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THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Johnson street road restoration
Road restoration work has begun on South Johnson Street, after weeks of closure to repair sewer line problems. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

Commissioners get update on highway department building

By HOLLY GASKILL
A series of "punch list" items are still being completed on the new Wells County Highway Department building.
During Monday's county commissioner meeting, Highway Supervisor Shawn Bonar presented a list of 13 items, many of which were finishing items like sticky doors. However, several issues remain with the outdoor lighting, landscaping, and air conditioning at the facility.
The commissioners approved the building for substantial completion with the Conor S. Jackson Company in June, just after the Highway Department hosted an open house of the facility.
Also during the meeting, Bonar said the department had been testing driving a new software, vialytics, which takes pictures of the roads and inventories issues like potholes or missing signage.
Bonar also reiterated issues with corn fields at intersections. Crops should be trimmed 10 ft. back from the pavement for prop-

er sight distance. Bonar said the department would begin trimming problem intersections themselves this week.
The department is also working on Bridge 105, scheduled for completion on Sept. 24, and will soon begin grading stone roads and chip sealing for the season. Bonar highlighted a new Facebook page, Wells County Highway Department of Indiana, which will be used for regular updates.
County Engineer Nate Whitacre notified the commissioners that Bridge 170 is complete and approximately \$10,000 under the original budget. The commissioners also approved unofficial detours for upcoming Indiana Department of Transportation projects on U.S. 224 between 200W and 300W, State Road 1 between 450E and 1050N, and State Road 218 between 100E and 200E.
The commissioners later signed several funding compliance waivers for the Wells County Council on Aging.
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Data shows more Hoosier kids are eating free summer meals

A new Food Research & Action Center report shows rebounding numbers of summer breakfasts and lunches served in Indiana in 2023.

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
Although a new report indicates an ongoing nationwide drop in the number of children who participated in free summer meals last year, data shows Indiana bucked the trend with more Hoosier kids receiving lunches in 2023 than in 2022.
The report released Tuesday by the Food Research & Action Center revealed that 170,926 fewer children benefited from meals served through the Summer Nutrition Programs in 2023 compared to the previous year. That means only 15.3 children received summer lunch for every 100 who received a free or reduced-price school lunch during the previous school year.
But in Indiana, more than 72,000 children participated in free summer lunches on an average day in July 2023 — a nearly 33% increase from 2022. By

comparison, 17.3 Hoosier kids ate summer lunch for every 100 who participated in the free and reduced program during the academic year.
Participation rates for breakfast still show room for improvement, however. According to FRAC's analysis, 15,157 Hoosier children received breakfast on an average day in July 2023. That's an increase of about 11.4% compared to July 2022, but still far less than during the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, for example, 73,666 Hoosier kids received free breakfast during the summer.
The overall 2023 participation boost follows a drop in 2022 — though there were previous summer meal increases in 2020 and 2021.
Child nutrition waivers issued by the U.S. Department of Agriculture make free meals available at summer meal sites, often located at schools and community

centers.
Access was expanded during the pandemic, and until 2023, federal waivers allowed meal sites to operate in all communities and offer meals that families could pick up and take home off-site consumption. Most sites have since reverted to pre-pandemic operations, meaning fewer kids can access free meals.
FRAC, a national nonprofit that aims to reduce poverty-related hunger, releases its summer nutrition report annually. Data is delayed a year however; the newest report highlights summer lunches in 2023, and 2024 numbers won't be available for another year.
"The summer should be about play, adventure, and friends, not rumbling stomachs. Summer meals help keep hunger at bay, so that children can enjoy their break and return to school in the
(Continued on Page 2)

Tropical Storm Debby doles out repeat deluges for residents

By JEFFREY COLLINS and JOHN MINCHILLO
Associated Press
HUGER, S.C. (AP) — Days of rain forced the deluge-hardened residents of a South Carolina community to begin the near-ritualistic task of assessing damage left behind by Tropical Storm Debby, which continued spinning over the Atlantic Ocean and influencing thunderstorms from the East Coast to the Great Lakes on Wednesday.
In Huger, about 15 miles northeast of Charleston, Gene Taylor was waiting in the afternoon for a few inches of water to drain from his house along French Quarter Creek as high tide passed.
Taylor saw the potential for flooding last week and started moving belongings out or up higher in his home. It's a lesson learned the hard way — Taylor estimated that this is the fourth time he has had floodwater in his home in the past nine years.
"To save everything, we've learned from the past it's better be prepared for the worst. And unfortunately, I think we got it," Taylor said.
A few doors down, Charles Grainger was cleaning up after about 8 inches of water got into his home.
"Eight inches disrupts your whole life," Grainger said. "You don't get used to it. You just grin and bear it. It's part of living on the creek."
The National Hurricane Center warned that isolated areas could see up to 25 inches of rain from Debby. Additionally, the National Weather Service's office in Charleston said survey teams confirmed four-Debby related tornadoes.
In Georgia, at least four dams were breached northwest of Savannah in Bulloch County, but no deaths had been reported, authorities said at a briefing.
More than 75 people were rescued from floodwaters in the county, said Corey Kemp, director of emergency management,
(Continued on Page 2)

How will Hamas' new leader affect Gaza war, cease-fire efforts?

By JOSEPH KRAUSS
Associated Press
Yahya Sinwar's appointment as the top leader of Hamas formalizes a role he assumed in the early hours of Oct. 7, when the surprise attack into Israel that he helped mastermind ushered in the bloodiest chapter of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.
He is seen as a hard-liner with closer ties to Hamas' armed wing

than his predecessor, Ismail Haniyeh, who was killed in an explosion in Iran's capital last month that was widely blamed on Israel and could spark an all-out regional war.
Sinwar was already seen as having the final word on any cease-fire agreement for Gaza and the release of dozens of Israeli hostages still held by Hamas.
But he is deep in hiding inside

Gaza, and mediators say it takes several days to exchange messages with him. That raises questions about how he would manage a sprawling organization with cadres across the Middle East.
Hamas has survived the killing of several top leaders across more than three decades, while maintaining a high degree of internal cohesion — and tapping Sinwar, who tops Israel's most-wanted list,

was a show of defiance.
But Hamas has never faced a crisis of this magnitude — and the man who engineered it is now charged with managing the fallout.
An even tougher stance toward Israel
Haniyeh was a veteran of Hamas' political wing who had once served as Palestinian prime minister and in more recent years had managed the group's affairs

from his base in Qatar.
While Hamas has always championed armed struggle, Haniyeh and other exiled leaders had occasionally struck a more moderate tone, even expressing openness to a possible two-state solution, although still officially refusing to recognize Israel.
Sinwar, by contrast, spent more than two decades in Israeli prisons
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Outside
You can see clearly now because the rain is gone

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High 82 High 76 High 72
Low 62 Low 54 Low 54
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Free summer meals

(Continued from Page 1)

fall healthy and ready to learn," said Crystal FitzSimons, interim president at FRAC, in a statement.

