

# The News - Banner

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TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00

## No decision yet on Rock Creek Quarry petition

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
The Wells County Commissioners have not yet decided on a detour of County Road 500 West, requested by the Rock Creek Stone Quarry.  
During public comments during Monday's regular meeting, Chase

Fiechter of the quarry asked when they could revisit the item. The commissioners had last discussed the proposal on June 17, with verbal plans to decide at the following July 1 meeting.  
The commissioners advised they were under the impression

that County Attorney Ted Storer was awaiting further information from Rock Creek's counsel. Andrew Heck of Beers Mallery was present in Storer's place on Monday but couldn't speak to the particular issue.  
Both parties said they would

check in with their teams.  
In their most recent presentation, the business proposed travel be diverted east just before the Whitelock Ditch, continuing east over the ditch and turning north toward County Road 100 North. The quarry would incur all project

costs and wait until after December 2025 to allow the 100N as a detour for previously scheduled construction.  
The business plans to expand the quarry across the road and stated that the permanent road closure is  
(Continued on Page 2)



### Bluffton registration day

Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools held registration for the upcoming year on Monday. Kids explored the classrooms and filled out extracurricular activity forms for the new year. Above left, Sophie Eicher, left, and Brendan Parrett listen to what Karen Bell has to say about a toy. Above right, Daniel Wible looks over some online forms while Amyrilyn Wible watches. At right, from left to right, Ariana, Haley, Amelia and Xzavior Ashman purchase some new Bluffton shirts. At left, Alexandria Combes, right, talks with Hunter Cunningham about what they both did over the summer. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## Care stagnant as nonprofit hospitals sue Hoosiers

**By RYAN MURPHY, Indiana Capital Chronicle**  
Patrick Lopez couldn't breathe. He had dealt with asthma since childhood, but this was different. He felt like he was drowning.

A doctor at Community Hospital in Munster confirmed it: his lungs were full of fluid and he would need to be admitted for COVID-19 complications. Lopez spent a week in the intensive care unit.

"I was terrified for my life," he recalled in an interview. "I knew I had to fight."

It was 2020. Lopez had already lost his job as a maintenance mechanic and, in turn, his health insurance. But he focused on survival, knowing that financial assistance was available through the nonprofit hospital.

Lopez found another job. He proposed to his girlfriend. They learned they were about to have a little girl.

Then he received a hospital bill for \$40,000. He worked out a payment plan with Community, but said he was unable to make the monthly minimum payments of \$600 after another layoff.

The hospital referred his account to Komyatte & Casbon, a local law firm specializing in debt collection. More than three years after his illness, the sheriff served Lopez with a lawsuit over the \$27,000 remaining on his bill. Community Hospital was suing him.

### Charitable care has not kept pace with revenue

Some of Indiana's nonprofit hospitals appear to have stalled when it comes to providing charitable care, though health care systems continue to send thousands of Hoosiers to court over unpaid sums as small as \$250.

Analysis for this story reviewed court filings in 75 counties by 30 hospital systems, including Deaconess, Powers Health and Franciscan Alliance.  
(Continued on Page 2)

## Tropical Storm Debby hits Florida with flooding

Threat of record rain in Georgia and the Carolinas

**By JEFF MARTIN and CHRISTOPHER O'MEARA**  
Associated Press

HORSESHOE BEACH, Fla. (AP) — Tropical Storm Debby slammed Florida on Monday with torrential rain and high winds, contributing to at least four deaths in the state and the rescue of hundreds from flooded homes before turning menacingly toward the Eastern Seaboard's low-lying regions and threatening to flood some of America's most historic Southern cities.

Record-setting rain was causing flash flooding, with up to 30 inches (76 centimeters) possible in some areas, the National Hurricane Center said.

About 500 people were rescued from flooded homes in Sarasota, Florida, a beach city popular with tourists, the Sarasota Police Department said in a social media post. It was one of the cities hardest hit by flooding on Monday.

"Essentially we've had twice the amount of the rain that was predicted for us to have," Sarasota County Fire Chief David Rathbun said in a social media update.

Just north of Sarasota, officials in Manatee County said in a news release that 186 people were rescued from flood waters.

"We are facing an unprecedented weather event with Hurricane Debby," said Jodie Fiske, public safety director for Manatee County public. "The safety of our residents is our top priority, and we are doing everything in our power to respond effectively to this crisis."

A flash flood emergency was issued into Monday evening for the Lake City area in the north central part of the state, where up to a foot of rain had fallen and more was expected.  
(Continued on Page 2)



### Southern Wells registration day

Southern Wells students were registered for the upcoming school year Monday. School photos were taken and some kids toured their new look classrooms. Top left, Milo Fiechter, left, looks intently at Peggy Haigh as they have a discussion about the popcorn available for the kids. Top right, from back to front, Carlie and Jaxson Billman sign their names on a wall poster, hoping for a good year. At left, Avery and Blayne Durbin, left and middle, internally debate on which snack to get, while Kerri Young looks on. Below, Rowen Bennet gets her school picture taken by Nancy Fletcher. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



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**Outside**  
  
Showers and storms today and through the night  
Today Wed. Thursday  
High 87 High 77 High 80  
Low 62 Low 59 Low 59  
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Vol. 95 No. 235  
TUESDAY  
August 6, 2024

**PADDLEFISH solar project**  
Susan Poper - Local Representative  
201 E. Market St., Suite No. 3  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
Office Hours: Tues. 8 a.m. - 12 p.m.  
Thurs. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m.  
or by appointment  
info@paddlefishsolar.com  
edf-re.com/project/  
paddlefish-solar-project/  
(260) 355-5951  
Paddlefish Solar Project  
facebook.com/PaddlefishSolar

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## Rock Creek Quarry

(Continued from Page 1)

the most cost-effective and efficient. An initial proposal to only close a portion of the road received pushback from area residents but there have been no further public comments from residents regarding the prospective diverted route.

On June 17, Storer stated he did not believe the item would require another hearing before approval.

Also during the time for public comments, Lisa Dan of the Center for Energy Education invited the commissioners and the public to participate in a "Solar 101" event at the Wells County Public Library. The event will include two sessions on Aug. 22, the first beginning at 4 p.m. and the second

at 6 p.m. Dinner will be provided during the break.

Dan stated the sessions can be attended separately or together, as they'll both cover solar energy basics but expand on different topics. The C4EE is a nonprofit educational organization based out of North Carolina and with an office in Huntington. The group also hosted "Solar 101" workshops at the Wells County Chamber of Commerce in 2022 and 2023.

The C4EE will also host similar sessions at 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. on Aug. 21 at Huntington University.

"I did attend the commissioners meeting in Huntington last Monday, and they made it very apparent to me

that the public needed to be a part of (an informational session) if they wanted to be," Dan said.

Commissioner Blake Gerber asked if the organization was going around the state with similar presentations. Dan replied, "I wish we were that proactive, but it seems like a lot of it is, right now, it's trying to get ahead of the narrative. And in a lot of communities, things are moving so quickly that it's hard to do that. But, yeah, eventually we'd like to be in every county in the state."

Pre-registration is required for the workshop events and can be completed at [c4ee.org](http://c4ee.org) or by emailing contact@center4ee.org.

holly@news-banner.com

## Nonprofit hospitals

(Continued from Page 1)

Federal and state regulators alike have scrutinized nonprofit hospitals' financial practices and struggled to define how much benefit they should provide — even as hospitals reap profits.

Over the last decade, nonprofit hospital revenue has increased while spending on free and discounted care has remained stagnant, according to government data aggregated by the National Academy for State Health Policy.

In 2012 in Indiana, about three cents of every revenue dollar went back into charity care. By 2022 — the most recent year for which data is available — that figure had dropped to 1.5 cents per dollar.

Under federal law, nonprofit hospitals can engage in "extraordinary collection actions," like suing patients, reporting to credit bureaus and denying medical care.

"It's their money, and they're going to figure out a way to get it," said Diana Bauer, a Fort Wayne lawyer who works with clients in a debt recovery program.

The proportion of money spent on charity care dropped sharply in 2015, when more Hoosiers became eligible for Medicaid under the Affordable Care Act. Medicaid expansion, otherwise known as the Healthy Indiana Plan, may have reduced the need for charitable care.

Hospitals are also footing the bill for that plan via a hospital assessment fee.

Most hospitals spent more money treating Medicaid patients in 2022 compared to 2011 according to NASHP, though the program's impact on hospitals' budgets varied widely across health systems.

The Indiana Hospital Association called medical debt a "critical issue" but said inadequate health coverage and uninsured patients contributed to the problem.

"While certain types of health insurance plans may appeal to consumers because they appear to be more affordable, they often come with significantly higher out-of-pocket costs and fewer benefits," said Natalie Russell, the communications manager with IHA. "Indiana hospitals are strong advocates for comprehensive health care coverage and pay \$1.5 billion annually to fund Medicaid and expand coverage under the HIP 2.0 program so more Hoosiers have access to care at a price they can afford."

Russell shared an analysis from Kaufman Hall that found charitable care across all Indiana hospitals increased by 22% from 2022 to 2023. The methodology referenced in that study was based on a sample of "more than 52" hospitals' data, and the figures appear to differ significantly from federal and publicly available data.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, more than one in six Hoosiers have medical debt in collections — the highest rate in the Midwest. That's in part due to the state's high health care costs.

