

# The News - Banner

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WEDNESDAY, JULY 31, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## Board of Works tackles fence encroachment and street closure issues

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Plans to construct a fence to replace hedges at 228 East Wiley St. needed an encroachment agreement with the city, which the Board of Public Works and Safety agreed to on Tuesday.

A swimming pool and the hedges are 7 ft. into the city right-of-way on Derek and Andrea Graham's property. The Wells County Area Plan Commission told the Grahams to apply for an encroachment agreement with the city for any future plans in that right-of-way.

Street Commissioner Tim Simpson's

only concern was that the fence could impact the sight line coming off the nearby alley onto Bennett Street.

In response, Derek stated that the fence would be an estimated 6 ft. tall and would be further away from the sidewalk than the hedges are. The hedges currently go right up to the sidewalk, and the fence would be an estimated one to three feet away.

Board member Scott Mentzer noted that an encroachment agreement would need to be drafted by the city. The board approved

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## West Nile Virus is found in county for third year

By HOLLY GASKILL

A testing pool of mosquitoes has returned positive for West Nile Virus.

A press release from the Wells County Health Department confirmed the results on Tuesday. The first person to test positive for the virus in Indiana was earlier this month in Lake County, and there has since been another human case in Lake County.

In Wells County, one mosquito sample pool of 10 collected tested positive, according to the Indiana Department of Health. Neighboring Huntington, Adams and Allen counties have also found West Nile Virus.

Wells County has had positive samples every summer for the last three years.

West Nile Virus is a disease transmitted through mosquito bites. The press release from the WCHD stated that most people will have no symptoms, but older populations or those with compromised immune systems may experience fever, headache, neck stiffness, nausea, vomiting and sore joints. The WCHD advises the public to seek medical attention immediately if showing systems. More information can also be found on the IDOH's website or at the local health department.

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When life gives you hot weather

Zahryia (left) and Jakoby Deniston opened up shop outside of Beauty From Ashes Studio in downtown Bluffton on Tuesday, making the most of the warm weather and thirsty customers. The two entrepreneurs sold iced lemonade for 50 cents a cup. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



New year, new faces

Norwell Community Schools welcomed new teachers Tuesday with a luncheon at Unique Blue in Bluffton. Pictured is, front, Macy Montgomery, Grace Webster, Haylie Bohata, Tiffany Stanley, Madison Casey, Peyton Switzer and Abigail Rodenbeck; middle, Kaylee Leary, Angie Piatt, Kaeli Eberle Leah Glassburn, Hannah Hewson, Kathleen Messmann, Crystal Hippensteel, Abbie Boyer and Zoe McNulty; and back, Rochelle Kennedy, Emilie Buzzard, Rachel McBride, Katelyn Feldhieser, April Roberts, Elizabeth Stalla and Elizabeth Mann. (Holly Gaskill)

## Plaintiffs push against state's legal response in HIP lawsuit

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

Plaintiffs rejected a state motion to reinstate its authority to impose premium-like charges on Medicaid beneficiaries under the Healthy Indiana Plan late Friday, urging the court to reject the state's arguments.

The filing comes nearly two weeks after the state sought a stay in case and appealed, saying the federal ruling invalidated the state's Medicaid expansion program for moderate-income adults under 65. The federal government pays for 90% of this population's expenses and the remainder is largely covered by a hospital tax.

In late June, Chief Judge James E. Boasberg ruled that the federal government shouldn't have approved a 10-year waiver extension of HIP that included POWER Account contributions and barred HIP enrollees from benefits like non-emergency transport and retroactive coverage — though the latter two are both part of other Medicaid programs.

Certain HIP beneficiaries previously had to pay POWER Account contributions, which operate as a sort of Health

Savings Account that they could use on copays and other health expenses. But Hoosiers repeatedly reported problems with the accounts and confusion over what qualified. Not paying could be a reason to take someone off of the program or reduce their benefits.

Boasberg noted that nearly 60,000 Hoosiers lost health coverage in some way due to not making POWER Account contributions between February 2015 and November 2016, or 29% of all beneficiaries who had to make payments. Additionally, over half of all enrollees missed at least one payment in 2015 and 2016.

Arguments from the plaintiffs

Plaintiffs said that the Family and Social Services Administration and Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services hadn't met the bar for a stay, dismissing a state argument that striking POWER Account contributions would "force" administrators to put everyone on HIP Basic, which has fewer benefits.

"Arguing that it is likely to succeed on the merits, the State simply reshapes arguments that the Court has already resoundingly rejected..." plaintiffs said. "...

(Continued on Page 2)

## Officer fatally shoots armed man on PFW campus

FORT WAYNE, Ind. (AP) — A police officer fatally shot an armed man on a northeastern college campus Tuesday after the suspect failed to respond to officers' commands, police said.

The shooting at Purdue University Fort Wayne prompted school officials to close the campus for the remainder of Tuesday.

Chief Scott Caudill of the Fort Wayne Police Department said the man who was shot was pronounced dead at the scene.

The man's name had not been released by authorities by Tuesday afternoon and it was unclear whether he was shot by a Fort Wayne officer or a Purdue-Fort Wayne officer.

Messages left Tuesday by The Associated Press seeking additional details from the Fort Wayne police spokesperson were not immediately returned.

Caudill said the DeKalb County Community Corrections office contacted his department about 7:15 a.m. seeking help locating a man who had failed to return to their custody. Minutes later, police learned the suspect might be armed with a handgun and was possibly on the Purdue-Fort Wayne campus, he said.

Fort Wayne and campus officers found

(Continued on Page 2)

## INDOT to close SR 218, 116

INDOT has announced the closure of State Road 218 for a bridge replacement near Poneto and State Road 116 in Bluffton for bridge deck overlay.

Starting on or after Aug. 5, crews will be working between Cherry Street and 250E, as well as between Stogdill Road and 400E. Construction is expected to last until the end of October. All work is weather-dependent and schedules are subject to change.

During the closure, drivers should use the approved detour of State Road 3, State Road 124 and State Road 1 for the closure on 218, or seek an alternate route. For construction on SR 116, drivers should use State Road 1, State Road 124 and State Road 301.

INDOT encourages drivers to consider safety for all by slowing down, using extra caution and driving distraction-free when travelling in and around all work zones.

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**Outside**

Threat of storms lingers, high heat index expected

Today	Thursday	Friday
High 96	High 89	High 82
Low 71	Low 70	Low 62

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# Board of Works

(Continued from Page 1)  
 The encroachment agreement and both parties will sign after it is drafted.  
 Two street closure issues also came before the board. One came from the Parlor City Shakespeare Company, who wished to close down the parking spaces in front of the courthouse Sep. 13-15 to make room for food trucks at its performance of Much Ado About Nothing.

The board approved the first two dates, but denied the closure on Sep. 15, due to Bluffton Free Street Fair preparations. While the Sunday showing will continue, no food trucks will be available and the Washington Street Commons parking lot will be closed. Other lots will remain available for the public.  
 The second closure request is at Elm Street, between Johnson and

Main streets, for the Parks Department's Touch a Truck event on Aug. 24. Parks Department Superintendent Brandy Fiechler requested the road be closed from 7 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. for safety purposes, citing the large amount of trucks last year.  
 Police Chief Kyle Randall also announced ordinance control officer Melissa Zirkle's resignation and a promotion for

officer Logan House, from introductory status to first class patrolman status. House completed the Bluffton Police Department's in-house training program and graduated from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy.  
 Additionally, the board paid an SRF claim to James S. Jackson Construction Company, totaling \$1,246,226.  
 jonathan@news-banner.com

# Weather

**Wednesday, July 31, 2024**  
**(24-hour observations at 11:06 p.m. Tuesday)**  
**High: 87; Low: 70; Precipitation: 0.14 inches of rain**  
**Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.32 feet at 10:11 p.m. Tuesday**

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** A 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms, mainly after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 87. Heat index values as high as 96. Southwest wind 5 to 10 mph.  
**Tonight:** A 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 71. Southwest wind around 5 mph.



**Thursday:** A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms, then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 89. Heat index values as high as 101. Southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Thursday Night:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 2 a.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 70. Southwest wind around 5 mph. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Friday:** Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after 2 p.m. Partly sunny, with a high near 82. Chance of precipitation is 70%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.



**Friday Night:** Showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm before 8 p.m., then a chance of showers and thunderstorms after 8 p.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 67. Chance of precipitation is 60%.