"Maximizing the opportunities available this summer and beyond will be critical to ensuring that children have the nutrition, and the education and enrichment programming, they need to learn and thrive," FitzSimons continued. "Now is the time to recommit to ending summer hunger, and more must be done."

Numbers improve, but still low overall

Across the country, most other states saw a decrease in the average daily participation in summer lunch in July 2023 compared to July 2022, according to FRAC.

Nationwide participation for lunch in July 2023 was slightly higher than pre-pandemic levels: 30,533 additional children participated in July 2023 when compared to July 2019, the last summer before the pandemic.

Participation for breakfast in July 2023 was 15.9% lower than July 2022, with 287,096 fewer children participating in 2023, according to the FRAC report.

Even so, Indiana ranked bottom in the country for the ratio of kids who ate both free lunches and breakfasts. Out of every 100 students who ate a summer lunch, only 25 were also served a free breakfast, according to the FRAC

data. Nutrition advocates emphasized that many Indiana families continue to struggle with hunger and food insecurity.

FRAC, specifically, is calling on federal lawmakers to make summer meals "more accessible," including by making more communities eligible to provide summer meals, allowing all sites to serve three meals (instead of two), streamlining operations so summer sites can operate after school and on weekends during the school year, and providing more funding for summer programs, "so that more children have access to the meals and the educational and enrichment activities they need during the summer to return to school well-nourished and ready to learn."

Summer meal options

The two federal summer nutrition programs — the Summer Food Service Program and National School Lunch Program — provide funding to serve meals and snacks to children at sites during summer vacation or the extended breaks of year-round schools. The programs also can be used to feed children during unanticipated school closures.

The SFSP is a federally-funded, state-administered program that reimburses approved program operators who serve free, healthy meals and snacks to children under age 18 in low-income areas when school is not in ses-

sion. Sponsorship is open to public and private nonprofit groups, including local governments, summer camps, religious organizations and recreation centers. Organizations may also consider partnering with an existing sponsor, such as a school corporation, to serve students in areas where kids lack good nutrition during the summer months.

Separately, the NSLP is available for schools that operate summer school. Only the students enrolled in summer school can receive a meal, however.

The latest FRAC report indicates the number of SFSP sponsors and sites was practically the same from July 2022 to July 2023. The data shows there were 164 sponsors and 810 sites statewide that provided summer meals in July 2023.

To complement summer meals, the Summer Electronic Benefit Transfer Program, a new permanent program, launched this summer.

Thirty-seven states, including Indiana, are participating, according to the USDA. Eligible families received \$120 in federally funded grocery benefits on an EBT card for each school-age child who is eligible for free or reduced-price school meals.

Some 669,000 school-aged kids in Indiana were eligible, according to FRAC. It's not yet clear how many actually participated.

Weather

Thursday, August 8, 2024

(24-hour observations at 10:17 p.m. Wednesday)
High: 76; **Low:** 65; **Precipitation:** 0.01 inches of rain
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.21 feet at 8:45 p.m. Wednesday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 82. Northeast wind around 5 mph.

Tonight: Partly cloudy, with a low around 62. North wind around 5 mph.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 76. Northwest wind 5 to 10 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

Friday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

Saturday: Sunny, with a high near 72.

Saturday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54.

Sunday: Sunny, with a high near 75.

Sunday Night: Mostly clear, with a low around 54.

Monday: Sunny, with a high near 77.

New leader

(Continued from Page 1)

and told interrogators he had killed 12 suspected Palestinian collaborators, gaining a reputation for brutality among people on both sides of the conflict.

He and Mohammed Deif, the shadowy head of Hamas' armed wing who Israel claims to have killed in a recent strike, spent years building up the group's military strength and are believed to have devised the Oct. 7 attack. Militants burst into Israel that day, killing some 1,200 people and abducting around 250.

In recent negotiations, "Haniyeh had played a big role in trying to convince Sinwar to accept a cease-fire proposal with Israel," said Hugh Lovatt, an expert on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the European Council on Foreign Relations.

Sinwar has stuck to demands for the release of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, the full withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza and a lasting cease-fire — even as nearly 40,000 Palestinians have been killed in the ongoing war, according to local officials, and much of the territory left in ruins.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has vowed to continue the war until Hamas is completely destroyed and all the hos-

tages return home.

"The killing of Haniyeh already brought negotiations back to the drawing board," said Lina Khatib, an expert on the conflict at Chatham House, a London-based think tank. "This next chess move by Hamas makes negotiations even trickier."

Sadeq Abu Amer, head of the Palestinian Dialogue Group, a think tank based in Turkey, said that while Sinwar's elevation might appear to be a "challenge to Israel," it is still possible to make a deal.

He added that Sinwar, in his new role, "might take a step that will surprise everyone."

Predicting how Sinwar will lead Hamas is difficult because of the secrecy around him.

Sinwar has not been seen since the start of the war and even before Oct. 7 made only rare public appearances. He is likely in hiding deep inside Hamas' tunnel network and largely cut off from the outside world.

While he can be expected to set overall policy and make the final decision on any cease-fire deal, Hamas' day-to-day operations in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and elsewhere are likely to be managed by its exiled leaders in Qatar, Lebanon, Turkey and Iran.

Tropical Storm Debby

(Continued from Page 1)

and about 100 roads were closed.