In 2023, the agency's vice president said more than half of all collections cases on Americans' credit reports came from medical bills — though a rule proposed in September would remove nearly all medical debt from credit reports.

Medical bills less than \$500 stopped being reported to credit bureaus in 2023.

Chad Bills, the vice president of revenue cycle

at Community Health Network, added that hospitals also saw more patients find coverage under the Affordable Care Act's Marketplace plans. CHN is not affiliated with Community Hospital in Munster, which is operated by Powers Health.

"The other thing that health care systems were forced to do is put programs in place from a navigator perspective, or an eligibility enrollment perspective — to spend dollars to help patients find coverage," Bills said.

Financial aid could help Medicaid-ineligible patients who are unable to afford care.

Charity care criteria vary by hospital. Nineteen states require hospitals to provide assistance to patients below a certain income threshold. Indiana is not one of them.

Lopez, the maintenance mechanic who was hospitalized for COVID, said he was denied financial assistance. He's the sole earner for his family and he makes about \$70,000 per year.

That's in line with Community Hospital's policy, which in 2021 capped subsidized health services at an annual income of \$65,160 for a family of three.

Powers Health, the hospital's parent organization, did not respond to multiple requests for comment.

While one nonprofit health system filed at least 10,000 debt lawsuits over the last five years, other hospital chains in Indiana say they are changing their charitable care and collections processes.

In December 2022, IU Health stopped taking patients to court over medical bills, according to public relations manager Lisa Tellus. "A representative for Ascension St. Vincent said that the hospital's policy does not engage in extraordinary collection actions except in extremely rare cases, and that it has not done so once in the past year.

Bills, the Community Health Network administrator, said his hospital system is actively trying to increase charity care spending.

"The number one opportunity that we have — and we constantly look at this, all the time — is how do we market that program and encourage patients to apply?" Bills said.

### The court process

Samantha, a Lake County kindergarten teacher who asked to be identified only by her first name, dealt with health complications when she had a baby.

After a handful of prenatal appointments, a bout with pre-eclampsia, and a baby with a kidney infection, Samantha said the constant medical bills were indistinguishable.

She set up a payment plan with the hospital, which she assumed would pay down the balance on all of the bills. But she was wrong — her payments only put money toward bills that were processed before the payment plan became active.

"I didn't know anything until the sheriff showed up at my door," Samantha said.

She's now paying the law firm handling her debt a minimum \$37 per month. She said she's also sending another \$80 to the hospital each month to prevent more bills from turning into lawsuits.

Judgements can require losing defendants to pay legal fees and court costs, mitigating the financial

risk hospitals took by suing patients. Initial intake forms included with filings show patients agreed to pay those fees as a condition of receiving medical treatment.

These fees can make medical debt substantially more burdensome.

State law sets interest on the total balance of the debt at 8% per year, which can further increase the amount owed.

An Evansville woman received a judgment of \$1805.80 for medical bills and attorneys' fees. By the time the plaintiff filed a wage garnishment order, interest had increased that amount by more than \$100.

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Court records reveal that defendants often miss hearings, resulting in default judgments against them.

"Most of them [defendants] don't show at all, and most of them don't have representation," said Tim Fesko, an attorney who represents Powers Health in court, Community Hospital's parent organization, in some medical debt cases.

Some patients' court documents reveal a lack of legal knowledge.

One woman tried to file an answer with the court disputing a debt. Instead, she sent it to the lawyer handling the hospital's case. The judge found her and her husband in default.

A page from a defendant's response, which she sent to opposing counsel instead of the court. She defaulted.

When defendants lose lawsuits but don't have the money to pay their debts in full, the hospitals or their law firms may allow them to enter payment plans.

If a defendant enters a payment plan but is unable to keep up with it, they may find themselves back in front of a judge.

The court can then move to garnish a defendant's wages. Indiana law allows creditors to collect up to 25% of a debtor's net income.

Wage garnishment orders can drag cases out for years. An Evansville couple sued in December 2019 didn't resolve their case until January 2024.

Some patients end up in court even though they have the cash to cover their bills. Defendants say that they never received a bill or that their insurance was billed incorrectly.

Unlike cases that go through collections agen-

cies, civil court judgments like Samantha's are not reported to credit bureaus. Instead, the case becomes a matter of public record, which could still affect her ability to access credit.

Samantha said that having a court case associated with her name was as troubling as a mark on her credit report.

"It's embarrassing," Samantha said.

### Reasonable efforts

Hospitals can't pursue collections cases against patients until they've made "reasonable efforts" to screen for financial need, but in 2022 the CFPB reported that not all patients eligible for financial aid receive it.

Samantha, the kindergarten teacher, said she was never given information about applying for assistance at Community Hospital in Hammond.

Per the IRS, nonprofit hospitals are required to notify patients of their financial assistance policies before initiating a collections case.

Financial assistance applications can be burdensome. They often require tax returns going back several years, hard copies of monthly bank statements and an estimated monthly budget breakdown.

When assistance agencies closed to the public during the COVID-19 pandemic, Darlene Jennings could not gather the necessary documents for her financial assistance application. The 73-year-old does not own a computer or printer.

Jennings worked at the time as a dietary aide at Community Hospital in Munster and became ill during her shift. Her coworkers took her downstairs to the emergency room.

The bill came to \$12,000. Jennings was between insurers at the time.

After the incident, she worked part-time at the hospital for another five years. She paid off the bill in \$45 increments each month.

"When you're on a fixed income, you know, that's all you can squeeze out. Forty-five dollars," Jennings said.

Two months after she retired from her job, she missed a payment. She caught up the next month by sending a double payment and "a nice little letter telling [them] I was sorry."

But the hospital sued her for the remaining balance. She took a job at a school cafeteria to supplement her Social Security income.

A legal aid attorney helped Jennings come to an agreement to pay \$5,000. She sent a cashier's check out. "And that was it. I haven't heard a word out of them," she said.

## Weather

Tuesday, August 6, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:44 p.m. Monday)

High: 87; Low: 71; Precipitation: 0.02 inches of rain  
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.28 feet at 7:45 p.m. Monday

### Wells County forecast

**Today:** Showers and thunderstorms likely, mainly after 5 p.m. Mostly sunny, with a high near 87. Southeast wind 5 to 15 mph becoming southwest in the afternoon. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a tenth and quarter of an inch, except higher amounts possible in thunderstorms.

**Tonight:** Showers and thunderstorms likely before 11 p.m., then showers likely and possibly a thunderstorm between 11 p.m. and 2 a.m. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62. Northeast wind around 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph. Chance of precipitation is 60%. New rainfall amounts between a quarter and half of an inch possible.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. Northeast wind 10 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Wednesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 59. Northeast wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Thursday:** Sunny, with a high near 80.

**Thursday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 60.

**Friday:** Sunny, with a high near 78.

**Friday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 58.

**Saturday:** Sunny, with a high near 76.

**Saturday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 77.

**Sunday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 56.

**Monday:** Sunny, with a high near 79.

## Tropical storm

(Continued from Page 1)

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis warned that the state could continue to see threats as waterways north of the border fill up and flow south.

"It is a very saturating, wet storm," he said during an afternoon briefing at the state's emergency operations center. "When they crest and the water that's going to come down from Georgia, it's just something that we're going to be on alert for not just throughout today, but for the next week."

Debby made landfall along the Gulf Coast of Florida early Monday as a Category 1 hurricane. It since has weakened to a tropical storm and is moving slowly, covering roads with water and contributing to at least five deaths.

A truck driver died on Interstate 75 in the Tampa area after he lost control of his tractor trailer, which flipped over a concrete wall and dangled over the edge before the cab dropped into the water below. Sheriff's office divers located the driver, a 64-year-old man from Mississippi, in the cab 40 feet below the surface, according to the Florida Highway Patrol.

A 13-year-old boy died Monday morning after a tree fell on a mobile home southwest of Gainesville, according to the Levy County Sheriff's Office.

And in Dixie County, just east of where the storm made landfall, a 38-year-old woman and a 12-year-old boy died in a car crash on wet roads Sunday night. The Florida Highway Patrol said

a 14-year-old boy who was a passenger was hospitalized with serious injuries.

In southern Georgia, a 19-year-old man died Monday afternoon when a large tree fell onto a porch at a home in Moultrie, The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported.

Nearly 200,000 customers remained without power in Florida and Georgia on Monday afternoon, down from a peak of more than 350,000, according to PowerOutage.us and Georgia Electric Membership Corp.

Airports were also affected. More than 1,600 flights had been canceled nationwide, many of them to and from Florida airports, according to FlightAware.com.

The potential for high water also threatened Savannah, Georgia, and Charleston, South Carolina.

Local leaders in Savannah said flooding could happen in areas that don't usually get high water if Debby stalls out over the city. With winds and rainfall expected to worsen overnight, authorities issued a curfew from 10 p.m. Monday until 6 a.m. Tuesday.

"This type of rain hovering over us, coming with the intensity that they tell us it is coming, it's going to catch a whole lot of people by surprise," said Chatham County Chairman Chester Ellis.

In South Carolina, Charleston County Interim Emergency Director Ben Webster called Debby a "historic and potentially unprecedented event" three times in a 90-second briefing Monday morning.

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OBITUARIES

Pamela Pfeifer, 74

Pamela S. Pfeifer, 74, of Bluffton, passed away at 4:39 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 4, 2024 at Markle Health & Rehab in Markle.