**Saturday:** A 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 84.

**Saturday Night:** A chance of thunderstorms before 8 p.m. Mostly clear, with a low around 65. Chance of precipitation is 30%.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 85.  
**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 64.  
**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 82.  
**Monday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 62.  
**Tuesday:** Sunny, with a high near 84.

# HIP lawsuit

(Continued from Page 1)  
 Indiana alleges it will be 'forced' to move beneficiaries from the HIP Plus benefit package to HIP Basic ... but neither federal nor state law requires that result. Any reduction in coverage in response to the Court's decision would be self-imposed, and a self-imposed consequence cannot justify a stay."

One of the biggest differences between HIP Basic and HIP Plus is dental and vision coverage.

FSSA previously announced it wouldn't restart POWER Account collections, which were due to start on July 1. Contributions have been paused since the COVID-19 pandemic started in 2020 and every beneficiary has been enrolled in HIP Plus.

The filing notes that state officials can resume the premium-like payments after giving plaintiffs and courts a six-weeks notice.

Additionally, plaintiffs argue that a better interpretation of Indiana's amended plan filed with CMS would be that everyone now qualifies for HIP Plus, rather than HIP Basic like state officials argue, without mandated contributions.

"Indiana seeks to paint a picture of massive disruption in the absence of a stay. But much of that imagined disruption would be of the State's own doing. For more than four years, expansion group beneficiaries have retained HIP Plus coverage and paid no premiums — that is the status quo," plaintiffs argued.

However, plaintiffs noted that the pandemic pause on contributions didn't extend to retroactive coverage or non-emergency medical transport. Because of that, "Plaintiffs believe that the Court could consider a limited stay that preserves this status quo."

In other words, plaintiffs signaled that a stay could apply to those two restrictions for HIP enrollees, but not to POWER Account contributions.

Imposing POWER Accounts stems from Senate Enrolled Act 165 passed in 2016. The wide-ranging bill addresses an assortment of directives for FSSA, including POWER Accounts, and strips authority from FSSA's secretary to make changes to the program, unless it is "required by federal law or regulation."

# Investigation finds at least 973 Native American children died in U.S. government boarding schools

By **MATTHEW BROWN**  
**Associated Press**

**BILLINGS, Mont. (AP)** — At least 973 Native American children died in the U.S. government's abusive boarding school system, according to the results of an investigation released Tuesday by Interior Department officials who called on the government to apologize for the schools.

The investigation commissioned by Interior Secretary Deb Haaland found marked and unmarked graves at 65 of the more than 400 U.S. boarding schools where Native American children were forcibly assimilated into white society. The findings don't specify how each child died, but officials said the causes of death included disease and abuse during a 150-year period that ended in 1969.

Additional children may have died after becoming sick at school and being sent home, officials said.

The findings follow a series of listening sessions held by Haaland over the past two years in which dozens of former students recounted harmful and often degrading treatment they endured at the hands of teachers and administrators while separated from their families.

"The federal government took deliberate and strategic action through boarding school policies to isolate children from their families, deny them their identities, and steal from them the languages, cultures, and connections that are foundational to Native people," Haaland, a member of the Laguna Pueblo tribe in New Mexico and the country's first Native American Cabinet secretary, said in a Tuesday call with reporters.

"Make no mistake," she added, "This was a concerted attempt to eradicate the quote, 'Indian problem' — to either assimilate or destroy native peoples altogether."

In their initial findings two years ago, officials had estimated more than 500 American Indian, Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian children died at the schools. The federal government passed laws and policies in 1819 to support the schools, which were still operating in the 1960s.

The schools gave Native American kids English names, put them through military drills and forced them to perform manual labor, such as farming, brick-making and working on railroads, officials said.

Former students shared tearful recollections of their experience during the listening sessions in Oklahoma, South Dakota, Michigan, Arizona, Alaska and other states. They talked about being punished for speaking their native language, getting locked in basements, and having their hair cut to stamp out their identities. They were sometimes subjected to solitary confinement, beatings and the withholding of food. Many left the schools with only basic vocational skills that gave them few job prospects.

Donovan Archambault, 85, the former chairman of the Fort Belknap Indian Reservation in Montana, said beginning at age 11 he was sent away to boarding schools where he was mistreated, forced to cut his hair and prevented from speaking his native language. He said the experience led him to drink alcohol heavily before he turned his life around more than two decades later. He never

talked about his school days with his children until he wrote a book about the experience several years ago.

"An apology is needed. They should apologize," Archambault told The Associated Press by phone Tuesday. "But there also needs to be a broader education about what happened to us. To me, it's part of a forgotten history."

Haaland said she was personally "sorry beyond words," but there should also be a formal apology from the federal government. She didn't say if she would press President Joe Biden to issue one.

Interior Department officials also recommended that the government invest in programs that could help Native American communities heal from the traumas caused by boarding schools. That includes money for education, violence prevention and the revitalization of indigenous languages — on a scale commensurate with government spending on the schools, agency officials said.

The schools, similar institutions and related assimilation programs were funded by \$23.3 billion in inflation-adjusted federal spending, officials determined. Religious and private institutions that ran many of the institutions received federal money as partners in the campaign to "civilize" Indigenous students, according to the new report.

By the 1920s, most Indigenous school-age children — some 60,000 children — were attending boarding schools that were run either by the federal government or religious organizations, according to the National Native American Boarding School Healing Coalition.

"These are stolen gen-

erations of children," said Deborah Parker, CEO for the Minnesota-based group. "It's about time the federal government speak so honestly and candidly about the impact."

Haaland said her own grandparents were "stolen from their parents, culture and communities" when they were 8 years old and forced to live in a Catholic boarding school until they were 13. Others who went to schools were as young as 4, she said.

More than 200 schools supported by the government had a religious affiliation, federal officials said. The boarding school coalition has identified more than 100 additional schools not on the government list that were run by churches, with no evidence of federal support.

U.S. Catholic bishops in June apologized for the church's role in trauma the children experienced. And in 2022, Pope Francis apologized for the Catholic Church's cooperation with boarding schools in Canada. He said the forced assimilation of Native peoples into Christian society destroyed their cultures, severed families and marginalized generations.

Legislation pending before Congress would establish a "Truth and Healing Commission" to further document past injustices related to boarding schools. The legislation would give the commission authority to subpoena people for evidence.

But Catholic bishops pushed back against giving that subpoena power in a letter to lawmakers last week. Members of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops wrote that the commission should "avoid an adversarial posture" since they are willing to cooperate.

# PFW shooting

(Continued from Page 1)  
 the armed man walking on the campus and approached him, but Caudill said the suspect did not respond to their commands. He said that at 7:48 a.m., officers notified dispatch "that shots had been fired and the sub-

ject was struck."  
 Caudill said Fort Wayne police and Indiana State Police are investigating the shooting along with the Purdue University Fort Wayne Police Department, Allen County prosecutors and the county coroner.

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 August 31 - Live music from the Trevor Hunt Band

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OBITUARIES

Gary Hemrick, 79

Gary L. Hemrick, 79 of Bluffton passed away on Monday afternoon, July 27, 2024, at his home.

Gary was born on April 10, 1945, in Fort Wayne to Dick and Luella June (Gehring) Hemrick. He graduated from New Haven Senior High School in 1963 and furthered his education at Indiana University in Fort Wayne and Bloomington. Gary worked for Falstaff, G.D. Searle & Co. as a drug rep, Home Loan Bank, Lutheran Social Services and more recently as a substitute teacher in Wells County schools. Gary enjoyed scuba diving, fishing and his Green Bay Packers.



On May 19, 2002, Gary and Kathryn L. (Bradbury) Sarla were married at St. Marks Lutheran Church in Uniondale. They shared 22 years of marriage together.

Survivors include his wife, Kathy of Bluffton, and his children Marc A. (Janel) Hemrick of Morrow, Ohio, and Valerie A. (Mark) Surber of New Haven, along with two stepsons, Adam C. Sarla and Eric R. Sarla, both of Fort Wayne. He was a loving grandpa to four grandchildren and two great-grandchildren. He is also survived by four sisters, Joan Hornbuckle of Zephyr Hills, FL., Susan (Steve) Luecke and Barbara (Cindy) Hemrick, both of Palm Coast, FL. And Anne Haywood of Ormond Beach, FL.

Visitation will be held from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024, at St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale. Funeral service will take place at 4:30 p.m. on Saturday with Pastor Jarrod Ball officiating. Burial will follow at Fairview Cemetery in Bluffton.