"We've been faced with a lot of things we've never been faced with before," Bulloch County Commission Chairman Roy Thompson said. "I'm 78-plus years old and have never seen anything like this before in Bulloch County. It's amazing what has happened, and amazing what is going to continue to happen until all these waters get out of here."

For residents on Tappan Zee Drive in suburban Pooler, west of Savannah, Georgia, the drenching that Debby delivered came with a painful dose of déjà vu. In October 2016, Hurricane Matthew overflowed a nearby canal and flooded several of the same homes.

Located roughly 30 miles inland from the Atlantic Ocean, with no creeks or rivers nearby, the neighborhood doesn't seem like a high-risk location for tropical flooding. But residents say drainage problems have plagued their street for well over a decade, despite local government efforts to fix them.

Debby also dumped rain on communities all the way up to the Great Lakes and New York and New Jersey. Moisture from the tropical storm strengthened another

system Tuesday evening, which caused strong thunderstorms, according to National Weather Service meteorologist Scott Kleebauer.

"We had a multi-round period of showers and thunderstorms that kind of scooted from Michigan eastward," Kleebauer said.

As much as 6 inches of rain fell in parts of New Jersey in less than four hours.

Emergency officials in New York City warned of potential flash flooding, flying drones with loudspeakers in some neighborhoods to tell people in basement apartments to be ready to flee at a moment's notice. Multiple water rescues were reported in and near the city.

Nearly 330,000 customers remained without power in Ohio as of Wednesday afternoon, according to PowerOutage.us, following severe storms including two confirmed tornadoes. Utility officials with FirstEnergy's Illuminating Company said via social media that power restoration would take days due to the damage.

In South Carolina, Gov. Henry McMaster said his state was just entering Act 2 of a three-act play, after more than 60 homes were damaged but roads and water systems were without

significant problems.

"We've been lucky so far. Things have not been as bad as they could have been," McMaster said.

Act 2 was to arrive overnight into Thursday when Debby moves back onshore and heavy rain returns, this time to the northern part of the coast and inland. An additional 4 to 8 inches of rain could fall, said John Quagliariello, a meteorologist with the National Weather Service in Columbia.

"It may not be as catastrophic as what we were saying, but we still think as these rain bands develop they could sit over the same area for long periods of time, produce a lot of rainfall and a lot of flooding," Quagliariello said.

The final act may come next week if enough rain falls upstream in North Carolina to cause major flooding along rivers as it flows to the Atlantic Ocean.

The center of Debby was over the Atlantic on Wednesday evening, about 40 miles east-southeast of Charleston, the National Hurricane Center said. The storm first made landfall as a Category 1 hurricane early Monday along Florida's Gulf Coast.

A state of emergency was in effect for both North Carolina and Virginia. Maryland

issued a state of preparedness declaration that coordinates preparations without declaring an emergency.

At least six people have died due to the storm, five of them in traffic accidents or from fallen trees. The sixth death involved a 48-year-old man in Gulfport, Florida, whose body was recovered after his anchored sailboat partially sank.

In Charleston, South Carolina, the Brown Dog Deli closed early Monday and couldn't open Tuesday due to a curfew decreed by local officials. On Wednesday the lunch crowd poured in after days of storm preparations and hunkering down. The first words from the person answering the phone were: "Yes, we're open."

"We've got a lot of locals walking in after being cooped up for two days looking for a good meal," kitchen manager Liz Denney said.

Some water got around the sandbags that employees placed Monday, but the restaurant has had worse flooding other times in the past year, Denney said. The standing water and the occasional interruption, she added, is just part of living on the coast.

"It comes with the territory," Denney said.

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Saturday, August 10 - 10am - Division 2 Tractor Pull - Top cut and full cut classes- 3&5 mph top cut classes - 6 mph full cut classes
 Visit tsapp.org for a full list of rules and classes
Sunday, August 11 - 12pm Garden Tractor Pull
 12pm Farm Stock Pull - 10 mph - 9500# and 10500#
 Antiques Pull - 8 mph 4000-8000# classes, any cut tire, 18.4-38 max tire size, \$20 per hook 50% payback

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OBITUARIES

Kane Kinsey, 4

Kane Michael Lee Kinsey, 4, Bluffton, passed away at 4:11 p.m. on Monday, Aug. 5, 2024. He was born in Marion, on Thursday, April 2, 2020, to Travis Kinsey and Brittany (Caudle) Kinsey.



Kane beat his cancer once; he was "One in a Million". He loved dinosaurs, mowing, anything with wheels — trains, planes and automobiles. He loved watching wrestling. His loves were his medical team Gabby and Paula "Margaret". He loved going to car shows with "The Goodfellas" and Missisnawa Football games with "My Boy Reece". He loved doing art in the garage with mom and Chad. He always enjoyed his cheese pizza at Goodfella's Pizza. Kane also loved going to the Club Bingo with Mike and Shelley Moore, Kerri and Kevin "Blippi" Cole, and all the volunteers.

Survivors include his parents, Travis Kinsey and Brittany (Chad) Danels; siblings, Taylor Holiday, Izola Danels, Landon Danels, Max McClain and Cash Kinsey; grandparents, Pam Kinsey, Mark (Ginny) Caudle, Nancy Graves, Sindi (Bill) Wilhelm; great-grandparents, Randall (Kristi) Alsip and Cindi Hickey; and his dogs, Frank, Nitro, Bella, Zoe and Moe.

He was preceded in death by his grandpa, Jerry Kinsey; great-grandparents, Grover and Patricia Caudle and John Dixon; as well as his dogs, Azzy and Freckles.

The family will receive visitors from 3-7 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 14, 2024, at Needham-Storey-Wampner Funeral and Cremation Service, Storey Chapel, 400 E. Main St. in Gas City.

A service to celebrate Kane's life will be held at 11:30 a.m. on Thursday, Aug. 15, 2024, at the funeral home. Pastor Darryl Smith will be officiating.

Memorial contributions may be directed to Ronald McDonald House Charities of Greater Cincinnati 341 Erkenbrecher Ave., Cincinnati, OH 45229.

