been spotted around a neighboring star by the Webb Space Telescope — and it has a super orbit.

The planet is roughly the same diameter as Jupiter, but with six times the mass. Its atmosphere is also rich in hydrogen like Jupiter’s.

One big difference: It takes this planet more than a century, possibly as long as 250 years, to go around its star. It’s 15 times the distance from its star than Earth is to the sun.

Scientists had long suspected a big planet circled this star 12 light-years away, but not this massive or far from its star. A light-year is 5.8 trillion miles. These new observations show the planet orbits the star Epsilon Indi A, part of a three-star system.

An international team led by Max Planck Institute for Astronomy’s Elisabeth Matthews in Germany collected the images last year and published the findings Wednesday in the journal Nature.

Astronomers directly observed the incredibly old and cold gas giant — a rare and tricky feat — by masking the star through use of a special shading device on Webb. By blocking the starlight, the planet stood out as a pinpoint of infrared light.

The planet and star clock in at 3.5 bil-

lion years old, 1 billion years younger than our own solar system, but still considered old and brighter than expected, according to Matthews.

The star is so close and bright to our own solar system that it’s visible with the naked eye in the Southern Hemisphere.

“This is a gas giant with no hard surface or liquid water oceans,” Matthews said in an email. “Don’t bet on life, though.”

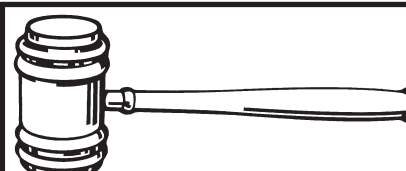
“This is a gas giant with no hard surface or liquid water oceans,” Matthews said in an email.

It’s unlikely this solar system sports more gas giants, she said, but small rocky worlds could be lurking there.

Worlds similar to Jupiter can help scientists understand “how these planets evolve over giga-year timescales,” she said. The first planets outside our solar system — dubbed exoplanets — were confirmed in the early 1990s. NASA’s tally now stands at 5,690 as of mid-July. The vast majority were detected via the transit method, in which a fleeting dip in starlight, repeated at regular intervals, indicates an orbiting planet.

Telescopes in space and also on the ground are on the hunt for even more, especially planets that might be similar to Earth.

Launched in 2021, NASA and the European Space Agency’s Webb telescope is the biggest and most powerful astronomical observatory ever placed in space.



Public Sale Calendar

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. Sale manager, Ritter Cox, 260-609-3306, [Schrader Real Estate and Auction Company, Inc., SchraderAuction.com, 800-451-2709](http://SchraderRealEstateandAuctionCompany, 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](http://KrueckebergAuction&RealtyLLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com).

AUGUST 8 - BIDDING OPEN FROM 9 A.M. TO 6 P.M. - Online only - Estate of Richard W. Stultz. 1,920 SF tri-level home in desirable Old Creek Neighborhood. Featuring 2 possible 3 bedrooms, 2 baths, oversized 4-car attached garage, 60'x23', large lot, close to Bluffton schools. Property offers prime location and offer “Renovation Opportunity”. Explore the possibilities. Open houses: July 30, Aug. 6 from 5-6 p.m., 1420 Brookhaven, Bluffton, IN. Sale managers Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, [The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com](http://TheSteffenGroupInc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com).

BIDDING STARTS CLOSING AUGUST 11 - 6 p.m. & 6:30 p.m. EST - Jeanette Furhman & Robert Furhman estate, owner. 6 p.m.: Cape Cod style, 3 bedroom, 3 1/2 bath, 3,093 sf, full basement w/Hitler stove, Geothermal w/backup LP furnace, Generac 11 kw whole house gen-

erator, pole barns, 2-car attached garage, sitting on 10+/- wooded acres! 6:30: John Deere Gator, Gehl Track loader, John Deere mower, Chevy Silverado, 51k miles, Massey Ferguson tractor, 3 point attachments, tilt bed trailer, outdoor items, large selection of hand & power tools, long & hand guns, antiques, primitives, furniture, household, more! Preview July 29, 5-7 p.m., 4182 W 900 N, Decatur. Pick up Aug. 12, 2-6 p.m. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com](http://KrueckebergAuction&RealtyLLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com).

BIDDING ENDS AUGUST 18 AT 2 P.M. - BIDDING ENDS AUGUST 18 AT 2 P.M. - Online only - Various Consignors, sellers. Huge 900+ lot. 2003 Polaris 4 four wheeler, Honda motorcycle, 2008 Lazer EXmark zero turn riding lawn mower, antiques, collectibles, primitives, modern furniture, fishing equipment, vintage toys, farm toys, musical instruments, very early wood canoe, early high school score board, complete in working condition, more. Preview: Aug. 13, Aug. 15, 3-6 p.m., 102 S. Jefferson St, Ossian. Sale managers Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, Patrick Carter, 260-273-8294. [The Steffen Group Inc., steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006](http://TheSteffenGroupInc., steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006).

BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING AUGUST 18 - 6 p.m. EST - Kathy Stark, owner. Real estate 6 p.m.: Four bedroom, 1 full bath w/hatched flooring, 2,328 sq. feet, basement, screened in back porch, 28'x30' heated detached garage, beautiful 36'x66' bank barn, famous Minion silo, all sitting on 2.41+/- acres! Personal property 6:30: Vintage outdoor Christmas decorations, extension cords, violin, saxophone, guitars, music, books, power tools, fishing tackle, household items, dog pool, Kobalt air compressor, table saw, sectional sofa/bed/recliner, firetruck bed, dining table & chairs, microwave, Seven Dwarfs cement statues, Brother sewing machine, & much more! Preview Aug. 5, 5-6 p.m., 9841 N 750 E, Ossian, IN. Pick up Aug. 19, 2-6 p.m. [Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com](http://KrueckebergAuction&RealtyLLC, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com).

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Body camera video focused attention on Illinois deputy's fatal shooting of Sonya Massey

By JOHN O'CONNOR
Associated Press

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — A riveted nation watched video released this week of a sheriff's deputy fatally shooting Sonya Massey, a 36-year-old Black woman who called 911 for assistance, in her Illinois home.

Sean Grayson, 14 months into his career as a deputy sheriff for Sangamon County in the center of the state, is charged with murder in Massey's death, the latest example of law enforcement officers shooting Black people in their homes across the country.

Here's what we know about the shooting and the former deputy now facing years in prison if convicted.

What happened that day?

At 12:50 a.m. on July 6, Massey called 911 with her fears about a prowler around her home in an unincorporated neighborhood of Springfield, 200 miles southeast of Chicago.

Video from body cameras worn by Grayson and another deputy show a search around Massey's house and in surrounding yards. They found a black SUV with broken windows in an adjacent driveway before Massey came to the front door. When Massey opened the door, she said, "Don't hurt

me," seemed confused and repeated, "Please God" and said, "I don't know what to do."

It isn't clear why Massey and Grayson went inside the house, followed by the other deputy.

Grayson asked for her name to include on a report as the deputies prepared to leave. Massey was searching her purse for ID when Grayson pointed out a pot over a flame on the stove.

Massey quickly went to the stove, moved the pan toward a sink and asked Grayson, "Where are you going?" He had stepped back and remained in the living room of the small home, separated from her by a cluttered counter.

Grayson and Massey chuckled as he replied, "Away from your hot, steaming water." Massey then unexpectedly said, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus," prompting Grayson to pull his 9 mm pistol and tell her, "You better (expletive) not or I swear to God I'll (expletive) shoot you in your (expletive) face."

He repeatedly yelled at Massey to put down the pot. She apologized and ducked before Grayson fired three times, striking Massey once in the head.

What charges were filed?

A grand jury indicted Grayson on charges of first-degree murder,

aggravated battery with a firearm and official misconduct. If convicted, he faces prison sentences of 45 years to life for murder, six to 30 years for battery and two to five years for misconduct.

He is being held in the Menard County Jail without bond. He pleaded not guilty and his defense attorney has declined to comment on the case.

Who was Sonya Massey?

The mother of two — 17-year-old Malachi Hill Massey and 15-year-old Jeannette "Summer" Massey — was from a large family with many cousins who thought of her as a sister.

"She was loving, caring. Her cousins — she loved her cousins," Malachi said. "She was just a ball of energy. We'd go anywhere; if she wanted to talk to someone, she'd go talk to them. She was just a loving person. She always helped people, too."

Massey, who was unemployed, had struggled with mental illness and undergone treatment. That might explain her puzzling statement to Grayson, "I rebuke you in the name of Jesus," according to the family's lawyer, Ben Crump. But it also speaks to her strong religious faith, he said.

What have prosecutors said?

In last week's court hearing, First Assistant State's Attorney Mary Beth Rodgers said the distance between Grayson and Massey negated any perceived threat and he had "a lot of options" aside from firing his weapon if he believed he was in danger.

"At no point did this defendant show anything but callousness toward human life," said Rodgers, adding that Grayson "clearly dismissed his training as a law enforcement officer."

Massey's home in the Cabbage Patch neighborhood, named for a huge cabbage farm there more than a century ago, has an open floor plan with the living room divided from the kitchen by a counter. The video shows Grayson in the living room with Massey on the other side of the counter, several feet away.

On the video, Grayson is heard justifying his actions by saying, "What else do we do? I'm not taking hot (expletive) boiling water to the (expletive) face." He's also heard telling arriving officers that Massey "came at me" and called her "crazy."