Memorials may be made to St. Mark's Lutheran Church in Uniondale or the Southern Wells School for the STEM Program in the High School, and may be directed to the funeral home.

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

Scott M. Weirauch, 52

Scott M. Weirauch, 52, of Ossian, formerly of Roanoke, passed away on Tuesday morning, July 30, 2024, at his residence.



Scott was born on Feb. 17, 1972, in Allen County to James A. Weirauch and Kathryn (Barone) Poling. He attended Huntington North High School. Scott had worked for Waste Management as a diesel truck mechanic. He was a skilled mechanic and enjoyed spending time in the garage or fishing. Putting things together was something that Scott really enjoyed, and he always had a project going around the house. Scott was a fan of Harley Davidson.

On Aug. 19, 2019, Scott and Jody L. (Conn) Lassiter were married in Noblesville.

Survivors include his wife, Jody, of Ossian; two sons, Alexander Miller of Northwood, Ohio, and Devon Miller of Bowling Green, Ohio; his stepchildren, Wetzel Spears and Chase Spears, both of California, and Azrea Lassiter of Indianapolis; and one grandson, James Miller. He will be remembered by his mother, Kathryn of Woodburn; a brother, James "Jim" Roemer of Fort Wayne; and three sisters, Teresa Hamilton of Ohio, Tiffany Poling of Woodburn and Tonya Poling of Ossian.

Per Scott's request, no formal services will be held. Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to the care of the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton. Friends can send online condolences to the family at www.thomarich.com.

Kenneth Ray Dishman, 58

Kenneth Ray Dishman "Ray-Ray", 58, of Montpelier, passed away on July 30, 2024.

He was born on Feb. 2, 1966, in Hartford City. He married Toni Pierson on March 20, 2004 in Montpelier. He will be missed by his wife; mother, Lorene "Polly" Dishman; children, Joshua Ray (Stacey) Dishman, James Randolph (Alyssa) Dishman, Anastacia Nicole (Jaren) Dishman, Kendrick Josiah (Maddy) Dishman; five grandchildren; sister, Darlene (John) Alfrey; sister-in-law, Annette (Rocky) Loney; and brothers-in-law, Yancy (Sarah) Slater, Charles (Angie) Hunt, James (Ashley) Hunt.

He was preceded in death by his father, James Kenneth Dishman.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 5-8 p.m. on Aug. 1, 2024, and 2-8 p.m. on Aug. 2, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 109 W. Windsor St. in Montpelier. A service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Aug. 3, 2024, at the funeral home. Interment will follow in the Brookside Memorial Park in Montpelier.

One killed in Huntington County car accident

Erika K. Beeks, 28, Andrews, Indiana, was the unrestrained occupant of a 2008 Toyota Sienna minivan that was southbound on State Road 105 around 5:58 a.m., when an eastbound 2017 Ford F150 pickup truck failed to stop at the intersection.

The truck was struck by the minivan, causing both vehicles to exit the roadway. During the collision, the decedent was ejected from the vehicle and died from blunt force impact injuries. Her death has been ruled accidental.

Two other occupants in the minivan, James K. Winkler, 33, Andrews, and an infant child were transported by ground ambulance to a Fort Wayne hospital with unknown injuries. The operator of the pickup truck, John D. Greene, 50, Wabash, was also ground transported to a Fort Wayne hospital with unknown injuries.

The coroner's office was assisted by the Huntington County Sheriff's Department, Mt. Etna Fire Department, Andrews Fire Department, Huntington Township Fire Department, Parkview Huntington Hospital EMS, Huntington County Traffic Team and Huntington Central Dispatch.

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.



Light fundraiser

Both a car show on Sunday and a golf outing Saturday raised over \$6,000 towards the purchase of new Christmas lights for the city. Any further donations towards the lights should be addressed to the Wells County Foundation, with "Christmas Lights" written in the memo line. (Photos provided)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Monday, 1:09 p.m., Wells County Courthouse. Warrant served to Devon Denny.

Monday, 1:11 p.m., 2200W 1000S, Keystone. Report of trespassing on property via ATV.

Monday, 6:03 p.m., 200W and 1000S, Keystone. Report of dump truck that hit telephone pole.

Monday, 7:56 p.m., North 100 East and 400 North, Bluffton. Driver cited for speeding 60 in a 45 mph zone.

Monday, 8:19 p.m., 5900 North Miller Street, Union-

dale. Report of harassment.

Monday, 9:32 p.m., Wells County Jail. Petition for revocation warrant served to Shawn Collins.

Tuesday, 8:14 a.m., 500 South and 100 West, Bluffton. iPad and case located.

Tuesday, 8:23 a.m., 600E and East 100N, Bluffton. Three dogs running loose.

Ossian:

Monday, 12:21 p.m., 7600N S.R. 1, Ossian. Report of garage on fire.

Monday, 1:26 p.m., S.R. 1 and U.S. 224, Ossian. Report of black smoke in area. Controlled burn.

Monday, 7:19 p.m., 600

block of Bittersweet Lane, Ossian. Report of a dog that ran off property and bit someone walking down the street. Dog owner was charged with harboring a non-immunized dog, a Class B misdemeanor.

Monday, 11:05 p.m., 200 block of Countryside Drive, Ossian. Caller reported man keeps banging on door.

Tuesday, 10:40 a.m., 5900 East North Street, Ossian. Officer requested to check for possible stolen trailer with a lawnmower.

ARRESTS

Shawn Michael Collis, 31, Bluffton; probation vio-

lation, a Level 6 felony. No bond set.

David Lee Cruz III, 20, Bluffton; theft and resisting law enforcement, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$3,000.

Jennifer Marie Feliciano, 47, Bluffton; operating without financial responsibility, a Class C misdemeanor. Booked and released.

David James Wolford, 21, Ossian; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Devon Wayne Denny, 22, Ossian; possession of marijuana, a Class B misdemeanor. Booked and released.

State attorneys reject pleas from Indiana death row inmate, press for court to set execution date

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

After death row inmate Joseph Corcoran challenged the state's motion for an execution date to be set, counsel at the attorney general's office are attempting to poke holes in Corcoran's legal arguments and pressing for the Indiana Supreme Court to grant the execution request.

Earlier this month, Corcoran's lawyers said in court filing that he is "unquestionably seriously mentally ill" and therefore should not be subject to the death penalty.

But in court documents filed last week, the state attorney general's office maintains that Corcoran "long ago exhausted his legal challenges to his convictions and sentence."

To attack his sentence and ultimately avoid the death penalty, Corcoran would have to gain permission from the Indiana Supreme Court to seek post-conviction relief and prove new evidence warrants additional litigation. Because Corcoran has not submitted such a petition, the state argued that Indiana's high court must assign an execution date.

"... in his response, (Corcoran) asks this Court to proclaim new bounds on the constitutionality of the death penalty in this State, and to declare his sentence inappropriate. He claims this extraordinary reversal is warranted by intervening changes in the law and an allegedly significant decline in his mental health. But he provides no evidence of these changed circumstances and does not seek the opportunity to prove

these allegations in a trial court," the state said in the July 19 filing.

Corcoran, who was convicted of murdering four people in Fort Wayne in 1997, filed his response with the Indiana Supreme Court shortly after Indiana Gov. Eric Holcomb and Attorney General Todd Rokita announced that the state's Department of Correction has obtained the drug necessary to carry out the death penalty.

It remains up to the state's high court justices how to proceed.

State and federal public defenders said in their challenge that Corcoran has long been diagnosed as mentally ill and continues to suffer from paranoid schizophrenia that causes him to experience "persistent hallucinations and delusions."

As such, they said the state supreme court should deny the motion to set an execution date and hear oral arguments on whether executing Corcoran would be permitted under the Indiana and United States constitutions.

Rokita's office outlined, though, that Corcoran can only dispute his sentence through a petition for post-conviction relief or a challenge based on new evidence — including a claim that his present mental condition "makes it unconstitutional to execute him."

"But even assuming that is the case (which the State does not concede), both this Court and the U.S. Supreme Court have declined to find that the existence of mental illness alone precludes execution," state attorneys wrote, adding that Corcoran "makes no effort to address the likeli-

hood that he would prevail" on postconviction claims.

The state emphasized that Corcoran also has not argued that he's ineligible to be executed under existing legal standards, such as a claim that his mental illness "is so severe that it prevents him from currently understanding the punishment he will suffer and why."

Corcoran's legal counsel have additionally called into question the execution drug, pentobarbital, recently acquired by the state but largely shrouded in secrecy by state officials.