Memories may be shared online at nswcares.com.

Lonny R. Moser, 58

Lonny R. Moser, 58, of Berne, passed away Wednesday morning, Aug. 7, 2024, at Stillwater Hospice Home in Fort Wayne.

Funeral arrangements are pending with Goodwin — Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel of Bluffton.

More than 1,800 openings at job fair

FORT WAYNE, IN — U.S. Rep. Jim Banks, R-IN, in conjunction with Purdue University Fort Wayne and WorkOne Northeast, will host a job fair from noon to 3 p.m. Aug. 14 in the university's International Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

"Northeast Indiana is home to both a talented workforce and innovative employers," Banks said. "This job fair will showcase hundreds of job openings and all employers will be ready to hire. Wherever you are in your career journey, there will be a place for you there."

More than 60 employers with a total of more than 1,800 job openings

are expected to attend. The employers span a variety of industries, including manufacturing, healthcare, government, finance, law enforcement, and transportation.

Representatives of higher education institutions will also be on hand for those people interested in furthering their education. Among the institutions: Purdue Fort Wayne, Indiana Wesleyan and Indiana Tech.

The annual job fair is one of the largest in northeast Indiana.

"The advanced training our students receive while on campus is only one of the ways Purdue Fort Wayne serves as an essential driver of economic develop-

ment," said Purdue Fort Wayne Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer. "In addition to being the hub for public higher education across the region, we also take our role as a career facilitator very seriously. Hosting this annual job fair is another opportunity for the university to help those seeking gainful employment make these important connections."

In addition to the job opportunities presented at the fair, WorkOne Northeast representatives will be available to assist job seekers with resumes, provide guidance on job interview techniques, and offer information on short-term, certification-based training opportunities.

Indiana Attorney General files to dismiss challenge to state's 'intellectual diversity' law

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Office of the Indiana Attorney General this week argued a federal judge should dismiss a lawsuit led by university professors and the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana challenging a state law requiring "intellectual diversity" in the classroom.

The plaintiffs assert that Senate Enrolled Act 202 violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution. The measure was adopted by the General Assembly over concerns that conservative viewpoints were being stifled on campuses and signed into law by Gov. Eric Holcomb in March.

"To protect Indiana students in the classroom, our office this week filed additional arguments to dismiss a lawsuit by four professors who say they should not have to provide a classroom environment of free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity," Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita said in an email. "The manufactured fears put forth in yet another illegit lawsuit by the ACLU don't lack imagination, but the professors do lack standing to even bring this action. Our office will continue to defend in court this new law, which enables students to engage in free inquiry and ensures state universities foster diversity of thought."

The office filed as an intervenor. The defendants in the case are the boards of trustees as higher education institutions who will be compelled to enforce 202's provisions by law. They also joined Rokita's office in the latest

filing.

202 background

As summarized in a June filing, 202 "requires that faculty members be denied tenure or promotion, and threatens them with discipline through and including termination, if they are deemed 'unlikely' to 'foster a culture of free inquiry, free expression, and intellectual diversity' within their institution, or if they are deemed to have failed to foster such cultures in the past."

Additionally, the law further requires institutions to establish complaint procedures in which school students and staff can accuse faculty members and contractors of not meeting free-expression criteria.

Institutions will have to refer those complaints to human resource professionals and supervisors "for consideration in employee reviews and tenure and promotion decisions," according to the law. In limited circumstances, complaints could be advanced to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

The ACLU and professors filed the federal lawsuit in May on behalf of two professors at Purdue University Fort Wayne.

Steven A. Carr is a professor of communication and the director of the Institute for Holocaust and Genocide Studies. David G. Schuster is an associate professor in the history department.

Since then, two other professors have joined the suit — James Scheurich is a tenured faculty member at Indiana University Indianapolis and David McDonald is a tenured faculty member at Indiana University Bloomington.

Plaintiffs raised concerns that the law would have a chilling effect

on their free speech and require them to devote equal teaching time to "debunked" theories alongside "rigorously studied academic analysis."

"SEA 202 puts Indiana's professors in an untenable position. Through vague language and the threat of harsh sanctions, including termination, the law strips professors of the academic freedom that the Supreme Court has long recognized they have the right to exercise," said ACLU of Indiana attorney Stevie Pactor in a May statement. "No professor should have to choose between their employment and their First Amendment rights."

The filing from the Attorney General

Through June and July, the parties and Attorney General's Office wrestled over a motion for a preliminary injunction that would block the law from taking effect. The judge has not ruled on that issue.

Monday's filing pushes the court to dismiss because harm hasn't yet occurred, asserting that "Plaintiffs attempt to manufacture an injury by pointing to self-inflicted wounds."

"They base their claims on fears about misapplications that have not yet come to pass of university policies that have not yet been enforced," the brief continued. "Those speculative injuries, in turn, are not even traceable to the law Plaintiffs seeks to have facially enjoined." In the initial filing from plaintiffs, the history professors worried they would be required to teach about proof of Holocaust denialism, for example, or evidence related to Indiana's own eugenics movement that promoted forced sterilization of minority populations.

But the Attorney General's Office argues that such fears don't meet the

bar for being "actual and well-founded," as set by legal precedent and that the existence of 202 alone isn't enough to provide standing.

"Perhaps recognizing that the mere-existence rule cannot win the day, Plaintiffs instead speculate about hypothetical implications of the Act. Plaintiffs concede that they already aim to foster intellectual diversity and free expression ... in other words, they already comply with the Act," the filing read. "Without even a shred of evidence about what the Board of Trustees' enforcement will look like, Plaintiffs cannot meet that standard. They can only hypothesize that the Board of Trustees will misapply the Act to the conduct they believe is already compliant."

The boards, the filing argues, haven't yet implemented the policies required by the act and so plaintiffs cannot claim harm.

The plaintiffs in the case said the result of the new law is that "some speech is being chilled, and some risks being compelled. This is occurring today, as the professors prepare for their courses to begin on August 19th (Purdue University) and August 26th (Indiana University), and will continue to apply to all of their teaching."



Attorney General Todd Rokita

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

County:
Tuesday, 12:09 p.m., 100 block of Belmont Boulevard, Decatur. Officer transported subject on detention order.