She was born on Tuesday, Jan. 24, 1950, in Hartford City. Pamela was a 1968 graduate of Pennville High School. She also attended Ball State and IPFW in Fort Wayne. Pam worked at Kitco Inc. in Bluffton for 35 years as an administrative assistant in the quality and engineering department. Pam had also worked at Wayne Metal in Markle for 10 years in the quality department. She enjoyed cross stitching, gardening, baking and especially loved spending time with her nieces and nephews, known affectionately to Auntie Pam as Jake, MB, Ra Dale, and P.A. To others she may have been known too as Senior. During Pam's lifetime she had the pleasure of enjoying good food, great friendships, and was blessed with a loving family.

Pam will be sadly missed by her brother, Gary L. (Ruth) Pfeifer of Dallas; niece, Mary Beth (Smith) Tallent of Cumming, Georgia; nephew, John Richard Jake (Misty) Pfeifer of Acworth, Georgia; niece, Rachel (Zach) Botkin of Powder Springs, Georgia; niece, Laura (Walker) Powell of Cumming, Georgia; and several great nieces and nephews. The family would like to say a special thank you to the adopted sisters and caregivers, Beck Bouse and Pam Tuttle.

She was preceded in death by her father, Everett E. Pfeifer, and mother, Rachel W. (Crockett) Pfeifer.

Family and friends may gather to share and remember from 4-8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 9, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, located at 109 W. Windsor St. in Montpelier, and one hour prior to service on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024.

A service to celebrate Pam's life will be at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 10, 2024, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home with Pastor Mitch Corwin officiating. Interment will follow in the Twin Hill - I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Pennville.

Preferred memorials: Seth L. Corwin Memorial Scholarship Fund 107 S. Meridian St. Portland, IN 47371 or Riley Children's Foundation PO Box 3356 Indianapolis, IN. 46206 or Wounded Warrior Project PO Box 758517 Topeka, KS. 66675

Arrangements are being handled by Walker & Glancy Funeral Home in Montpelier.

Online condolences may be made at glancyfuneralhomes.com

Donna McCoy Spear, 57

Donna McCoy Spear, 57, of Markle, passed away at 12:39 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 3, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne, following a seven-year battle with cancer.



Donna was born in Bloomington on Sept. 19, 1966. She was the daughter of Peggy (Wilson) McCoy of Avon and the late William A. McCoy. Donna was raised in Williamsport and West Lebanon of Warren County. She graduated from Seeger Memorial High School in 1984. She attended the University of Alabama and received her degree in political science from Purdue University. She later received her law degree from Valparaiso University.

After receiving her law degree, Donna went to work for the Porter County Prosecutor's Office. Following her marriage, she moved to Lafayette and began working for the Indiana Supreme Court Disciplinary Commission in Indianapolis as a staff attorney. In 1996, Donna moved to Wells County and served as deputy prosecutor for Wells County. She also joined the private practice at Lautzenheiser, Myers & Holdman and was a managing partner in the Wells County Land Title Company. The law firm later became Lautzenheiser, Myers & Spear. She left the prosecutor's office in 2005 and started her own private practice, predominantly serving as a Guardian Ad Litem throughout much of Northeast Indiana until May 2024. During this time, Donna served three consecutive terms on the Northern Wells Community Schools Board. She was a member of the Zanesville United Methodist Church, now known as the Tower Life Center. She was a member of the Indiana Bar Association and the Wells County Bar Association. She was an avid reader and enjoyed cooking, baking and raising a flower garden. She especially enjoyed traveling and treasured the time spent with her family.

On June 27, 1992, Donna married David L. Spear in the Old Church in Attica. She leaves behind her husband of 32 years, along with three children, Katie (Chad) Landez of Fort Wayne, Emily (Conner) Selch of Louisville, Kentucky, and Sam (Ruby) Spear of Warren; her mother, Peggy McCoy of Avon; her brother, James David McCoy of Avon; a step-sister, Rebecca (Kenny) Hutson of Franklin; her father-in-law, James Spear of Ossian; her granddogs and grandcats; her nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her father, William McCoy; her father figure, Malcolm Sturm, and her mother-in-law, Judith Spear.

The visitation will be held from 2-7 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 11, at "The Paddock", 7221 E. State Road 14 in Columbia City. A celebration of Donna's life will be held at 11 a.m. on Monday, Aug. 12, at "The Paddock" with the Rev. Mike Murrell officiating. Burial will follow in the Horeb Cemetery in Uniondale. If planning to attend, to honor Donna's wishes, the family kindly asks that dark colors be avoided. Bright or vibrant attire is preferred. Think Easter Sunday!

Obituary memorial contributions may be made to the Wells County Foundation, 222 W. Market St., Bluffton, IN 46714.

Condolences may be sent online to mausfuneralhome.com.



Masonic donation

Bluffton Masonic Lodge 145 donated \$200 to the First United Methodist Church "First We Care Program."

In the photo from left to right are Doug Howard, Paul Reiff, Amy Greiner, Sherrie Drake and Adam Harder. (Photo provided)

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:

Wednesday, 12:08 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Timothy Hayden.

Wednesday, 12:21 p.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Robert Earl Manns.

Wednesday, 12:34 p.m., 1100 Southeast Jeff Road, Montpelier. Report of trespassing issue.

Thursday, 7:19 a.m., S.R. 3 and 700S, Warren. Report of theft of welder.

Thursday, 9:06 a.m., Wells County Courthouse. Warrants served to Douglas Parks-Schauer.

Thursday, 6:18 p.m., 900S and 300W, Poneto. Report of injured deer.

Thursday, 10:57 p.m., 30 block of East Washington Street, Poneto. Caller reported he collected drugs and pipe from family member and wanted it destroyed.

Friday, 7:00 a.m., 450E and S.R. 116, Bluffton. Officer jump started vehicle for driver.

Friday, 8:45 a.m., South Main and East Riley streets, Bluffton. Jay Bradlee Jones arrested for driving while suspended with a prior conviction.

Friday, 2:23 p.m., 300 Southeast S.R. 116, Bluffton. Caller reported subject taking photos of house.

Friday, 8:43 p.m., 350S and S.R. 1, Bluffton. Report of accident, road shut down temporarily.

Friday, 9:02 p.m., 7400E 1000S, Geneva. Report of husband slapping wife across face in argument in front of kids. Martin Hilty arrested for domestic battery in front of a child.

Saturday, 7:15 a.m., 1100S and S.R. 3, Montpelier. Report of loose cows on the road.

Saturday, 8:47 a.m., Wells County Jail. Warrant served to Steven Limbert.

Saturday, 8:57 a.m., 650E

100N, Bluffton. Caller reported three pigs in the road.

Saturday, 10:52 a.m., 5400N 600E, Craigville. Caller reported they hit a telephone pole.

Saturday, 6:12 p.m., S.R. 116 and 250N, Bluffton. Report of young woman walking alone, woman declined a ride to Zanesville.

Sunday, 7:48 a.m., 6300E 100N, Bluffton. Report of animals in roadway.

Sunday, 11:17 a.m., 6000 North Main Street, Uniondale. Report of fighting.

Sunday, 7:47 p.m., 7600S 600W, Warren. Caller reported a random trailer appeared in his yard.

Monday, 7:25 a.m., 7600S 600W, Warren. Report of group of men at caller's residence. Construction crew went to wrong location.

Ossian:

Saturday, 2:27 a.m., North 450E and 1100N, Ossian. Driver reported erratic and dangerous driving behavior, followed other vehicle until police arrived. David Howell blew .144 PBT, arrested for driving while intoxicated.

Saturday, 9:09 p.m., Norwell High School. Bryon Gordon called 911 repeatedly to request vague help. Officer gave Gordon a ride to his mother's. On the way, he lit a cigarette in the back of the patrol car. After being dropped off and while officers discussed the incident — Gordon again called 911. Arrested for misuse of 911.

ARRESTS

Stacia Marie Larson-Lovelock, 45, Bluffton; domestic battery, a Class A misdemeanor, resisting law enforcement, a Level 6 felony, and disorderly conduct, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$11,000.

Nickolas Lee Bright, 37, Bluffton; operating with controlled substance in body, a Class C misdemeanor. No

bond set.

Douglas William Parks-Schauer, 30, Bluffton; obstruction of justice and possession of narcotic, both Level 6 felonies, and criminal conversion, a Class A misdemeanor, and battery, a Class B misdemeanor. No bond set.

Jay Bradlee Jones, 29, Hartford City; driving while suspended - prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Martin E Hilty, 41, Geneva; domestic battery in presence of a child, a Level 6 felony. Bond set at \$5,000.

David Michael Howell, 29, Bluffton; operating while intoxicated, a Class A misde-

meanor - endangerment, and operating while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor. Bond set at \$2,000.

Steven Eric Limbert, 46, Geneva; operating without financial responsibility a Class A misdemeanor, and leaving the scene of a crash, a Class B misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,000.

Stalon Javontae Green, 31, Fort Wayne; false identity statement and driving while suspended, both Class A misdemeanors. Bond set at \$1,000.

David William Eckelbarger II, 53, Bluffton; possession of cocaine and possession of methamphetamine, both Level 5 felonies.

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Fatal crash claims one south of Decatur

On Aug. 5, 2024, at approximately 12:27 p.m., a fatal motor vehicle collision occurred in Adams County. The incident took place at the intersection of US HWY 27 and County Road 400 N, just south of Decatur, IN.