The death row inmate's attorneys argued that an execution date should not be set until the state releases an updated execution protocol and "affirms no state or federal laws were broken in obtaining the drugs." They're also seeking information about the amount of pentobarbital in the state's possession and whether the drug has expired.

Rokita's office noted that Corcoran has a legal process available to address concerns about the use of pentobarbital "but has not availed himself of it." If Corcoran wants to challenge the method of execution — he must file a lawsuit, the office claims.

"Corcoran asks this Court to indefinitely delay scheduling execution until he receives an amorphous list of information related to the execution process," the attorney general's office said in the legal filing. "... he seems

to believe he can make a bare request for some time to do some investigation. That is not the case."

When asked last month by the Indiana Capital Chronicle where DOC acquired the drug and how much the state paid, Holcomb said he "can't go into those details, by law."

Lawmakers made information about the source of the drugs confidential on the last day of the 2017 legislative session.

The Capital Chronicle has filed an official records request seeking the cost of the drugs.

So far, the DOC said it's currently evaluating "what, if any, information regarding its lawful procurement" of pentobarbital it can disclose "without contravening Indiana law."

"As recent reporting on events outside of Indiana has underscored, information that is disclosed about the lawful procurement of lethal substances is being used to publicly identify suppliers and deter them from participating in the process," IDOC officials said in response to the Capital Chronicle's request. "Accordingly, the agency must balance the rights afforded under Indiana's Access to Public Records Act with its legal duty to carry out the lawful orders of Indiana's courts by obtaining lethal substances and to comply with the aforementioned confidentiality statute."

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## Disarming rhetorical violence in these Looney-Tunes times

My monthly Socratic discussion group met in mid-July with the intent of examining the proposition that China represents an existential threat to the United States. We call our monthly topics, distributed in advance with a suggested reading list, provocations due to their inherent controversy. We expect all the heat to be in the provocation itself with the light emanating from our serious and dispassionate application of the Socratic method.



Mark Franke

## Hoosier Opinions

The attempted assassination of Donald Trump provoked, if you will, a change in our subject matter.

The focus shifted to the language of politics and its descent into increasing intemperance to the point of serving as a catalyst to violence. We weren't buying into the woke claim that speech is itself violence but clearly speech can stimulate those who have no socially acceptable moral boundaries on their actions.

We, the Socratic group, are lovers of and avocational students of history. We were able to establish a list of times in the past when the rhetoric was equally provocative. Cicero's attacks on Marc Antony, the Hamilton/Jefferson anonymous ad hominem attacks through partisan newspapers, and pretty much anything anyone said about slavery in the 1850s all came to mind.

The speech of those times often did lead to violence but something seems different to us today and not just because we are condemned to live it. One of our group, a retired college professor, described us as swimming in a narcissism of social media exhibitionism. I wish I had said that.

When looking back to Cicero and the first century before Christ, public rhetoric was prized above all, except maybe for bloodshed in the public arenas. We likened our American elections to the electoral process of late republican Rome when it all came down to which candidate could spend enough of his own funds, or those drawn from the public fisc, in spectacles. Bread and circuses was the accepted political strategy then. It worked . . . at least for a while.

Is 21st century America any different?

Extremizing our rhetoric serves a useful political purpose. We can get agitated over something or someone to the point of monopolizing our miniscule attention spans. Agitation allows us to avoid talking about the issues themselves, which can be hard work.

Our presidential elections are not about policy; they are about people. J.D. Vance is already a target for a left-leaning national media. Kamala Harris is benefiting from a brief honeymoon that will end after the Democratic convention. And then there is Donald Trump, who just can't help himself.

Even though our group consists of conservatives of various schools of thought — classical liberal, libertarian, common good conservative, national conservative — we differ on our opinions of Trump and his candidacy. Most are cautious if not completely negative but several are supportive. It makes for lively discussion, all collegial and respectful.

But here is the conundrum. Like or dislike Donald Trump, what options do thinking conservatives have? I posed the following question to the group, in good Socratic style:

What is the one thing, policy or personality or issue, that would determine which candidate will get your vote in November?

Several refused the dilemma of a binary choice, something Socrates would not have allowed. This came from frustration with the two-party system in which sufficient choices are not available. To them it was not a binary choice between Biden (now Harris) and Trump. They would consider third party candidates or not voting at all as the morally best choice.

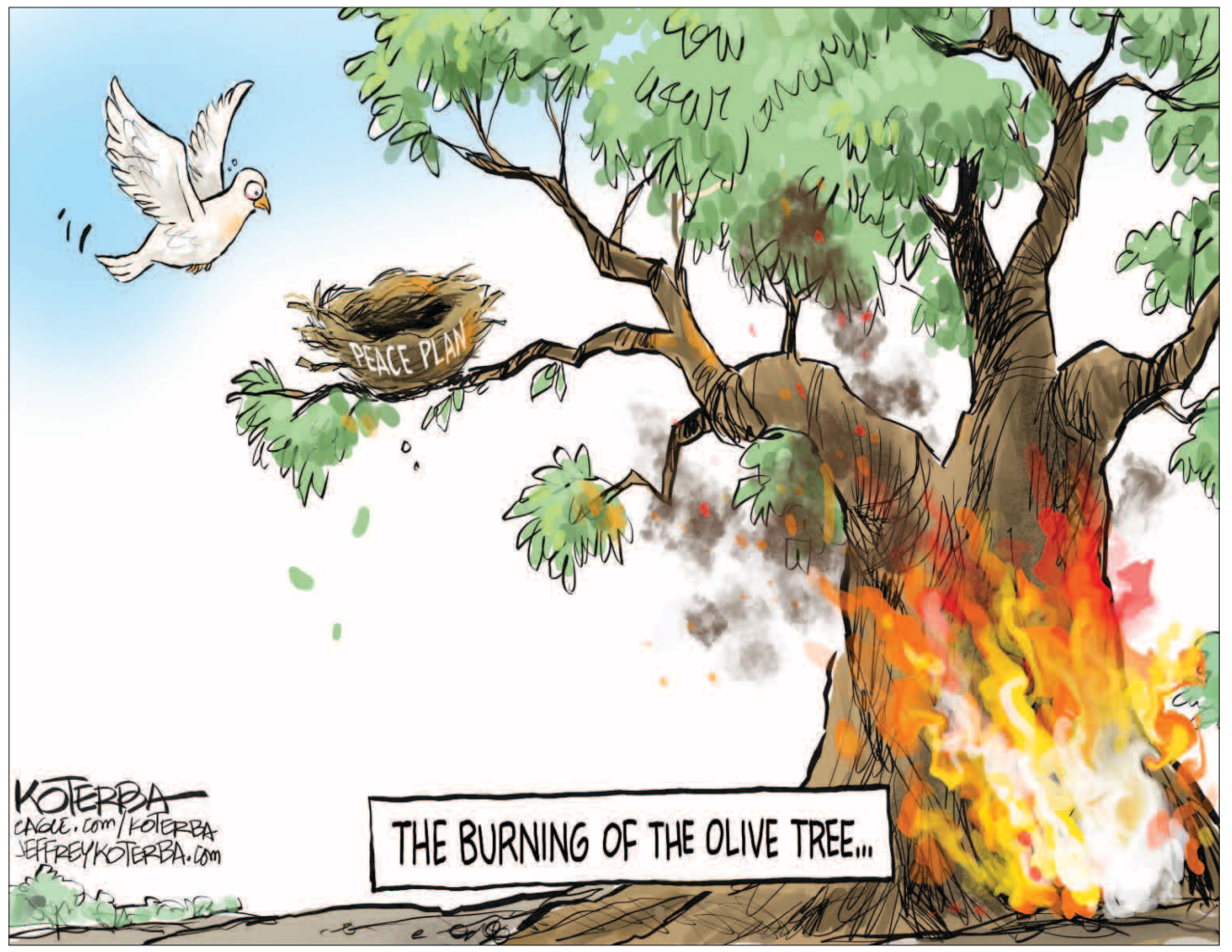
Most of us, however, had a pivotal issue. Many responses were liberty-related, such as which candidate would promote free-market economics instead of state capitalism or socialism. The very practical concern over Supreme Court nominees was mentioned as was the question of who would have the nuclear codes. Social issues such as family values and patriotism made the list.

We don't always arrive at a conclusion at these sessions but we do leave with what we call an action plan. That may be a misnomer because it is hardly a grandiose, "save the world" sort of agenda. We simply want to suggest actions that each of us as private citizens can take to make things better, better by our definition at least.