Tuesday, 1:11 p.m., 3600E 200N, Bluffton. Report of an older woman wandering caller's property. Woman advised to leave.

Tuesday, 4:12 p.m., Wells County Jail, Bluffton. Protective order served to Michael Moore.

Ossian:
Wednesday, 10:38 a.m.,

S.R. 1 and East 800N, Ossian. Report of abandoned vehicle.

ARRESTS

Toy E. Everidge, 45, Bluffton; intimidation, a Level 5 felony. No bond set.
Terry Joe Fisher, 46, Van Buren; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Brittany Nichole Adkins, 35, Bluffton; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Bond set at \$1,500.

Kroger Health introduces new Bluffton pharmacy

A new Kroger Pharmacy in Bluffton began serving patients on Wednesday, Aug. 7. The new Kroger Health team will be available to provide prescriptions, update vaccines and help more Hoosiers live healthier lives.

The pharmacy is part of a \$750,000 investment that also expands the store's Kroger Pickup service and elevates the selection of adult beverages in the Wine Department of the Bluffton store.

The new Kroger Pharmacy team will assist patients with medical needs and introduce patients to the Kroger Health Savings Club, a membership program designed to provide members and their families with savings on commonly prescribed medications.

Health leader for Kroger Central Division Stacy Doyle said, "The savings program aims to make medications more affordable and accessible for members and their families, even if those medications are not covered in the member's insurance plan."

Kroger Pharmacy customers may also earn additional fuel points with eligible prescriptions.

Kroger will host a health fair on Aug. 28, when company leaders gather for a ribbon-cutting and formal opening of the new pharmacy.

For more information on the range of Kroger Health services, from medicine to nutrition, visit krogerhealth.com.

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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Transparency, superstition and a little PTSD

This is my second attempt at maintaining transparency on problems we run into at The News-Banner.

A few weeks ago I wrote a column that attempted to explain why we missed a day of delivery. The machine that makes our plates decided to stop making plates.

In the early morning hours on Tuesday, July 16, the plate maker stopped working. Fortunately, we were nearly done with the press run and were able to hit our deadline with all of the Post Offices.

For the Wednesday, July 17, edition we were able to get plates from the Portland Commercial Review while we waited for our machine to be repaired. One of the plates flew off the press and we didn't have time to get a replacement. That day, we missed our deadlines with the Post Offices so no newspapers were delivered.

My column on July 19 detailed that day in the office with the hundreds of calls we received. Again, thank you for your patience. At the end of that submission I noted that the machine had been repaired and "The world is right again. At least for now. I'm not one to be overconfident."

I wasn't overconfident but I am superstitious. It comes from my younger days playing baseball. Baseball players are notoriously superstitious. If you're on a hitting streak, you don't change anything. You don't wash your uniform. You don't change your socks (or other apparel). You eat the same food. Most importantly, you don't talk about the streak.

Superstitions aren't reasonable.

On Friday, July 19, my words came back to haunt me. "The world is right again."

That morning at 2 a.m. my phone rang. The plate maker stopped working again, even though we ran some plates as a test on Thursday afternoon.

There was nothing worse than having to call our friends in Portland — again — and drag them out of bed at 2:30 in the morning when they were finally planning to get a full night's rest.

We didn't make all of our deadlines that day, but we did make our largest drop at the Bluffton Post Office — with three minutes to spare. I was incredibly proud of our team for the little victory.

Monday afternoon the repair person was back. The part that had been replaced earlier obviously hadn't solved the problem. Not wanting to mess around, they replaced half of the machine and had us up and running by 9 p.m. A few hours later we printed Tuesday's newspaper without any issue.

At that time I was also filling in for Mark Miller and was building this page for a few days. One of his suggestions for Tuesday's opinion page included "... maybe you'll have an update on the platemaker :)." The superstitious voice in my head refused. I had written an update a few days earlier and it backfired. I wasn't going through that again.

Fast forward to yesterday, when I wrote this piece, the machine has been working. My PTSD wouldn't allow me to even think about those horrible days. I'm not fully over the trauma, PTSD doesn't work like that, but I'm recovered enough to tell the rest of the story.

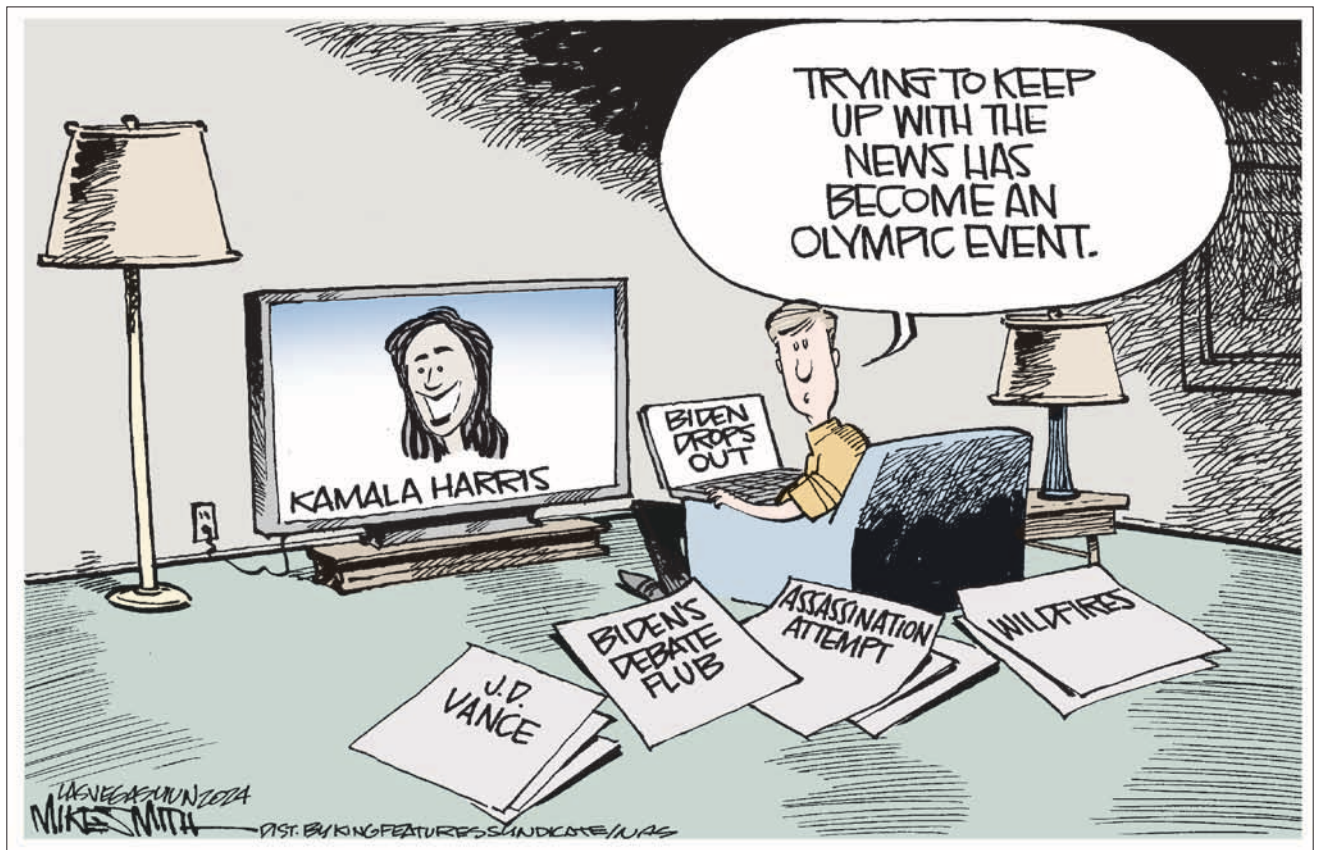
If the plate maker stops working again today you will never hear from me again.