The vehicles involved were identified as a 1997 Chevrolet Camaro, driven by 68-year-old Neal W. Poling of Decatur, and a 2014 Peterbilt tractor and trailer, driven by 70-year-old Mark E. Roser of North Manches-

ter. Evidence gathered from the scene suggests Poling was travelling east bound on 400N, when he began travelling across the intersection, and in doing so failed to yield to Mr. Roser, who was travelling southbound on US HWY 27. The failure to yield resulted in a T-bone accident. Witnesses at the scene stated the vehicle traveling south on US 27 had the green light.

Poling was pronounced deceased at the scene. Notification to Poling's family has been made.

Roser submitted to a chemical test at a local hospital. Intoxication at this time is not believed to be a factor in this crash. Roser was not injured.

This investigation is ongoing, pending an ISP crash reconstruction results, ISP DOT inspection results, and review of dash camera footage.

The Adams County Sheriff's Office thanks the professionalism provided while on scene: Adams County EMS, Decatur Police Department, Indiana State Police, Decatur Fire Department, Adams County Coroner's Office, Piqua Repair, and Double T Wrecker Service.

Corrections and clarifications

Monday's News-Banner misidentified test scores for Wells County's junior-year SAT scores — 32.6% of juniors at Norwell Community Schools, 30% at Bluffton-Harrison Metropolitan Schools, and 24.2% at Southern Wells Community Schools met benchmarks for math and English. The scores listed Monday were only for English benchmarks. The stage average listed — 24% — was correct.

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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## These phrases are dead giveaways you're from the Midwest

One of my favorite magazines to read has long been "Reader's Digest." I admire how the writers put their stories together in each issue, and so many of the articles capture my attention because of the variety of topics.

One of those entertaining and witty articles that pulled me in appeared earlier this spring. It was titled, "How to speak like a Midwesterner."

The short story was presented like a dictionary of common phrases you would expect to hear if you visited the Midwest; it was written by an author from Missouri.

I was a bit skeptical at first that I would see any phrases I use or hear but soon realized that the author hit the nail on the head. Many of the ones that she highlighted are ones I say or hear often as someone born and bred in the Midwest.

Here are some of those expressions from the article. How many have you heard or do you use?



Justin Peeper

- "Yeah, no."

All Midwesterners know that this expression simply means no and that we often use it in a sarcastic way or to contradict something that someone just said.

- "You betcha."

This one comes out of my mouth a lot. I didn't realize it was such a Midwestern saying.

- "Hey, question for ya!"

Here's another one that I use a lot, especially over the phone when I call my dad to ask about something I'm not sure how to fix.

- "Doesn't that sound fun?"

I use this one with my wife from time to time when I suggest an activity that she might not be as excited about doing as me such as those extra-long hikes or bike rides I like to do early in the morning.

- "Well, there ya go."

The author defines this saying as there is nothing more to be said or done. I don't say it quite the same way, but instead find myself saying, "Well, there you have it."

- "Mm-hmm. Yeah. You betcha."

In other words, this common Midwest phrase means I'm done with the conversation and that I stopped listening a while ago. Hmmm ... I think I have heard this one more than I have said it.

- "Mm-hmm. I hear ya."

This one made me smile, as the writer translated this phrase to mean I'm bored with the conversation because I understood what you said the first time you said it 30 minutes ago. Who knew that was a Midwestern saying?

The list goes on but these seven made me smile, as I never thought of them before as being so Midwestern.

Well, there ya go.

Or better yet, there ya have it.

jdpeeper2@hotmail.com

## Today in History

By The Associated Press

Today is Tuesday, Aug. 6, the 219th day of 2024. There are 147 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Aug. 6, 1945, during World War II, the U.S. B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 140,000 deaths.

Also on this date:

In 1806, Emperor Francis II abdicated, marking the end of the Holy Roman Empire after nearly a thousand years.

In 1825, Upper Peru became the autonomous republic of Bolivia.

In 1890, at Auburn Prison in Auburn, New York, William Kemmler became the first person to be executed via electric chair.

In 1926, Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim across the English Channel.

In 1942, Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands became the first reigning queen to address a joint session of Congress, telling

lawmakers that despite Nazi occupation, her people's motto remained, "No surrender."

In 1945, during World War II, the U.S. B-29 Superfortress Enola Gay dropped an atomic bomb code-named "Little Boy" on Hiroshima, Japan, resulting in an estimated 140,000 deaths.

In 1962, Jamaica gained independence from the United Kingdom after 300 years of British rule.

In 1965, President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Voting Rights Act, prohibiting racial discrimination in voting.

In 1991, the World Wide Web made its public debut as a means of accessing webpages over the Internet.

In 2011, insurgents shot down a U.S. military helicopter during fighting in eastern Afghanistan, killing 30 Americans, most of them belonging to the same elite Navy commando unit that had slain Osama bin Laden; seven Afghan commandos also died.

Submit your Letters to the Editor via:

- Our website link (Submit your Letter)
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- Mail: PO Box 436, Bluffton IN 46714
- Drop-off: 125 N. Johnson St., Bluffton

All letters must be signed and must include a phone number or address in case verification is desired. Letters are edited for brevity and clarity. Letters must be no more than 500 words. Please mark your correspondence as a "Letter to the Editor," or if you wish to express an opinion to us but do not want it published, please mark as "Not for Publication."

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## What is Trump's biggest problem? It's Trump, of course.

We've observed the patient for years. It's time for a diagnosis, America. What exactly is wrong with Donald Trump?

The former president's racially charged attack on Vice President Harris this week at the annual conference of the National Association of Black Journalists revealed the answer.

Trump's life experience has been so narrow, and so many of his waking thoughts are directed inward, that he doesn't have the foggiest idea how to relate to anyone different from himself. He's not the least bit curious about people. If you don't share his Zip code, his generation or his skin color, Trump's not interested in what you've been through or how you see the world.

Naturally, when talking about Harris behind her back, Trump was combative, offensive and condescending. What he said was insulting and inappropriate. None of this should surprise us. That's how the real estate mogul relates to Black people - and immigrants, women, Hispanics, the physically challenged, the LGBTQ+ community, etc. If you're already on the margins, Trump will further marginalize you.

The very idea of an organization of Black journalists - a cohort predisposed to support Democrats and oppose Republicans - inviting Trump to speak was controversial. In fact, it split the organization. Some of the journalists boycotted the speech. At least one of the group's leaders - Karen Attiah, a Washington Post columnist and co-chair of the convention - resigned her position after it was announced that Trump would speak. The NABJ members who stuck around to hear the former president interviewed by three Black female journalists heard a symphony of lies, victimhood and subtle (and not so subtle) racism.

Rachel Scott, senior congressional correspondent for ABC News, asked Trump: "Do you believe that Vice President Kamala Harris is only on the ticket because she is a Black woman?"

Trump's response prompted gasps from the audience, but also a fair share of laughter.

"Well, I can say, no, I think maybe it's a little bit different," he said. "I've known her a long time indirectly, not directly very much, and she was always of Indian heritage. And she was only promoting Indian heritage. I didn't know she was Black until a number of years ago when she happened to turn Black. And now she wants to be known as Black. So

I don't know, is she Indian or is she Black? I respect either one, but she obviously doesn't. Because she was Indian all the way, and then all of a sudden she made a turn, she became a Black person."

Oh no, he did not just say that! Oh yes, of course he did. That's vintage Trump. As the Archie Bunker of Palm Beach, that's how he rolls.

Besides showing off his White male privilege (a nifty commodity that lets one opine freely on issues with which one has no firsthand experience, from abortion to affirmative action), Trump appeared to be trying to accomplish a few things with his remarks.

To drive a wedge between the Black journalists and a Black woman running for president. To raise doubts about Harris's multicultural background, as the daughter of immigrants from Jamaica and India. To exploit the ambivalence that some Black Americans feel about Harris, as a politician who some accuse of leaning into her background on the campaign trail but who launched her political career in California as a hard-nosed prosecutor who contributed to a criminal justice system that has too often failed Black people.

Lastly, all that said, this was never about Trump speaking to Black folks. It was about Trump sending a message to White folks: *Even when I am unfairly persecuted by mean people who look nothing like you or me, I will bravely fight back - for me, and for you.*

Ah yes, playing the victim. That, too, is vintage Trump.

After Trump spoke, Attiah sent out a message on the social media platform. X: "I am so angry right now. N.A.B.J., this was a colossal mistake."

Maybe. NABJ certainly lost some credibility with its members. And it's certainly true that comments like these should have no place in politics. But as far as the Harris campaign is concerned, it was a gift, and a generous one at that. Because it allowed America to once again see Trump for who, and what, he is.

Given Harris's shortcomings, I'm still not sure she can beat Trump. But, after this latest racial broadside, I am more convinced than ever that Trump can beat Trump.

Reach Ruben Navarrette at crimscribe@icloud.com



Ruben Navarrette

## Kamala's dishonesty on the border

"L'audace, l'audace, toujours l'audace."

So says George C. Scott's Patton in the eponymous movie when his comrades want another day's rest during the Sicilian campaign.

No one is going to mistake Kamala Harris for Gen. Patton, or even George C. Scott, but her latest tack on immigration honors his call for "audacity, audacity, always audacity."

After helping preside over a comprehensive failure at the border, a lesser politician might mumble something or other and change the subject to aborting babies.