There is a Chinese proverb that it is better to light one little candle than to curse the darkness, so we developed a short list of candles to light: Focus on policy issues; create study groups similar to ours; plant seeds even if we won't live long enough to see them sprout; fight the good fight even when it doesn't prevail because that is what good people do.

Meanwhile we will continue to live in a cartoon world created by the likes of Hanna-Barbera. It sure does seem like Looney Toons some days.

Mark Franke, an adjunct scholar of the Indiana Policy Review, is formerly an associate vice chancellor at Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.



## Telling the truth about Gaza and Israel

Last week one of the world's great orators came to Washington and delivered an address to Congress that was so powerful and so true that a number of Democrat progressives boycotted his remarks, apparently because they can't handle the truth.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu proved a comment once made by ABC newsman Ted Koppel: "Our society finds truth too strong a medicine to digest undiluted. In its purest form, truth is not a polite tap on the shoulder. It is a howling reproach."

Netanyahu delivered a howling reproach to the anti-Israel and antisemitic demonstrators outside the Capitol building and on college campuses when he said: "Defeating our brutal enemies requires both courage and clarity. Clarity begins by knowing the difference between good and evil. Yet incredibly many anti-Israel protesters, many choose to stand with evil. They stand with Hamas." He called such people "useful idiots" to Iran, which he said was behind much of the demonstrations that promote hatred of Israel, Jews and, yes, America, as we saw when demonstrators burned American flags outside Union Station and defaced monuments.

Just how useful these "idiots" are to Iran was noticeable in an earlier statement by Iran's supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, who said anti-Israel demonstrators on college campuses are "on the right side of history."

Netanyahu mocked the demonstrators: "These protesters chant 'From the river to the sea.' But many don't have a clue what river and what sea they're talking about. They not only get an "F" in geography, they get an "F" in history. They call Israel a colonialist state. Don't they know that the land of Israel is where Abraham, Isaac and Jacob prayed, where Isaiah and Jeremiah preached and where David and Solomon ruled?"

He also responded to Hamas' propaganda that Israel is deliberately targeting civilians in Gaza: "... despite all the lies you've heard, the war in Gaza has one of the lowest ratios of combatants to non-combatant casualties in the history of urban warfare. And you want to know where it's lowest in Gaza? It's lowest in Rafah."

What about another Hamas lie that humanitarian aid is not reaching civilians (a lie Vice President Kamala Harris perpetuated after her meeting with Netanyahu).

"The prosecutor of the International Criminal Court has shamefully accused Israel of deliberately starving the people of Gaza," Netanyahu said. "This is utter complete nonsense. It's a complete fabrication. Israel has enabled more than 40,000 aid trucks to enter Gaza. That's half a million tons of food, and that's more than 3,000 calories for every man, woman and child in Gaza. If there are Palestinians in Gaza who aren't getting enough food, it's not because Israel is blocking it, it's because Hamas is stealing it."

After meeting with Vice President Harris, Netanyahu said her public statement was different from what she told him in private. She claimed Gazans were suffering from "food insecurity" and some are starving. She trotted out the old "formula" that only a two-state solution can end the regional conflict. This has been debunked so many times by statements from Israel's enemies which favor a one-state solution. It is amazing the line continues to be repeated over several administrations.

Following his meeting with Netanyahu at Mar-a-Lago, former president Donald Trump said he asked the prime minister why so many American Jews vote for Democrats, many of whom vote against Israel's (and America's) interests? "Habit," he quoted Netanyahu saying.

What ought to stick with Americans is what Netanyahu said about Iran's ultimate goal: "Last month, I heard a revealing comment, ostensibly about the war in Gaza, but about something else. It came from the foreign minister of Iran's proxy, Hezbollah, and he said this: 'This is not a war with Israel. Israel,' he said, 'is merely a tool.' The main war, the real war, is with America."

If Iran is allowed to produce a nuclear bomb they are likely to prove the truth of that claim.

tcaditors@tribpub.com



Cal Thomas

## J.D. Vance can't go back in time — and neither can the rest of us

For one of the youngest vice-presidential candidates ever nominated, J.D. Vance sounds a little crotchety. His convention speech last week pined for an America that the 39-year-old himself never knew — a land before drugs and deindustrialization ravaged the Rust Belt, when housing was cheap and families were intact, and proud American craftsmen made the world's best products with their own hands.

Of course, there's nothing wrong in wishing for things you don't remember — if they were really good, as many things were during the United States' manufacturing boom: There were job opportunities, families formed easily and people felt support from society. I have sympathy for Vance's desire to "put people to work making real products for American families."

The problem is that Donald Trump cannot bring those days back. And I suspect Vance is too smart to truly believe the former president could.

It's not just that economies have become too complicated to take apart and reassemble in some simpler, more desirable form. It's also that American voters would never stand for it. To see what I mean, consider a talk that Vance gave last February in which he suggested that "economics is fake" — based on his experience owning a 40-year-old refrigerator. "The refrigerator we had," he told the audience, "you would put lettuce in the icebox and it would be good a month later. . . . You cannot at any price point buy a refrigerator today that can do that."

During Vance's more recent convention speech, the Lettuce Fountain of Youth surfaced on social media to much giggling — because it sums up both the hazy appeal and



Megan McCordle

the implausibility of "Make America Great Again." Yet there is some truth in Vance's remark, which is more than a lament for the country's lost manufacturing might. It's also a complaint about the way society has become monomaniacally focused on consumer prices, to the detriment of many other things that make our lives better.

This complaint comes not only from MAGA America but also from left-leaning thinkers such as Lina Khan, the chair of the Federal Trade Commission. It resonates on both the right and left because the government and corporations do pay more attention to prices than to other things that are harder to measure, but no less important. People also care about quality, about having things that last. And they care about their identity as producers, as well as consumers.

Forcing manufacturing workers to compete with lower-wage counterparts elsewhere not only reduced their earning power, but also destabilized their communities, a process that began in the 1960s and '70s, but accelerated with the "China Shock" of the past 20 years. Many have had to choose between moving for work, sacrificing essential networks of friends and relatives, or staying put and contending with community decline. This has been a real loss.

What's more, some of the goods they could buy — including, yes, home appliances — did get worse in significant ways. Dishwasher cycles have lengthened into eons, which helps them reduce noise and save water, but wastes our time. Refrigerators come with internet connections but break more frequently (it's not your imagination). And when an appliance stops working, repairs are so expensive, people often just give up and buy a new one.

It's not crazy to want to return to the old ways, or at least try to create options for people who want more expensive but more durable goods, made by Americans living in prosperous manufacturing towns. It's just impossible. Not just practically, but also politically.

Voters might care about the quality of the goods they buy, but they still care a lot about prices, as our recent bout of inflation has demonstrated. Indeed, this is the reason that Vance looks so likely to become vice president in January.

And prices would have to rise a lot to bring back the fridge economy of yesteryear. The 10-percent, across-the-board tariffs Trump is proposing would be only a down payment.

In 1966, Sears sold customers a 21-cubic-foot capacity, self-defrosting, side-by-side refrigerator for as little as \$545. Today, the store's cheapest equivalent model is more than \$1,000. The bigger difference is that, in 1966, the U.S. median family income was \$7,500, while in 2022 it was \$97,750. If the price of fridges had held constant as a percentage of family income, that new one would cost more than \$7,000.

Now, one can argue that higher relative prices were a good trade-off for supporting a stable manufacturing sector that provided high-paying jobs to men with no education beyond high school. Those workers had the satisfaction of making tangible products and also the wherewithal to create stable families, buy homes and grab a piece of the American Dream. J.D. Vance is a smart guy, and I'm not sure I'd win that debate with him.

But I don't think he is smart enough to win his argument with a voter who just walked into Sears and discovered that new appliances suddenly cost seven times what they used to.

Follow Megan McCordle @asymmetricinfo on X

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# What did you ask? Ridiculous questions at the hospital

Because I recently was in the hospital and had so much time on my hands, I had time to think about just how ridiculous some of the questions I got asked while in the hospital could be rephrased or put just a bit differently to avoid irritation and/or fear for the patient.



**Kathy Schwartz**

One of the first questions I was asked was "Why are you here?" Now I look around. I am in an emergency room. It is a place where people in distress come, not by choice but necessity. Usually, a person that is experiencing pain has debated with themselves or their significant other for several hours as to whether the pain was BAD enough to warrant a trip to the ER. I'm not here to take a survey. I definitely am not happy to be here. Perhaps it could be asked "What is the problem that brings you here today?"