Superstition rules wouldn't allow it.

dough@news-banner.com



Doug Brown



'Irrational exuberance': How much has the race changed?

It has now been more than two weeks since President Joe Biden dropped out of the race and Vice President Kamala Harris became the Democratic nominee. It's always hard to get a quick handle on public reaction to a huge event like that, but after a couple of weeks, the news has had time to sink in with voters, and it's time to start looking at some new polling.

The bottom line is that so far, the Biden gambit, the sudden switch forced on the president by powerful Democratic Party insiders, appears to be working. In early July, before the wild series of events that rocked the race -- Trump assassination attempt, GOP convention, JD Vance, Biden withdrawal, rushed delegate vote for Harris -- Trump had a lead of slightly more than 3 points over Biden in the RealClearPolitics average of national polls. Now, two weeks after the Biden/Harris swap, Harris leads Trump by less than a point in the same average.

What has happened is precisely what Trump pollster Tony Fabrizio predicted when Biden pulled out. "We will start to see public polling -- particularly national public polls -- where Harris is gaining on or even leading President Trump," Fabrizio wrote in a July 23 memo. "The Democrats and the MSM will try and tout these polls as proof that the race has changed."

That is the story of the last two weeks and could be the story of the next two weeks before the Democratic convention, which will then add one more week of Harris celebration. Still, Harris is quickly backing away from positions she has held for years, and she has still not answered a single substantive question from any journalist in her two weeks as nominee.

In a new CBS News/YouGov national poll, Harris has the narrowest possible lead, 50% to 49%, in a head-to-head matchup with Trump. In the last CBS poll, conducted in July during the Republican convention, Trump had a five-point lead over Biden, 52% to 47%.

There have been other signs that Democrats and some independents are much more enthusiastic about Harris than they were about Biden. Last week, the Harris campaign announced that it raised \$310 million in July. That is huge -- a lot more than the \$139 million Trump raised, which itself is pretty big.

Plus, there is the obvious fact that Democratic crowds appear more enthusiastic for Harris than they were for Biden. She held her first rally in Atlanta -- no accident, given the huge importance of Georgia in the Electoral College battle -- and she got a big, loud crowd.

As it turned out, a few days later, Trump had a rally of his own at the same site in Atlanta. He, too, got a big, loud crowd of people happy to be supporting him. Trump has been leading Biden in Georgia for months, and it appears he is still leading Harris, although likely by less.

Nevertheless, Trump has clearly had problems re-orienting his campaign. For obvious reasons: He ran against one candidate, Biden, for two years, focusing every thought and attack on Biden, Biden, Biden. Then Democratic insiders pulled off an unprecedented switcheroo, and Trump is no longer facing the opponent he built his campaign around. No candidate and campaign could change tracks without some rough patches.

Plus, Trump is still making some of the same mistakes he has made for years, regardless of his opponent. For example, in the big, enthusiastic Atlanta rally, Trump could not resist bashing Georgia Republican Gov. Brian Kemp, who Trump still holds a grudge over the 2020 vote counting in Georgia, which Biden narrowly won. It made no sense, yet Trump could not stop himself from doing it.

On the other hand, Harris has had two weeks of the most positive press coverage imaginable, and after that the race is still tied. But is it a new race altogether? Has it been "reset," as some say? Are the issues somehow different? When Fabrizio wrote, "The Democrats and the MSM will try and tout these polls as proof that the race has changed," his next sentence was: "But the fundamentals of the race stay the same."

Obviously, Democrats hope that, with the assistance of a willing press, they can make the honeymoon last for the next three months. Maybe they can. But Republicans believe that, given Harris' weaknesses as a candidate and the weaknesses of her record, the current celebration can't continue forever, or even for three months. Fabrizio is probably right that the fundamentals of the race are still the same. It is Donald Trump's job to stay steady, and keep pursuing his three-part message, with one small change: 1) Things were good when I was president. 2) Things went to hell when Harris took office. 3) Elect me, and I'll make them good again. It's a simple message, and we'll see if it can withstand the current wave of Kamalamania.

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Byron York

Letter to the Editor

Jefferson Township/property taxes

We found Niki Kelly's comment in the Hoosier Opinions column comical when discussing the debate on too high property taxes:

"And let me just nip this in the bud. While all governments can be more efficient, massive savings aren't realistic either. Try to cut your household spending by 10% in your head. Can I do it? Yes. Would my quality of life be the same? Absolutely not."