A politician with an ounce of respect for the public might at least acknowledge, before saying anything else, that "mistakes were made." A politician less certain that the media would swallow any set of absurdities deemed in her interest might hesitate before making such factually preposterous claims.

The idea that Harris has been a tough-minded success on the border while Donald Trump was a failure is sociopathic in its dishonesty.

It's tiresome and apparently beside the point to recite the basic facts, but after experiencing what was a migrant crisis by the old standard that now seems quaint, the Trump administration implemented a series of measures that all but brought illegal crossings to a halt. Then, the Biden administration reversed them all, and illegal immigration quickly accelerated to record levels. This is a matter of record that isn't in dispute.

Millions of illegal immigrants have entered the country and strained



Rich Lowry

the resources of big cities across America. If the numbers have fallen recently, they are still at high levels and the reduction is, in part, due to legerdemain that has redirected illegal immigrants into parole programs to create a patina of legitimacy around their crossings.

Meanwhile, interior enforcement has been kneecapped, with deportation by ICE falling drastically.

It's not as though, by the way, that Harris was a former border hawk who got press-ganged into serving in an open-borders administration; she set out positions to the left even of the Biden administration prior to becoming vice president.



Yet, Kamala Harris declared of Trump at her big Atlanta rally the other day, "I will proudly put my record against his any day of the week. Any day of the week, including, for example, on the issue of immigration."

"Donald Trump," she added, "has been talking a big game about securing our border. But he does not walk

the walk."

Harris is running an ad that claims she's working to fix the broken immigration system while Trump is trying to stop her -- a lie so heedlessly flagrant that it truly boggles the mind.

The ad leans much on Trump's opposition to the bipartisan immigration bill that failed to pass several months ago. But the case against that bill was that it did too much to bless the unacceptable status quo and that Biden always had vast unilateral powers to act on the border -- a claim that Biden vindicated by, after much resistance, indeed acting on his own.

The Harris case has not been met with a flurry of fact checks, nor have editors been zealously adding the word "falsely" in front of her claims. No, according to the press, she's flipping the script, and going on offense, and punching back.

According to Chris Murphy on MSNBC, her record is something to brag about (because levels of migration from Central American countries where she was promoting development declined somewhat -- but they declined somewhat from very high levels).

All this amounts to saying, "She wasn't the border czar, but, boy oh boy, did she do a great job at the border."

Perhaps Harris isn't to be blamed for trying this. With the media having elevated her from also-ran vice president to savior of the republic in the space of about twelve hours a couple of weekends ago, why not try to get it to swallow an even more outlandishly implausible notion?

Nothing so far should lead her to believe anything other than that her audacity will be rewarded.

Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry

# A look back at Gloria's first column from 10 years ago

*Editor's Note: Gloria is traveling this week to visit family, so we thought it would be fun, or perhaps bittersweet, to look back at Gloria's first column which debuted 10 years ago this week as she began writing The Amish Cook. Enjoy this trip down memory lane, Gloria will return next week!*

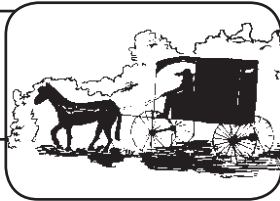
Hi. I'm Gloria Yoder, age 24. I'm an ordinary Amish housewife and mother and, yes, I love it. My husband Daniel and I have been blessed with over four years of marriage. We were thrilled when God added a baby girl to our hearts and lives 2 1/2 years ago. We named her Julia Rose. She is our little sunshine. We also anticipate the arrival of another bundle in November. Julia is all excited about being a big sister.

We live in a quiet country area and enjoy spending time outdoors, especially going on picnics and camping trips. A week ago, we had the opportunity to go with my family to the Embarras River for a camp-out. We had a wonderful time together.

My favorite part of camping is

## The Amish Cook

by Gloria Yoder



sitting around the fire after dark singing or swapping stories. A campfire is never complete without having some good s'mores. I love roasting marshmallows to a golden brown, then placing it on a graham cracker square, spread with an ample amount of peanut butter, and topping it with a square of milk chocolate. Presto, you're done! That's it all, all except lazily sitting back and munching it down as the fire crackles cozily.

The early morning walks I've been taking are another favorite activity. I never cease to marvel over the melodious songs of the birds and the invigorating morning air. It also gives me the chance to spend some quiet moments with God in prayer.

Daniel and my brother Javin are both wood-workers. They build log furniture. Their shop is located at my parents' home,

which is less than a quarter mile from our house.

Julia loves spending time with her daddy and is constantly begging to trail after him wherever he goes. Sometimes she goes with him to the shop and, of course, ends up going to Grandma's house. Right now Daniel is mowing the yard with our walk-behind mower. Julia is perched on top of his shoulders, something she relishes and makes her feel like she's on top of the world.

Summer is here in full swing. Along with it comes gardening, canning and freezing. Even though it is the busiest and hottest season of the year, I have found it to have many blessings. There's nothing quite like eating that first corn on the cob, spotting a red tomato for the first time or picking that tiny cucumber that hasn't

quite matured yet. Gathering fresh veggies from the garden is a highlight. To me, the vegetables taste better than candy.

This year I want to try something I haven't done before. We are planning to have a fall garden. It'll give us the opportunity to have fresh garden goodies for a more extended period of time. Another advantage is I won't have to do as much canning during the warmest part of harvest season.

My parents have a family cow, which we all benefit from. That way I can use all the milk I need and want. We have found it to be useful in so many ways. Julia loves drinking raw milk, while Daniel's favorite is the chocolate coffee smoothies — watch for the recipe in an upcoming column. I also make pudding, yogurt, cheese, pies, etc., using the fresh milk. I use the cream for making butter and the buttermilk for cookies, biscuits or pancakes.

For my first recipe, I thought I would share something that is a favorite around here: peanut butter crumb pie. My husband's eyes

light up when he finds out I am preparing it, because he loves this pie and it was served at our wedding!

### PEANUT BUTTER CRUMB PIE

six 9-inch pie crusts, baked  
9 cups milk, scalded  
1 1/2 cups flour  
4 cups white sugar  
Dash salt  
1 tablespoon vanilla  
9 egg yolks  
3 cups cold milk  
CRUMBS: 2 cups powdered sugar, 2/3 cups peanut butter, mixed until crumbly

Put some crumbs in the bottom of each pie crust. Reserve the rest of the crumbs.

Scald milk over medium heat. In a separate bowl, mix flour, sugar, salt, vanilla, egg yolks and milk.

Mix this together and pour into scaled milk. Heat and stir until thick. When cold, add 3 cups of home-made whipped cream or whipped topping. Divide pudding into the baked pie crusts. Spread whipped topping. Top with remaining crumbs.



Pictured in the photo from left are FCS Chief Executive Officer Paige Hamilton, Psi Iota Xi representatives Rhonda Ryan, Jenni Peterson, Melinda Gilgen and Julie Holte and FCS administrative assistant Emily Wyatt. (Photo submitted)

## Psi Iota Xi – Alpha Eta Chapter sponsors 19th annual Duck Race to benefit Family Centered Services, Inc.

Psi Iota Xi – Alpha Eta Chapter provided a \$1,000 sponsorship for the 19th Annual Duck Race to benefit Family Centered Services, Inc. The event itself is free and set for Saturday, August 10. The festivities will begin at 11:00 a.m. and the race will start at 12:15 p.m. The event will take place at Pickett's Run Park in Bluffton and will

include the duck race, music, games, face painting, a foam party, bounce houses, food, and more.

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.

## Youtheatre celebrates 90th season

Fort Wayne's Youtheatre Director Christopher J. Murphy has announced the programs for the 90th Anniversary Season.

The season will begin in October at the First Presbyterian Church stage in Fort Wayne.

Shuddersome: Tale of Poe: Oct. 18-20

Anastasia: Dec. 13-22

Something Happened in Our Town: Feb. 21-23

Dragons Love Tacos: April 26-27 (on stage at the Allen County Public Library's main branch)

Tickets on sale through tickets.artstix.org or by calling the Box Office at 250-422-4226.

## AI-Anon support group meetings

Support for friends and family who have a problem drinker in their lives. The support group meets every Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Caylor-Nickel Foundation Family YMCA, located at 550 W. Dustman Rd in Bluffton.

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## Events at Fort Wayne's Promenade Park

### Muddy River Concerts

These Wednesday evening concerts begin at 6 p.m. with food available from Ted's Snacks and Bar at the Promenade Park Cafe.

Aug. 7: Rachel Brooke  
Aug. 21: Left Lane Cruiser  
Information at RiverfrontFW.org.

### Canal Boat Tours

Forty-five minute tours are available for \$15 on July 15, 23, 30, Aug. 5, 13 at 1-1:45 p.m. and 1-2:45 p.m.

Sixty minute tours are available on Fridays for \$23 on July 19, 25, Aug. 9 at 6-7 p.m. and 7:15-8:15 p.m.

For more information about Sweet Breeze canal boat rides go to Ridesweet-breeze.org.

### Storytime in the Park

This free program is presented by the

Allen County Public Library on Wednesdays from 9:30 to 10 a.m. at the Park Foundation Pavilion Patio.

### Heritage Concert

This free Sunday Heritage Concert on Aug. 11 at 2 p.m. will feature The High Freqs (psychedelic folk rock band) at the Park Pavilion.