Once you establish that you are in pain, the next question that is asked, "On a scale of 1 to 10, how much pain are you experiencing?" I want to respond, "Can you see I'm bent over and can't straighten

up? Can you hear me grinding my teeth and practicing those breathing techniques I learned in Lamaze class?" Also, pain is all relative. If you have never had a baby or passed a kidney stone, your '10' may be when you sprained an ankle or had a tooth pulled. Perhaps they should establish what caused the worse pain you have felt and then proceed to compare your current pain to that. Obviously, my '10' is quite high because my pain tolerance is high. I have an indicator for my pain. Severe pain causes me to form beads of sweat on my upper lip and my stomach feels like its going to empty at any minute. As soon as the sweat appears, I tell my husband to accompany me to the ER. A better question for me is "How many beads of sweat do you have on your lip?"

I am a child of the 60s and I am very aware of certain forms of entertainment, but I always smile when asked, "Are you on any social drugs?" What person in their right mind would admit they were using illegal drugs, and I can spot dilated pupils and slurred speech a mile away. Perhaps with the trend of herbal supplements



and tonics, one should be asked, "What substances do you take on a daily basis?" I must admit I do take several herbal remedies, which I include on my list of medicines that I keep in my wallet.

This next question is particularly troublesome for me. "Do you have any allergies?" My list of allergies is longer than the medications I take. I carry a list which includes what type of reaction I get and when I became allergic. This information takes a good ten minutes. The intake nurse, followed by the doctor always get this "Are you sure?" look on their face. Yes, I am sure. No, I am not making this up. Those neat little red bands they put on the patient's wrist is a visual warning for nurses to be aware of allergies. After wearing two or three of those puppies, I have graduated to the words, "Check patient's chart" written on my red band.

The next two come in tandem. "Do you drink alcohol?" and "Do you drink coffee?" followed by "How much?" My answer, "No, but I'd love to." Thank goodness they don't make you remember the number of beverages that you

have consumed in your younger and foolish days!

I am always set back with "Do you have a living will?" I immediately go to the thought, "Why? Am I dying! I came in for gastro pain! Should I be worried?" Don't you think they could find a new terminology for this document? There's something about 'living' and 'will' in the same sentence that's a little creepy.

I burst into laughter when an X-ray technician asked, "Is there a chance you are pregnant?" I thought maybe this poor child was working a double shift or in need of an eye exam. I responded, "If I am I am calling the National Enquirer!" The technician smiled and replied, "I know it's ridiculous, but I am required to ask." There is some solace in the fact they recognize some of the idiocy in a few of the questions.

I would like to count how many times I gave my name and birthdate to anyone that walked into my room. I have threatened to get it tattooed somewhere on my body. When I suggested just that thing, a nurse smiled and said, "I'd still have to ask you?"

My very nice doctor whom I had just met was reciting the list of questions that they all ask when you are admitted. She paused, smiled, and said, "Do you want to be resuscitated?" The

look of shock that appeared on my face prompted her to quickly add that she felt that would probably not be needed but she had to ask. That was the second time I heard that explanation!

**Here's the Thing:** I am very aware that many of the questions that you are asked when you find yourself in the emergency room or admitted to the hospital have become a necessity as a result of some lawsuit in the past. The CYA (Cover Your A\*\*\*) rule has become evident in more than just the medical profession. It also begs the question, "What if a patient is unable to speak and the question goes unanswered?" Does that prevent the procedure to be done? I have come to the realization that the questions will keep on being asked, so I have decided to be prepared with some answers that might bring a smile to someone's face. After all, the news of a pregnant seventy-five-year-old woman would spice up the hospital staff's breaktime.

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

## 1,000 BOOKS BEFORE KINDERGARTEN



Several children recently completed the 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten Program at the Wells County Public Library by reading and listening to 1,000 books with the help of family members.

At left, Hank Tonner (holding his prize book "A Violin for Elva") and Gus Tonner (holding his prize book "May There Always Be Sunshine") are pictured with their mother Jessica.



At right, Sofia Rinkenberger (holding her prize book "Follow the Moon Home") and William Rinkenberger (holding his prize book "Happy Cats") are pictured with their mother Lucia and baby brother, Henry. Not pictured is their father Chase Rinkenberger.



At left, Colson Lehman (holding his prize book "Follow the Moon Home") is pictured with his parents Greg and Stacy and his brother Hunter.

The 1,000 Books Before Kindergarten program is sponsored by the United Way of Wells County, the Wells County Foundation, and the Friends of the Library. The program not only helps prepare children for school, but instills the value of reading and life-long learning. For more information visit the Wells County Public Library's website at [www.wellscolibrary.org](http://www.wellscolibrary.org) and click on the "Children" section.

## Events at FW's Promenade Park

Free **Muddy River Concerts** will continue on Wednesday evenings at Promenade Park on: Aug. 7: Rachel Brooke and Aug. 21: Left Lane Cruiser. Food and Drink available from Ted's Snacks and bar and Promenade Park Cafe.

**Canal Boat Rides** on Sweet Breeze. History Tours on Saturday and Sunday afternoons: 90 minutes: \$30 or 45 Minutes: \$20 and Thursday evenings 60 minutes: \$23. Visit [RideSweetBreeze.org](http://RideSweetBreeze.org) for details

and tickets.

Free **Storytime in the Park** will be held on Wednesdays under the awning of the Promenade Park Pavilion from 9:30 to 10 p.m. (Through Aug. 28.)

**Dragon Boat Races** will be held Aug. 2-3 at Promenade Park. Opening ceremony on Friday at 5 p.m. Hours on Saturday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. All events are free and include kids activities, music, food, dancing and floating fire pits.

## Guitar Fest at Sweetwater

On Saturday, Aug. 10 from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Sweetwater Sound will host a free Guitar Fest in Fort Wayne.

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## A Talk with Tego



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Tego

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## Al-Anon support in Bluffton

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# Many moves made in a sellers market MLB trade deadline this season

## Associated Press

The Major League Baseball deadline was wildly active in the final few hours, as buying teams made their final moves to acquire players to make a postseason push. This year, the selling teams got the most out of their returns, as several starting pitchers were dealt. Here is a recap of all the moves made at the deadline.

### Cardinals add Erick Fedde and Tommy Pham from White Sox in three-team deal

The St. Louis Cardinals have acquired right-hander Erick Fedde and outfielder Tommy Pham as part of a three-team trade that also moved hard-throwing reliever Michael Kopech to the Los Angeles Dodgers. St. Louis got Fedde and Pham from the major league-worst Chicago White Sox, who also sent Kopech to the Dodgers. The NL West leaders also acquired utilityman Tommy Edman from the Cardinals. The White Sox received infield prospects Miguel Vargas, Alexander Albertus and Jeral Perez from the Dodgers. Fedde should provide a boost for the Cards' rotation as they try to rally into a playoff spot after they missed the postseason last year.

### Dodgers add Tigers' starter Jack Flaherty, OF Kevin Kiermaier

The NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers acquired right-hander Jack Flaherty from the Detroit Tigers just before the trade deadline to bolster their rotation and also obtained four-time Gold Glove Award-winning center fielder Kevin Kiermaier from the Toronto Blue Jays. The 28-year-old Flaherty is from the Los Angeles area. He was 7-5 with a 2.95 ERA in his first season with the Tigers. He had 133 strikeouts with a 0.96 WHIP and .211 batting average against.

### Yankees swap for Mark Leiter Jr. from Cubs

The New York Yankees acquired right-handers Mark Leiter Jr. from the Chicago Cubs and Enyel De Los Santos from the San Diego Padres at Tuesday's trade deadline while dealing left-hander Caleb Ferguson to the Houston Astros as they retooled aiming for more bullpen strikeouts. New York sent right-hander Jack Neely and infielder Ben Cowles to the Cubs and outfielder Brandon Lockridge to the Padres while getting minor league right-hander Thomas Balboni Jr. from the Padres. The Yankees received minor league right-hander Kelly Austin and international signing bonus pool allocation from the Astros.

### Padres bolster bullpen with addition of Tanner Scott

The San Diego Padres added to their already strong bullpen by acquiring All-Star left-hander Tanner Scott and right-hander Bryan Hoeing from the Miami Marlins in exchange for four players just before the trade deadline. General manager A.J. Preller said the move was made with an eye toward the playoffs, which the Padres missed last year after reaching the NL Championship Series in 2022. He says the team needs a really deep 13-man staff in the playoffs. The Padres are in second place in the NL West, 6 1/2 games behind Los Angeles, and in the third wild-card spot.