If you cannot cut your household spending by 10% while maintaining your quality of life, you are living way too close to the line. I would say close enough that one medical catastrophe would send you into financial ruin.

The issue with taxes is, IT'S NEVER ENOUGH. Some entity always wants/needs more. This is a spending issue not a revenue issue. Our personal household budget is run on what we currently take in -- not what we want to take it. While also saving until it hurts for the future.

The current stalemate between Jefferson Township and the Town of Ossian is evidence of governments continually wanting more and more. One of the issues is that the Town wants the Township to basically write a blank check to them for half of their yearly budget -- without any input from the Township on said budget. This would be in addition to what the Township already pays for their own equipment, diesel fuel, etc. Have you ever heard of a business being okay with those terms?

The Town President and at least two other mem-

bers own their own businesses. I guarantee they do not sign off on deals like this. The one thing we know is that this cannot be resolved without some give and take. Both the Township and the Town need to come to the table in good faith and work this out. Leave the personalities at home. I don't care if you like each other. If a mediator is needed -- GET ONE! And please, get one who is not tied to our local government or local officials in any way.

We agree with our Township Board trying to hold the line on our property taxes and keeping the Township as its own entity. We do not want to be swallowed up by the Town especially with no representation -- and we do think all parties can be reasonable.

At the last public meeting the Jefferson Trustee finally admitted that our property taxes would never be going back down as he had said many times prior to get public opinion on his side. There was an increase pushed through last year, and it looks like another one will go through this year. It will be even more if the Town of Ossian gets their way entirely.

There is a meeting scheduled on August 12 at 6 p.m. at Collier's in Ossian. If you care about your continually rising property taxes as well as your fire protection, be there to voice your opinion. We all need to be more plugged in to what is happening.

ROD & PEGGY
ESCHENBACHER
Ossian

Let there be entomology, and it was good

Chores at Angelkeep necessitated nearly a daily trip outside to feed some form of wild critter. With numerous bird feeders on two sides of the house, chances remained high that at least one needed refilled. Human food consumption produced "leavings." Uneaten parts of constant dining produced unwanted things such as melon rinds, peelings, apple cores, and nuts past their sell-by which had gone a smidgen rancid. Burned toast and leftovers growing fuzzy green hair often added to the pot of items the wild animals failed to consider unworthy. Oh contraire, they gobbled them up.

Point being, Angelkeep learned long ago, any trip to the outside must include a camera hanging around the neck. Angelkeep long ago proved to be an all-season everyday photo op. Potentially, half of Angelkeep Journals' topics resulted due to a sudden appearance of something worthy of a photo. Through flora or fauna alike, the unknown often captured in a picture became a revelation and new knowledge worthy of sharing.

What the eye imagined seeing often proved to be something else, once photos were downloaded to a computer and the image enlarged to screen size. Zoom was a magical invention.

The example of Angelkeep's supply of carpenter and bumble bees proved the point. As they zipped around playing pollinator, the naked eye (at least the poor eyes of an aging columnist) failed to depict one from the other. Their size, color, markings, and activity appeared similar around

Angelkeep Journals

flowers.

Carpenter bees had a hard beetle-like abdomen as compared to a bumble's hairy derriere. Both might have a spot of black on the back of the thorax. Of course all insects have the three body parts, and these two look-alikes display similar heads. Each have wings and the six legs necessary for qualification as an insect. Angelkeep as an insect layman, not an entomologist, often needed a photo to study for identification.

Why wasn't an insect scientist called an insectologist rather than entomologist? Over 1,300,000 insects have been described scientifically making up two-thirds of all known species. That's foundation for a lot of Angelkeep Journals' columns.

Purdue entomologists helped set Angelkeep straight on another set of copy-cat insects. Sweat bees and hover flies appear similar in many ways. Both enjoyed a bit of human sweat, thusly occupied some arm space on a hot work day in the garden and flower beds. Fortunately both were harmless.

How did they differ? One was a bee, one a fly. Bees flew with four wings, a fly managed the task with but two wings. Color, size, markings, and other insect similarities could even make one of these sweat-lovers



Alan Daugherty

appear suddenly as though it was a yellow jacket. That insect could harm, as Angelkeep had learned on too many occasions.

Angelkeep's rule of thumb concerning visiting wildlife, for both the cuties and the baddies, was to let live and observe from afar. Zoom on a camera allowed the close inspection. In some cases it resulted in new discoveries.

Thus it was with the hover fly, previously erroneously referred to as a sweat bee prior to getting some new entomology education from the good old Boiler House.

Viceroy and monarch butterflies became another variety of insect nearly impossible to view close enough in the field to identify the difference. Angelkeep long ago stopped caring which showed up for a visit as long as either chose to dance among Angelkeep flowers. Unfortunately sightings got fewer and fewer every year. New Angelkeep monarch photos are on the local endangered list.

August was always a great month to circle Angelpond with a camera searching for an unknown insect. Once summer's gone and autumn turns to winter those unknowns could be researched. The potential reward of learning a new thing in nature had great odds. Well over a million insects have yet to be photographed.

Didn't God do a magnificent job in creating insect varieties back in the day? The Genesis era. God certainly knew when He made such diversity of bugs that He also created entomology, but eons ahead of its time.

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



Habegger wins NWIJTPA tourney

Miken Habegger won the NWIJTPA bowling tournament in Hammond on Aug. 3. In his 11 games, Habegger won the opening season tournament. (Photo submitted)

Browns unveil plans for new dome worth \$2.4 billion, considers move from downtown home

By TOM WITHERS
AP Sports Writer
CLEVELAND (AP)

— The Browns appear poised to move out of their lakefront home.

While they're considering a \$1.1 billion plan from the city of Cleveland to renovate their 25-year-old downtown stadium, the NFL team made it clear on Wednesday that its preference is to build a \$2.4 billion dome in Brook Park, Ohio.

In a letter to season-ticket holders that included renderings, the Browns outlined plans for the a state-of-the-art facility, which they believe will allow Cleveland to attract and host other major events such as the Super Bowl and Final Four.