### Band Concert

The Fort Wayne Area Community Band will present a free concert at the Auer Lawn at Promenade Park on Tuesday, Aug. 13, at 7 p.m.

### Recreation Programs

Kickboxing with 9Round will be held on Sunday, Aug. 11, from 9-10 p.m. and Yoga on the Riverfront from 10:30-11:30 a.m. These are free programs.

More information about Promenade Park events at RiverfrontFW.org.

## Norwell High School Class of 1974 reunion

The Norwell class of 1974 will be having its 50 year reunion on September 21, 2024. If you have not received an invitation, or if you have contact information on the following classmates, please contact Patty Charles Batterton at 765-977-1649 or pbatt-

terton17@gmail.com.

Bonnie Cleary, Thomas Curtis, Norman Gaff, Melody Laudermilk, John Lockwood, Sharon McGinnis, Barbara Meeks, Karen Reber, Pamela Schurr, Edith Scott, Patricia Thomas and Donna Wilson.

## Big BugaBaLoo at the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo

Throughout the month of August giant bugs will be taking over the Fort Wayne Children's Zoo for the Big BugaBaLoo.

Come meet some of the unique bugs calling the Zoo home.

Dino Day Camps will be held on Sept. 7-8, 14-15, 21-22, with campers to discover the wonders of dinosaurs and adventure into a Jurassic world. Registration needed.

Rock & Roar evenings are planned for Friday, Aug. 9 with the JacksonVibe and Friday, Aug. 23 with the Sweetwater All Stars.

More information about all events at kidszoo.org.

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Monday officially began the sports season, as all three Wells County schools competed in the South Adams Invitational. At left, Norwell's Savanna Simerman begins a hole in the middle of the day with a drive, representing the Knights with a second-place finish and led the team to a win. Middle, Bluffton's Emma Schwartz takes a swing, leading the individual leaderboard and winning the invitational. At right, Southern Wells' Sophia Meeks takes a cut and led Southern Wells with a sixth-place finish and fourth-place overall. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



## Norwell wins SA Invite, Schwartz wins overall to open season

By RYAN WALKER

GENEVA — The South Adams girls' golf invitational officially kicked off the 2024-25 sports season, and Wells County knocked it out of the park, well not literally.

Out of the 10 schools participating at Wabash Valley Golf Course, the three county teams finished first, third and fourth.

Norwell was the overall champion, sitting at a 380 for its first outing of the year. Frankton was second at 393. Bluffton came in third at 396, and Southern Wells finished fourth at 404.

The hosting South Adams Starfires came in fifth, but were ahead by 28 strokes. Full results can be found at the bottom of the story.

It wasn't just a great day for the teams, but for individuals as well.

Bluffton's Emma Schwartz was the top golfer with a score of 82. The junior is entering this season after qualifying for the regional last year. The Tigers other scorers included a sixth-place finish for Eve Corkwell with a 96, Piper Morgan in 22nd at 111 and Addison Kauffman 27th with a 112.

Norwell went second and third by way of Savanna

Simerman and Ellie Gatton, shooting an 85 and 88. Kylie Nevius came in 13th with a 102, Jessica Bynum 15th at 105 and Emma Burnau 19th at 108.

Sophia Meeks and Caroline Ripperger were the top players for Southern Wells, posting a score of 96 and tying for sixth place. Kolbie Beavans finished 11th at 101, Collena Reeves 24th at 111 and Erika Beavans scored a 118.

The next meet will be at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6 at Cross Creek Golf Course in Decatur for the Bellmont Invitational.

### Team scores

1. Norwell (380 score), 2. Frankton (393), 3. Bluffton (396), 4. Southern Wells (404), 5. South Adams (432), 6. Adams Central (437), 7. Bellmont (456), 8. Jay County (478), 9. Heritage (484), 10. (607).

### Top individual scores

1. Emma Schwartz (BLU, 92 score), 2. Savanna Simerman (NOR, 85), 3. Ellie Gatton (NOR, 88), 4. Julia Arnold (SA, 89), 5. Lily Hall (FR, 91), T6. Sophia Meeks (SW, 96), T6. Eve Corkwell (BLU, 96), T6. Kylie Tomlinson (FR, 96), T6. Caroline Ripperger (SW, 96), 10. London Smith (AC, 98).

## Simone Biles caps Paris Olympics 'Redemption Tour' with one last medal

By WILL GRAVES  
AP National Writer

PARIS (AP) — The "Redemption Tour" did not end with a golden encore for Simone Biles.

By the time she entered Bercy Arena for the beam and floor exercise finals on Monday, she was drained. Mentally. Physically. All of it.

It's what this event does. What this sport does.

No one knows that better than the 27-year-old who has spent the last decade relentlessly propelling gymnastics — both competitively and culturally — forward.

So when Biles hopped off balance beam to miss out on one medal, then stepped out of bounds twice during her floor routine to finish second in her signature event for the first time in memory, she shrugged.

Gymnastics happens. Even to the greats. Even to the GOAT.

The woman who didn't think she'd even be here a couple of years ago will leave Paris — and perhaps her final Olympics — with three golds and a silver and something perhaps even more valuable: peace.

"I accomplished way more than my wildest dreams, not just at this Olympics, but in the sport," the 11-time Olympic medalist said. "So I can't be mad at the performances. ... Competing then walking away with four medals. I'm not mad about it."

Biles certainly didn't look mad during the awards ceremony after the floor exercise — the first one of her career at a major competition that ended with her looking up at someone else.

Instead, she and good friend and bronze medalist Jordan Chiles bowed to Rebeca Andrade, the Brazilian who has spent the last three years as the best gymnast in the world not named Biles.

"It was just the right thing to do," Biles said. "She's queen."

Then the three Black women posed together on the podium four days after Biles, Andrade and Sunisa Lee, who is

Hmong-American, stood in the same spot following the all-around. Their collective success is symbolic of a sport that is becoming more diverse and more inclusive at the highest level, led by someone who still describes herself as "Simone Biles from Spring, Texas who flips."

For a long time, the flipping is what separated Biles from everyone else. Her routines are packed with so much difficulty that a wobble here or a step out of bounds there ultimately hasn't mattered.

It did in what could be the final routine of her career. Bothered perhaps by a left calf injury she aggravated during qualifying last week, Biles wasn't at her best during a 75-second set that features music from pop icons Taylor Swift and Beyoncé and the hardest tumbling passes ever done by a woman.

Twice at the end of the passes that feature elements bearing her name in the sport's Code of Points, her feet landed on blue boundary, costing her valuable tenths and creating just enough room for Andrade's score of 14.166 to stand.

When a 14.133 and the No. 2 — indicating she was still in second — flashed next to Biles' name, a packed arena that included NFL icon Tom Brady let out an "ooohhhhh" of surprise.

Biles was not one of them. "I'm not very upset or anything about my performance at the Olympics," she said. "I'm happy, proud and even more excited that it's over."

Whether it's fully over, she's not saying. Though Chiles may have offered a hint as they talked to reporters afterward, with Chiles leaning over and saying under her breath "I'm going to miss you man."

So will gymnastics. The Olympics too.

Biles' 11 career medals at the Games (seven gold, two silver, two bronze) ties Czechoslovakia's Vera

Caslavka for the second-most by a female gymnast in Olympic history.

A chance at making it a dozen ended earlier Monday when Biles fell during the beam final, finishing fifth. She was hardly the only one. Four of the finalists came off during their routines, which were done in a quiet arena that is typically a wall of sound during competition.

Not this time after the International Gymnastics Federation had the in-house DJ hit pause during event finals, which Biles said made it "really weird and awkward."

The silence and intermittent shushing didn't bother Italy's Alice D'Amato, who finished off a breakout Games for the Italians — silver medalists in the team competition — by putting together a steady set that seemed immune to the pressure or the moment. Zhou Yaqin of China earned silver with a 14.100, just ahead of bronze medalist Manila Esposito of Italy.

Biles praised D'Amato and Esposito for providing "building blocks" that she believes will help inspire young girls in Italy to take up the sport.

It's something Biles has done during her long stay in the spotlight. She's in no hurry to make any decision on if it's time to let someone else step forward.

She offered "never say never" when asked over the weekend if the Los Angeles Games in 2028 are a possibility.

She will be 31 then, an age when most gymnasts have long since retired. Yet considering the gap that still exists between herself and nearly everyone else in the sport — save for Andrade, who pushed Biles as hard as she's been pushed — anything is possible.

That is for later. For now, there is merely appreciation. The critics that pounced after Tokyo have gone quiet. So have whatever inner demons remained.

"I couldn't have asked for a better Olympic Games, a better support sys-

## Jim Harbaugh: 'I do not apologize,' Again denies knowing about sign-stealing scheme

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Chargers coach Jim Harbaugh on Monday said he has no reason to apologize as he continued to deny having any knowledge of the impermissible-scouting operation that triggered an NCAA investigation of his Michigan program during its championship run last year.

"Never lie. Never cheat. Never steal. I was raised with that lesson. I have raised my family on that lesson. I have preached that lesson to the teams I've coached. No one's perfect. If you stumble, you apologize and you make

it right," Harbaugh said after practice. "Today, I do not apologize. I did not participate. I was not aware nor complicit in those said allegations. So for me, it's back to work and attacking with an enthusiasm unknown to mankind."

Harbaugh left the Wolverines on Jan. 24 to become coach of Los Angeles, two weeks after he led his alma mater to its first national title since 1997.