### Orioles get SP Trevor Rogers from Marlins

The Baltimore Orioles have added another starting pitcher before the trade deadline.

They acquired left-hander Trevor Rogers from the Miami Marlins for infielder Connor Norby and outfielder Kyle Stowers. The 26-year-old Rogers was 2-9 with a 4.53 ERA this season for the Marlins. He joins a Baltimore rotation that already added Zach Eflin from Tampa Bay. The Orioles entered Tuesday night's game against Toronto with a half-game lead in the AL East. But injuries to Kyle Bradish, John Means and Tyler Wells left the team needing starting pitching help both this year and into the future.

### White Sox dump Eloy Jimenez to Orioles

The Baltimore Orioles have acquired outfielder Eloy Jiménez from the Chicago White Sox for minor league left-hander Trey McGough. The 27-year-old Jiménez is hitting .240 with just five home runs and 16 RBIs this season. He's been limited to 65 games in 2024 because of adductor and hamstring issues after reaching double figures in homers each of his first five seasons. Baltimore also received another outfielder Tuesday when Austin Slater was traded for the second time this month. Slater went from San Francisco to Cincinnati on July 7. Now he's been dealt to the Orioles along with minor league infielder Livan Soto and cash. The Reds receive cash or a player to be named.

### Guardians add much needed SP Alex Cobb from Giants

The Cleveland Guardians found some starting pitching before the trade deadline, acquiring right-hander Alex Cobb in a deal with the San Francisco Giants. The AL Central leaders were one of several contenders in the market for a starting pitcher and landed the 36-year-old Cobb for prospect Jacob Bresnahan and a player to be named. Cobb hasn't pitched in the major leagues since hip surgery last year. He made six minor league starts in July, going 1-1 with a 3.93 ERA. Cobb was on the verge of returning but developed a blister on his right index finger.

### Astros fetch Yusei Kikuchi from Jays

The Astros have acquired left-hander Yusei Kikuchi from the Toronto Blue Jays for 23-year-old right-hander Jake Bloss, rookie outfielder Joey Loperfido and minor league first baseman Will Wagner. Kikuchi, 33, is 4-9 with a 4.75 ERA in 22 starts this season, striking out 130 and walking 30 in 115 2/3 innings. He is 0-4 with a 7.75 ERA in eight starts since winning at Milwaukee on June 11. Kikuchi is 35-46 with a 4.72 ERA in six seasons with Seattle and the Blue Jays. He has a \$10 million salary and can become a free agent after the World Series.

### Other deals

- St. Louis added right-handed reliever Shawn Armstrong, sending outfielder Dylan Carlson and cash to the Tampa Bay Rays.
- The New York Mets acquired starter Paul Blackburn from Oakland for minor league right-hander Kade Morris. Blackburn was an All-Star in 2022 but missed more than two months this season with a stress reaction in his right foot before coming off the 60-day injured list last Friday. The right-hander is 4-2 with a 4.41 ERA in nine starts and figures to slot into a rotation missing injured ace Kodai Senga and rookie Christian Scott.
- The Pirates, in the middle of the NL wild-card race, also added outfielder Bryan De La Cruz from Miami for two prospects. De La Cruz led the Marlins with 18 homers.

## Green Valley Golf League results

Tom Grzych, George Thomas, Tom Nahlwold and Mike Pursifull were a part of the winning team in this week's Green Valley Golf League. The team shot a -12 on the day.

Steve Folk had a low gross 36, and both Thomas and Joe Baur had a low net of 30. Don Pettit had the closest to pin and Baur the longest putt.

## Simone Biles, Team USA earn gold in women's gymnastics

### By WILL GRAVES AP National Writer

PARIS (AP) — Simone Biles, Jordan Chiles and Sunisa Lee spent the night before perhaps the biggest gymnastics meet of their lives restless.

There was a tension in the air. They'd all been in the Olympic spotlight before, experiences that left them with medals but also the kind of scars — be they physical, psychological or both — that heal but never really go away.

And here they were in Paris, the leaders of a star-laden U.S. team everyone expected to finish atop the medal stand, and something wasn't right.

In a different time, in a different era, it might have festered. Might have followed them onto the floor at Bercy Arena and into the history books, too.

This is not a different time. This is not a different era. This is now.

So the oldest team the U.S. has ever sent to the Olympics, a group that has spent their respective careers breaking barriers about what a female gymnast can and can't do, what they can and can't be, did something they never used to do.

They talked, with Biles — three years removed from a Tokyo Games that dragged the conversation around mental health and sports kicking and screaming into the light — right in the middle of it.

"I think there was a little bit of struggle," she said. "So it was really needed."

By the time they walked onto the floor for the Olympic final, the tension was gone, largely replaced with joy.

And not soon after, gold. The self-described "Redemption Tour," the moniker given to a team filled with women who wanted to return to the Games for deeply personal reasons, ended with Biles and the Americans where they have almost always been since she burst onto the scene 11 years ago: on top of the podium, the rest of the world looking up.

Eight years after winning gold in Rio with a group that called Aly Raisman grandma because she was all of 22, Biles — now 27 and married — was back again

with Jade Carey (24), Chiles (23), Lee (21) and teenager Hezly Rivera at her side.

"We don't have to be put in the box anymore," Biles said.

No, they don't.

With Biles at her show-stopping best, the Americans' total of 171.296 was well clear of Italy and Brazil and the exclamation point of a yearlong run in which Biles has cemented her legacy as the greatest ever in her sport, and among the best in the history of the Olympics.

"She's the greatest of all greats," said Chiles, who now has gold to go with the team silver she, Lee and Biles earned in Tokyo, when Biles removed herself from the team final to protect herself.

Chiles, who seemed like a longshot to make it this spring after injuries piled up, was pretty good in her own right. She began the night by drilling her double-twisting Yurchenko vault, sending the Americans on a four-apparatus stop on their "Tour" that felt equal parts coronation and celebration.

By the time Biles, the left calf that bothered her during qualifying heavily taped, stepped onto the floor for the final event — a floor exercise set to music by Taylor Swift and Beyonce — it was over.

She joked she knew she simply needed to stay on her feet to win. She did more than that, providing an exclamation point on the U.S.'s third gold in its last four trips to the Games.

The Americans remain peerless (if not flawless, this is gymnastics after all) when at their best.

And over two hours in front of a crowd that included everyone from tennis great Serena Williams and actor Natalie Portman, Biles left little doubt about anything.

Her status as the sport's greatest of all time. Her ability to move past the "twisties" that derailed her in Japan. Her spot in the pantheon of the U.S. Olympic movement.

She now has a staggering 38 medals in major international competitions. Eight of those have come under the Olympic rings, moving her past Shannon Miller for the most by an American gymnast.

## Men's triathlon postponed over Seine water quality at Olympics

### By PAT GRAHAM and

### KATE BRUMBACK Associated Press

PARIS (AP) — Olympics organizers are banking on the sun and scorching temperatures to improve the water quality of the Seine River enough for triathletes to swim in it.

Otherwise, they could be feeling the heat. Concerns about the Paris river's cleanliness postponed the men's triathlon on Tuesday, with officials hoping the swimming portion of the race will soon be able to go forward in the long-polluted waterway following an expensive cleanup effort.

Organizers said they will try to hold the men's triathlon Wednesday instead. The women's competition also is scheduled that day, but both will only happen if water tests show acceptable levels of E. coli and other bacteria. Friday is also planned as a backup date.

However, storms or rain are forecast Tuesday night through Thursday, which could complicate rescheduling because rain generally causes bacteria levels in the Seine to rise.

"It's disappointing that there's this negative aspect now with the delay," American

triathlete Seth Rider said. "But I hope we can have a triathlon and I can accomplish this dream that I've had since I was a little kid."

Aurélie Merle, the Paris 2024 director of sports, told reporters Tuesday that water samples are taken 21 and a half hours before decisions are made about the swim, leaving uncertainty about its accuracy the day of the race.

Paris spent 1.4 billion euros (\$1.5 billion) to improve the water quality in the Seine so the swimming portion of the triathlon and the marathon swimming event next week could be held in the famed river that runs through the city center. But bacteria levels have remained in flux.

Organizers were asked if they put the aesthetics of the triathlon over the best interests of athletes.

"We're living in the 21st century where, unfortunately, there are far more meteorological events that happen that are beyond the control of the organizers," Merle said. "We've seen that we go from heavy rain to extreme heat like today in very few days. So it's actually hard to control how it can affect the quality of a river."