What is Grayson's background?

Grayson, 30, graduated from North Mac High School in Virden, 27 miles south of Springfield, in 2013, according to defense attor-

ney Daniel Fultz at last week's hearing. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 2014 until a general discharge in 2016.

According to the Illinois Law Enforcement Training and Standards Board, Grayson joined the police ranks in August 2020 with the first of six jobs in four years, three part time and three full time. The Associated Press has requested his employment records from the central Illinois agencies in public records requests.

In a July 2020 employment application to the Pawnee Police Department, he said he was a mechanic and performed vehicle maintenance and recovery in the Army.

"I am a very hard worker and fast learner," Grayson wrote in the employment application. "I am looking for a department to give me a chance to show what I can do. I am a team player and great communicator."

He also wrote that he also worked as a security guard at a hospital, as a landscaper and spent three years working at a fitness center.

He joined the sheriff's department in Sangamon County, population 196,300, in May 2023. He was fired last Wednesday, the day he was indicted.

Republican leaders urge colleagues to steer clear of racist and sexist attacks on Harris

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican leaders are warning party members against using overtly racist and sexist attacks against Vice President Kamala Harris, as they and former President Donald Trump's campaign scramble to adjust to the reality of a new Democratic rival less than four months before Election Day.

At a closed-door meeting of House Republicans on Tuesday, National Republican Congressional Committee chairman Richard Hudson, R-N.C., urged lawmakers to stick to criticizing Harris for her role in Biden-Harris administration policies.

"This election will be about policies and not personalities," House Speaker Mike Johnson told reporters after the meeting.

"This is not personal with regard to Kamala Harris," he added, "and her ethnicity or her gender have nothing to do with this whatsoever."

The warnings point to the new risks for Republicans in running

against a Democrat who would become the first woman, first Black woman and first person of South Asian descent to win the White House. Trump, in particular, has a history of racist and misogynistic attacks that could turn off key groups of swing voters, including suburban women, as well as voters of color and younger people Trump's campaign has been courting.

The admonitions came after some members and Trump allies began to cast Harris, a former district attorney, attorney general and senator, as a "DEI" hire — a reference to diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

"Intellectually, just really kind of the bottom of the barrel," Wyoming Rep. Harriet Hageman said in a TV interview. "I think she was a DEI hire. And I think that that's what we're seeing and I just don't think that they have anybody else."

Since Biden announced he was exiting the campaign, Republicans have rolled out a long list of attack

lines against Harris, including trying to tie her to the most unpopular Biden policies and his handling of the economy and the Southern border. Trump campaign officials and other Republicans have accused Harris of being complicit in a cover-up of Biden's health issues, and they have been mining her record as a prosecutor in California as they try to paint her as soft on crime.

Johnson said both Trump and Harris have records in White House policy and said voters can compare how families were doing under the Trump administration with how they're doing now under Biden.

"She is the co-owner, co-author, co-conspirator in all the policies that got us into the mess," Johnson said.

Biden announced Sunday that he was withdrawing from the race. In a memo on the state of the race Tuesday, Trump campaign pollster Tony Fabrizio argued the fundamentals of the campaign had not changed now that Harris appears increasingly likely to be the Dem-

ocratic nominee.

"The Democrats deposing one Nominee for another does NOT change voters discontent over the economy, inflation, crime, the open border, housing costs not to mention concern over two foreign wars," he wrote. "As importantly, voters will also learn about Harris' dangerously liberal record before becoming Biden's partner."

In similar messaging, Hudson told members at the Tuesday meeting that the NRCC is focusing on how Harris is even more progressive than Biden and essentially "owns" all the administration's policies, according to a person familiar with the conversation and granted anonymity to discuss it.

Sen. Steve Daines, who chairs the National Republican Senatorial Committee, echoed that criticism, calling Harris "too liberal."

"She's not an Irish Catholic kid who grew up in Scranton. She's a San Francisco liberal," Daines said.

Trump offered a similar argu-

ment in call with reporters Tuesday.

"She's the same as Biden but much more radical. She's a radical left person and this country doesn't want a radical left person to destroy it. She's far more radical than he is," he said.

"So I think she should be easier than Biden because he was slightly more mainstream, but not much," he added.

Later, in an interview on Newsmax, Trump claimed Harris "destroyed the city of San Francisco," though she left her job as district attorney there in 2011, and called her "the worst at everything."

"Kamala Harris is just as weak, failed and incompetent as Joe Biden — and she's also dangerously liberal," the Trump campaign said in a statement. "Not only does Kamala need to defend her support of Joe Biden's failed agenda over the past four years, she also needs to answer for her own terrible weak-on-crime record in California."

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