Harbaugh could face Level 1 NCAA violations — the most serious the association can levy to an individual — as part of an investigation into impermis-

sible scouting and sign-stealing.

Michigan is expected to receive a notice of allegations from the NCAA soon.

A draft of the notice includes accusations of rule violations by Harbaugh and other staff members, including Sherone Moore, who was promoted from offensive coordinator to head coach, three people briefed on the document told The Associated Press on Monday.

The people spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity because the notice was confidential.



Knights' Ellie Gatton takes a putt during the invitational. She was third overall with a score of 88 to aid the team to an early-season victory.

## High School Calendar

**TUESDAY, AUG 6**  
GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton, Norwell at Bellmont Invitational, 8 a.m.

**WEDNESDAY, AUG 7**

No events scheduled.

**THURSDAY, AUG 8**

No events scheduled.

**FRIDAY, AUG 9**

No events scheduled.

**SATURDAY, AUG 10**

No events scheduled.

## De La Cruz helps Reds overcome Sánchez's 480-foot homer to defeat the Marlins

MIAMI (AP) — Elly De La Cruz became the youngest Cincinnati player with four extra-base hits in a game since at least 1901 and the Reds overcame Jesús Sánchez's 480-foot home run, the longest in the major league this season, in a 10-3 win over the Miami Marlins. Nick Martínez pitched five scoreless innings to win on his 34th birthday in his first start since May 22. De La Cruz put Cincinnati ahead with a two-run homer off Roddery Muñoz in the first inning, doubled in the fourth and sixth and hit a solo homer in the eighth against Shaun Anderson for his 20th home run this season.

## Georgia tops USA Today Coaches Poll; Ohio State second

NEW YORK (AP) — Georgia will open the season ranked No. 1 in the preseason USA Today Coaches Poll a year after having its two-year run as national champion end.

The Bulldogs received 46 of the 55 first-place votes from college football coaches in the team released on Monday. Preseason No. 2 Ohio State got seven votes at No. 1, followed by Oregon, Texas and Alabama.

The Associated Press preseason college football poll is scheduled to be released next Monday.

Texas and defending national champion Michigan each got a first-place vote. The Wolverines will open ranked No. 8 after losing coach Jim Harbaugh and quarterback JJ McCarthy to the NFL.

Mississippi's No. 6 ranking represents the highest preseason ranking for the Rebels in the coaches poll since 1970. Notre Dame is No. 7, followed by Michigan, Penn State and Florida State.

The SEC's Missouri (11) and LSU (12) were just outside the Top 10.

The Southeastern Conference had nine teams in the poll, including half of the Top 12. It's the highest starting spot for Texas since 2010 and the lowest for the Crimson Tide since 2009.

The Big Ten also had four teams in the Top 10 and six ranked overall while the Big 12 opens with five ranked teams.

Independent Notre Dame was the only team outside the Power 4 conferences ranked.

# News-Banner Scoreboard

## 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

**Sunday's Games**  
No games scheduled.

**Monday's Games**  
No games scheduled.

**Tuesday's Games**  
No games scheduled.

**Wednesday's Games**  
No games scheduled.

No games scheduled.

## BASEBALL

MLB				
AMERICAN LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	67	46	.593	—
New York	67	46	.593	—
Boston	59	51	.536	6½
Tampa Bay	57	54	.514	9
Toronto	51	61	.455	15½
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	67	45	.598	—
Minnesota	63	48	.568	3½
Kansas City	63	50	.558	4½
Detroit	53	60	.469	14½
Chicago	27	87	.237	41
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	59	54	.522	—
Houston	57	54	.514	1
Texas	53	59	.473	5½

Los Angeles	49	63	.438	9½
Oakland	46	67	.407	13
Sunday's Games				
Kansas City 3, Detroit 2				
Tampa Bay 1, Houston 0				
Baltimore 9, Cleveland 5				
N.Y. Yankees 4, Toronto 3, 10				
innings				
Boston 7, Texas 2				
Minnesota 13, Chicago White Sox 7				
Sox 7				
L.A. Dodgers 3, Oakland 2				
Philadelphia 6, Seattle 0				
L.A. Angels 3, N.Y. Mets 2				
Monday's Games				
Arizona 7, Cleveland 6, 10				
innings				
Arizona (Rodriguez 0-0) at Cleveland (Lively 10-6), 6:40 p.m.				
L.A. Angels (Daniel 1-2) at N.Y. Yankees (Gil 11-5), 7:05 p.m.				
Baltimore (Rodriguez 13-4) at Toron-				

to (Bassitt 8-10), 7:07 p.m.				
Tampa Bay (Springs 0-0) at St. Louis (Gray 10-6), 7:45 p.m.				
Houston (Valdez 10-5) at Texas (Mahle 0-0), 8:05 p.m.				
Minnesota (Lopez 10-7) at Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 8-2), 8:05 p.m.				
Boston (Bello 10-5) at Kansas City (Lugo 13-5), 8:10 p.m.				
Chicago White Sox (Cannon 1-5) at Oakland (Stripling 2-10), 9:40 p.m.				
Detroit (Montero 1-5) at Seattle (Castillo 9-10), 9:40 p.m.				
NATIONAL LEAGUE				
East Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	66	45	.595	—
Atlanta	60	51	.541	6
New York	59	53	.527	7½
Washington	51	62	.451	16
Miami	42	71	.372	25
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	62	49	.559	—
Pittsburgh	56	55	.505	6
St. Louis	57	56	.504	6

Cincinnati	54	58	.482	8½
Chicago	55	60	.478	9
West Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	65	47	.580	—
Arizona	61	52	.540	4½
San Diego	61	52	.540	4½
San Francisco	57	57	.500	9
Colorado	41	72	.363	24½
Sunday's Games				
San Francisco 8, Cincinnati 2				
Washington 4, Milwaukee 3				
Miami 7, Atlanta 0				
Arizona 6, Pittsburgh 5				
L.A. Dodgers 3, Oakland 2				
Philadelphia 6, Seattle 0				
N.Y. Mets 6, St. Louis 0				
San Francisco 4, Washington 1				
Cincinnati 10, Miami 3				
Arizona 7, Cleveland 6, 10				
innings				
Minnesota 3, Chicago Cubs 0				
Philadelphia 3, Chicago Cubs 0				
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, late				
Tuesday's Games				

Arizona (Rodriguez 0-0) at Cleveland (Lively 10-6), 6:40 p.m.				
Cincinnati (Lodolo 8-4) at Miami (Meyer 2-1), 6:40 p.m.				
San Diego (Cease 11-8) at Pittsburgh (Falter 5-7), 6:40 p.m.				
San Francisco (Birdsong 3-0) at Washington (Gore 6-9), 6:45 p.m.				
Milwaukee (Rea 9-3) at Atlanta (Sale 13-3), 7:20 p.m.				
Tampa Bay (Springs 0-0) at St. Louis (Gray 10-6), 7:45 p.m.				
Minnesota (Lopez 10-7) at Chicago Cubs (Imanaga 8-2), 8:05 p.m.				
Philadelphia (Sanchez 7-7) at L.A. Dodgers (Kershaw 0-1), 10:10 p.m.				
Midwest League				
High-A Midwest League Glance				
Monday, Aug. 5				
No games scheduled				
Tuesday, Aug. 6				
Fort Wayne at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.				

# New contract and healthy offseason help remake image of Colts RB Jonathan Taylor

By MICHAEL MAROT  
AP Sports Writer

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — Indianapolis Colts running back Jonathan Taylor looks like his old self at training camp.

He's happy, healthy and focused — a stark contrast from the guy who arrived last summer with an injured ankle and a somber approach to a nasty contract spat.

Teammates understood the surprising transformation was merely the result of Taylor taking care of business with the team. Now, though, they're hopeful the return of his happy-go-lucky attitude also leads to a return to form after two injury-filled seasons.

"Just being able to have JT in the building, his influence, his leadership, his energy, just appreciate that, knowing he's through those woods," linebacker Zaire Franklin said after Sunday's sweltering practice. "Then having him on the field, it means a lot. He's the best back in the league."

That certainly was true in 2020, when Taylor topped the 1,000-yard mark after an injury forced him to carry a heavier load than most rookies. It also was true in 2021 when Taylor won the NFL's rushing title by dethroning two-time champ Derrick Henry.

After just two seasons, Taylor had emerged as one of the league's top backs. He rushed for nearly 3,000 yards and 29 touchdowns while catching 76

passes for an additional 659 yards and three scores.

Then the injuries hit, and Taylor's career trajectory went a different direction.

He missed six games with a sprained ankle in 2022, limiting him to 861 yards and four TDs, and after opting for off-season surgery missed all of Indy's 2023 off-season workouts, the entire training camp and preseason and the Colts' first four regular-season games just as he was entering the final year of his contract.

Suddenly, the seemingly unflappable Taylor found himself in the headlines for all the undesirable reasons — he carried the torch for the league's underpaid running back, had a field side meeting with team owner Jim Irsay in his motorhome as a packed crowd watched the Colts evening practice and even took his trade request public. Team officials responded by giving Taylor permission to shop for a trade partner.

Fans thought the tattered relationship couldn't be mended. Taylor signed a three-year contract extension worth \$42 million just before his October season debut that seemed to make amends, allowing him to focus solely on regaining his All-Pro form.