## 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

#### Monday's Games

No games scheduled.

#### Tuesday's Games

No games scheduled.

#### Wednesday's Games

No games scheduled.

#### Thursday's Games

No games scheduled.

#### Friday's Games

No games scheduled.

## BASEBALL

### MLB

#### AMERICAN LEAGUE

Monday's Games	
Baltimore 11, Toronto 5, 1st game	
Cleveland 8, Detroit 4	
N.Y. Yankees 14, Philadelphia 4	
Toronto 8, Baltimore 4, 2nd game	
Boston 14, Seattle 7	
N.Y. Mets 15, Minnesota 2	
Texas 6, St. Louis 3	
Kansas City 8, Chicago White Sox 5	
Pittsburgh 5, Houston 3	
Tuesday's Games	
Cleveland 5, Detroit 0	
Baltimore 6, Toronto 2	

N.Y. Mets 2, Minnesota 0	
Tampa Bay 9, Miami 3	
Seattle 10, Boston 6	
St. Louis 8, Texas 1	
Kansas City 4, Chicago White Sox 3	

N.Y. Yankees 7, Philadelphia 6, 12	
innings	

Pittsburgh 6, Houston 2	
Colorado at L.A. Angels, late	
Oakland at San Francisco, late	

Wednesday's Games	
Miami (Muñoz 1-5) at Tampa Bay	(Bradley 6-4), 12:10 p.m.
N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 4-9) at Philadelphia (Sánchez 7-6), 12:35 p.m.	
Toronto (Espino 0-0) at Baltimore	(Rodriguez 12-4), 12:35 p.m.
Minnesota (López 9-7) at N.Y. Mets	(Severino 7-3), 1:10 p.m.
Kansas City (Singer 7-6) at Chicago White Sox (Thorpe 3-2), 2:10 p.m.	
Texas (Heaney 4-10) at St. Louis	(McGreevy 0-0), 2:15 p.m.
Seattle (Kirby 8-7) at Boston (Bello 10-5), 4:10 p.m.	
Pittsburgh (Pérez 2-5) at Houston	(Valdez 9-5), 8:10 p.m.
Colorado (Freeland 2-4) at L.A. Angels (TBD), 9:38 p.m.	
Oakland (Stripling 2-9) at San Francisco (Webb 7-8), 9:45 p.m.	

Thursday's Games	
Baltimore at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.	
Kansas City at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.	
Colorado at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.	

Friday's Games	
Baltimore at Cleveland, 6:40 p.m.	
Kansas City at Detroit, 6:40 p.m.	
Colorado at L.A. Angels, 9:38 p.m.	

Saturday's Games	
N.Y. Yankees 14, Philadelphia 4	
Cincinnati 7, Chicago Cubs 1	
N.Y. Mets 15, Minnesota 2	
Milwaukee 8, Atlanta 3	
Texas 6, St. Louis 3	
Pittsburgh 5, Houston 3	
Arizona 9, Washington 8	

Sunday's Games	
N.Y. Mets 2, Minnesota 0	
Tampa Bay 9, Miami 3	
Cincinnati 6, Chicago Cubs 3	

St. Louis 8, Texas 1	
N.Y. Yankees 7, Philadelphia 6, 12	
innings	

Atlanta 5, Milwaukee 1	
Pittsburgh 6, Houston 2	
Colorado at L.A. Angels, late	
L.A. Dodgers at San Diego, late	
Washington at Arizona, late	
Oakland at San Francisco, late	

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Minnesota (López 9-7) at N.Y. Mets	(Severino 7-3), 1:10 p.m.
Atlanta (Sale 13-3) at Milwaukee	(Peralta 6-6), 2:10 p.m.
Texas (Heaney 4-10) at St. Louis	(McGreevy 0-0), 2:15 p.m.
Washington (Gore 6-8) at Arizona	(Gallen 8-5), 3:40 p.m.
Chicago Cubs (Hendricks 2-9) at Cincinnati (Lodolo 8-3), 7:10 p.m.	
Pittsburgh (Pérez 2-5) at Houston	(Valdez 9-5), 8:10 p.m.
L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-0) at San Diego	(Cease 10-8), 8:40 p.m.
Colorado (Freeland 2-4) at L.A. Angels (TBD), 9:38 p.m.	
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# The Classifieds

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## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★

7/31

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**MARV'S CONSTRUCTION**  
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\$4,995.00\* Siding /Windows \$1,000 OFF! OFFER ENDS SOON! WE WILL NOT BE UNDERSOLD! 100% Financing. SR/Military Discounts SAVE HUNDREDS!! Finally a company with affordable prices. 800-350-0591\* for details (I)

### VEHICLES

#### Campers/RV's

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

## Lottery Numbers

### Tuesday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

Cash 5 — 09-11-13-29-40  
Cash4Life — 42-45-48-49-50, Cash Ball: 04  
Quick Draw Midday — 04-05-07-08-15-19-22-31-33-35-38-42-46-55-62-66-67-74-75-80, BE: 80  
Daily Three-Midday — 03-06-08, SB: 01  
Daily Three-Evening — 01-06-00, SB: 03  
Daily Four-Midday — 04-03-09-07, SB: 01  
Daily Four-Evening — 03-02-01-01, SB: 03  
Quick Draw Evening — 01-04-07-08-09-24-27-31-34-41-46-50-52-54-57-64-65-67-71-75, BE: 75  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$18.5 million

### MEGA MILLIONS

19-23-30-33-50; Mega Ball: 25; Megaplier: 2X.

### POWERBALL

Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$154 million

### LINE CLASSIFIED AD DEADLINES:

Monday editions: Friday by 4 p.m.; Tuesday-Friday editions: day-before by 3:30 p.m.; Saturdays: Friday by 11:30 a.m.

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ADD A PHOTO

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20 words \$39

Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

### ADD A PHOTO!

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

### GARAGE SALES

Put your Garage Sale in Wells County's Easy-to-Use Garage Sale Guide!

Get a FREE

### GARAGE SALE KIT

when you place your Garage Sale ad in The News-Banner for 3 days or more.

## SELL YOUR WHEELS!

### HOT DEAL!

20 Words, 10 Days

just \$25

ADD A PHOTO

for just \$5 more

One item per ad

### GUARANTEED

### SOLD

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

20 words \$39

Add'l Lines: 88 cents each

### ADD A PHOTO!

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

### SERVICES SPECIAL!

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Add a photo or artwork to any ad! You can also add a headline or other attention-getters for less than you'd expect! Place your ad ON-LINE and explore the possibilities!

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

#### INDOOR GOLF TEAM MEMBER

Earn \$14 / hour, with full participation in the tip pool and enjoy discounted / free golf and a flexible schedule!

Work Shifts consist of either a 6 hour morning shift, spanning from 8:30a - 3:00p, or a 6 hour evening shift, spanning from 3:00p to 9:30p. Work shifts are based on a swing shift schedule so Team Members will be scheduled to work every other weekend. Both morning and evening shifts are available.

This is a seasonal role. The season spans from September 1st - April 30th.

[parandbelow.com](http://parandbelow.com)  
Click "Join Our Team" to fill out an application.

### FOR SALE

#### Miscellaneous

#### THIS OUT!

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

**ROWE POTTERY VILLAGE,** Snowden snowmen, bedding, glass Christmas bulbs, cedar chest, custom made room divider, many more items. Call 260-758-2474.

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#### Services

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## Public Sale Calendar

#### 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 house: 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.](http://www.steffengrp.com), [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.

#### 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/Hitzer stove, Geothermal w/backup LP furnace, Generac 11 kw whole house generator, 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! Pick up Aug. 12, 2-6 p.m., 4182 W 900 N, Decatur. [Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC](http://www.krueckeburg.com), 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://www.kjauction.com).

#### 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.](http://www.steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://www.steffengrp.com).

**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/heated 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. [Krueckeburg Auction & Realty LLC](http://www.krueckeburg.com), 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://www.kjauction.com).

### Public Notice

**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

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

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## July GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY



### Jerry Flack & Associates

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As your guide through the "Medicaid Planning" process, Swearingen Elder Law will provide the right path to both protect your life savings and receive the quality of care we all deserve.



-OSSIAN-  
1645 Hillcrest Dr., Suite 2A  
Ossian, IN 46777  
Attorney  
Gerret J. Swearingen

### SWEARINGEN ELDER LAW

- Medicaid Planning
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