"It's almost like when you go to take a test," Taylor said about his new start this season. "When you know you haven't been studying, you kind of have that seed of doubt, but when you know

you've had a full offseason of preparation, you know the time, you know the sweat equity you put in, you just can't wait to go and attack it."

There's little doubt the 25-year-old Taylor feels he has plenty to prove.

Some wary scouts thought the former New Jersey prep star's college workload would lead to a short career. Taylor had 926 carries in three seasons at Wisconsin, falling 23 yards short of becoming the first FBS player with three 2,000-yard seasons.

Now, after rushing for 1,602 yards and 11 TDs over the past two seasons, Taylor wants to show everyone he can rebound and there were indications late last season that he could.

Taylor followed his slow start by nearing 100-yard games three times during a six-game stretch while splitting carries with Zack Moss. Taylor finally ended a 13-game drought without topping 100 yards by rushing for 188 yards in a season-closing loss to Houston.

But with all five starting offensive linemen back, Moss now in Cincinnati and Taylor set to be paired in the backfield with second-year quarterback Anthony Richardson, who is as potent with his legs as with his arm. Richardson suffered a season-ending injury after taking just one game snap with Taylor on the field.

Taylor, among others, is eager to see how it works.

## Agriculture

# \$2 Million provided to Indiana food banks through State Department of Agriculture

INDIANAPOLIS — Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture announced today that Indiana food banks will receive a combined total of \$2 million to support their efforts in feeding Hoosiers in need.

"Food insecure Hoosiers are some of our most vulnerable and I appreciate the general assembly's support of these individuals and families," said Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch, Indiana's Secretary of Agriculture and Rural Development. "This funding will go a long way in supporting 11 food banks that provide the necessary nutrition to food pantries and soup kitchens across our state."

According to Feeding Indiana's Hungry, more than 950,000 Hoosiers, including 1 in 5 children, experienced food insecurity in 2022, the most recent data available. This new data represents a 30% increase in food insecurity over 2021.

"As we have said for nearly four years, our member food banks continue to serve record numbers of Hoosier families. Too many of our neighbors continue to face difficult choices between paying bills and buying groceries. For any Hoosier to be unsure from where their next meal will come is unacceptable," said Emily Bryant, executive director of Feeding Indiana's Hungry. "We're grateful for the support of the Indiana General Assembly, Lt. Gov. Crouch and the Indiana State Department of Agriculture for providing additional and much needed support to our members to help them serve our Hoosier neighbors and our communities."

Indiana food pantries and soup kitchens are a subset of food banks. There are 11 food banks which supply pantries and soup kitchens across the state. Each food bank received part of the \$2 million in funding, which supplies community food

pantries, kitchens, churches and more. This funding will allow food pantries, soup kitchens and other food distribution centers to receive additional food products from the food bank that serves their location.

ISDA Director Don Lamb is proud to help assist our food banks and pantries that feed Hoosiers.

"Indiana farmers are skilled at growing an abundance of safe, reliable food and food banks and pantries have the necessary resources and skills to distribute large amounts of food to help community members in need," said Lamb. "We are so thankful for the work food banks, pantries, soup kitchens and others do for their communities in helping food insecure Hoosiers."

The funding was provided by the Indiana General Assembly, as part of its biennial budget. The distribution amounts were determined using The Emergency Food Assistance Program fair share percentages for Indiana, which captures poverty and unemployment levels in each county.

Carmen Cumberland, Executive Director and

CEO of Community Harvest Food Bank in Fort Wayne, is excited to be able to support more families.

"Community Harvest Food Bank is humbled and thrilled to receive this bountiful grant of \$197,800 from the General Assembly and Indiana State Department of Agriculture. This funding comes when our friends and neighbors struggle to afford rent, car payments and basic needs. Inflation's impact on daily living has left some families choosing between keeping their car or their house, let alone, figuring out how to get food on their tables. These are people with jobs, families, support networks, and resources who the cost of living has simply outpaced," said Cumberland. "Last week, our Saturday Helping Hands distribution reached a record high of 1,622 families seeking food assistance. Food insecurity is not going anywhere soon, and that's why these funds are greatly significant in lifting those we love and care about in our community."

The following list includes the food banks are receiving funding for fiscal

- Community Harvest Food Bank — \$197,800
  - Dare to Care Food Bank — \$75,200
  - Food Bank of Northern Indiana — \$233,600
  - Food Bank of Northwest Indiana — \$198,800
  - Food Finders Food Bank, Inc. — \$195,800
  - FreeStore Foodbank — \$16,000
  - Gleaners Food Bank of Indiana, Inc. — \$693,200
  - Hoosier Hills Food Bank, Inc. — \$80,000
  - Second Harvest Food Bank of East Central IN, Inc. — \$155,200
  - Terre Haute Catholic Charities Foodbank, Inc. — \$89,200
  - Tri-State Food Bank, Inc. — \$119,200
- Visit [isda.in.gov](http://isda.in.gov) to learn more about the Indiana State Department of Agriculture Department. Visit [feedingindianahungry.org](http://feedingindianahungry.org) to learn more about Feeding Indiana's Hungry.



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

Difficulty: ★★

8/6

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## This Week's Garage Sales



1565 WEXFORD CT Aug 8&9, 8 am-4 pm, Aug 10, 8 am-12 pm. Samsung 43" Smart TV, furniture, twin bed/Beautyrest mattress, home and Holiday decor, Christmas trees, linens, kitchen items, patio furniture, boy bikes, some toys, misc.

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## Read & recycle

## Lottery Numbers

**Monday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY**  
Cash 5 — 15-21-24-30-37  
Cash4Life — 08-25-33-38-46, Cash Ball: 02  
Quick Draw Midday — 03-06-08-16-17-20-22-29-35-41-42-46-47-56-61-63-64-69-75-77, BE: 42  
Daily Three-Midday — 00-05-08, SB: 07  
Daily Three-Evening — 03-02-06, SB: 00  
Daily Four-Midday — 03-09-07-08, SB: 07  
Daily Four-Evening — 00-04-01-00, SB: 00  
Quick Draw Evening — 04-05-06-13-14-20-28-31-35-37-42-44-53-59-60-62-65-68-69-80, BE: 68  
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$18.9 million

**MEGA MILLIONS**  
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$374 million  
**POWERBALL**  
29-42-44-51-54 Powerball: 12; Power Play: 2X

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## NOTICE

### Notices

**UPCOMING EVENT HAPPENING?**  
A 20 word, line classified ad for six days is only \$24.50. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office at 125 N. Johnson St., 260-824-0224, or submit online to [news-banner.com](http://news-banner.com) and click on classifieds.

## August GOODS & SERVICES DIRECTORY

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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, [TheSteffenGroup.com](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), 260-824-3006, [www.steffengrp.com](http://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/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. [KrueckebergAuction.com](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 260-724-7402.  
**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. [TheSteffenGroup.com](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), 260-824-3006, [steffengrp.com](http://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! Pick up Aug. 19, 2-6 p.m., 9841 N 750 E, Ossian, IN. [KrueckebergAuction.com](http://KrueckebergAuction.com), 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).  
**AUGUST 22-23 - 9 a.m. - Secured creditors & various consignors, owners.** 815 Adams St., Decatur. Two day truck & equipment auction. Day 1, online bidding only: 250+ various skid loader attachments, mini excavators, mini skid steers, tool boxes, workbenches, iron gates, chains & binders, 40' high side shipping containers, dome shelters, various truck take off parts & much more! Day 2, onsite and online bidding offering 700+ lots! 2024 Holiday Rambler, large group of off lease day cabs and sleepers, Freightliner day cabs, box, dump, utility & bucket trucks, lots of trailers, shipping containers, skid loader attachments, cars, SUV, pickup trucks, cargo & passenger vans! Accepting consignments! [KrueckebergAuction.com](http://KrueckebergAuction.com) & [RealtyLLC.com](http://RealtyLLC.com), 260-724-7402, [kjauction.com](http://kjauction.com).  
**SEPTEMBER 7 - 9 a.m. - Various consignors, sellers.** Lehman Feed Mill, 5111 S 000 Rd., Berne, IN. Farm

Machinery Consignment Auction. Tractors, hay wagons, grain carts, discs, planters, plows, trucks, trailers, semis, livestock trailers, tools, lawn & garden equipment, shop equipment, livestock equipment & more! Consign anytime Sept. 4, 5, or 6 from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Call Heartland to advertise your items! [HeartlandAuction.com](http://HeartlandAuction.com), 260-724-3499, [heartlandauctionrealty.com](http://heartlandauctionrealty.com).  
**SEPTEMBER 24 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown.** Two story country home situated on 2.41+/- acres with outbuildings. This 1,876 SF home features 3 bedrooms, large living room, eat-in kitchen, utility room and 1 car garage. Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 7721 N. 300 W. Markle, IN. [TheSteffenGroup.com](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com), 260-824-3006.  
**SEPTEMBER 25 - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown.** Land location: 1/4 mile west of Marzane Rd on Wells County Rd 1200 N (Scott Street), Zanesville. 9.27+/- acre prime building site in Union Twp., Northern Wells County. Property features open land, wooded acreage, a 24'x48' pole building. Perfect home site, country estate. "Explore the potential of this property." Open houses: Sept. 12 and 19 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. [TheSteffenGroup.com](http://TheSteffenGroup.com), 260-824-3006, [steffengrp.com](http://steffengrp.com).

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7	2	1	9	1	6	8	9	9

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