The team's lease at its current stadium expires after the 2028 season.

"Similar to other markets in the Midwest, this proposed domed stadium would catalyze our region in a major way," David Jenkins, chief operating officer of Haslam Sports Group, wrote in the letter. "The stadium's year-round activity would anchor a large-scale lifestyle and entertainment district, including experiential retail, residential space, hotels and other unique products, drawing visitors throughout the year and driving substantial fiscal impact for our region."

"While significant work remains, the more we have explored the Brook Park option, the more attractive it has become."

Last week, the city proposed funding \$461 million — splitting the cost with the Browns — to upgrade the current stadium and re-develop its surrounding property along Lake Erie.

The Browns have only been in their stadium since 1999, when they returned as an expansion team after owner Art Modell moved the franchise to Baltimore four years earlier following a squabble with city officials.

Mayor Justin Bibb has asked the Browns for a response by Aug. 12. He believes keep-



ing the team downtown is vital to the city's identity and growth.

As part of a counter argument, Jenkins wrote the current stadium needs "substantial improvements" for sustainability. The Browns often cite traffic and parking issues among the main reasons to consider a new stadium location.

Jenkins said the team has considered other locations for a proposed dome, but Brook Park, about 12 miles south of Cleveland, makes the most sense. The team has an agreement to buy 176 acres near Cleveland Hopkins Airport for the project.

"The Brook Park site is the most compelling option for a dome for several reasons: its central location for our regional fan base, its proximity to downtown, the RTA and the airport, and its strong existing infrastructure," Jenkins wrote. "The large footprint is also ripe for major economic development and supports ample parking and optimized ingress/egress for our visitors."

Funding remains an obstacle. The Browns are seeking a public/private partnership for the \$2.4 billion project. They're proposing bonds to cover the public portion.

The Browns don't want to abandon Cleveland, and believe a dome would benefit the entire region.

"The City of Cleveland and the success of its downtown remain incredibly important to us," Jenkins said. "We acknowledge that a move to Brook Park may have a near-term impact on downtown, but we believe that the year-round activity of a domed stadium can still positively impact the downtown economy, particularly when coupled with the possibilities of a reimagined lakefront absent the stadium."

"Developing the lakefront without the stadium could be the best way to maximize the long-term success of our underutilized North Coast waterfront asset."

NCAA hands former Michigan coach Harbaugh a 4-year show cause order for recruiting violations

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — The NCAA announced a four-year, show-cause order for former Michigan coach Jim Harbaugh on Wednesday for impermissible contact with recruits and players during the COVID-19 pandemic, effectively banning him from college athletics until August 2028.

The NCAA said Harbaugh, who left his alma mater to coach the Los Angeles Chargers after last season's undefeated national championship, "failed to promote an atmosphere of compliance and violated head coach responsibility obligations."

"Harbaugh engaged in unethical conduct and failed to cooperate when he denied any involvement in impermissible recruiting contacts despite substantial information to the contrary," the NCAA said in a 48-page decision that several times suggested the coach was not truthful with investigators.

Harbaugh will only face the punishment if he makes an unexpected return to college football within the next four years.

The recruiting case is unrelated to the NCAA's investigation into impermissible in-person scouting and sign-stealing allegations that roiled Michigan's championship season in 2023 and resulted in a three-game suspension of Harbaugh by the Big Ten

Conference.

Multiple infractions cases in such a short time period could prompt the NCAA to treat Michigan as a repeat offender, opening the school up to harsher penalties in the sign-stealing case.

"It probably just matters more in terms of how the committee (on infractions) interprets the entire case and whether they're giving the institution the benefit of the doubt in some areas," said Jay Ezelle, an attorney based in Birmingham, Alabama, who has handled NCAA cases.

New Michigan coach Sherrone Moore is facing allegations he violated NCAA rules related to the investigation into scouting and sign-stealing, three people briefed on a pending notice of allegations told The Associated Press last weekend. All spoke on condition of anonymity because the notice was confidential.

Two of the people said Moore has been accused of deleting text message exchanges with Connor Stallions — the former low-level recruiting staffer who coordinated an off-campus, advance-scouting operation — around the time the investigation was opened.

One of the people said the NCAA has recommended a less serious Level 2 violation for Moore, adding that messages

(Continued on Page 7)



A fresh look

A new school year began on Wednesday for Bluffton High School, which perhaps was the first chance to see the fresh look of the turf football field. The recent summer project has been completed and will make its debut for the football regular season opener on Friday, Aug. 23 against Blackhawk Christian. Above, the Bluffton B remains a staple at midfield. At left, a pawprint is displayed for the letter 'O' in Bluffton in the endzone. At bottom, the endzone reads Bluffton for both endzones. Before the resurfacing project, one endzone had Bluffton and the other Tigers. (Photos by Ryan Walker)



High School Calendar

THURSDAY, AUG 8
No events scheduled.

FRIDAY, AUG 9
GIRLS GOLF: New Haven at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, AUG 10
No events scheduled.

MONDAY, AUG 12
GIRLS GOLF: North Side, South Side at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Bellmont, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Mississinewa, 4:30 p.m.

TUESDAY, AUG 11
GIRLS GOLF: Adams Central at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Whitko, 4:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, AUG 12

THURSDAY, AUG 13
GIRLS GOLF: Southwood at Bluffton, 4:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at Heritage, 4:30 p.m.

FRIDAY, AUG 14
No events scheduled.
SATURDAY, AUG 15
No events scheduled.



NASCAR CUP SERIES
Cook Out 400.

Site: Richmond, Virginia.
Schedule: Saturday, practice, 4:30 p.m.; Saturday, qualifying, 5:35 p.m.; Sunday race, 6 p.m. (USA Network).

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

Next race: Aug. 18, Brooklyn, Michigan.

NASCAR XFINITY SERIES
The Xfinity Series has one more weekend free before racing at Michigan on Aug. 17.

Next race: Aug. 17, Brooklyn, Michigan.

NASCAR TRUCK SERIES
Clean Harbors 250

Site: Richmond, Virginia.
Schedule: Saturday, practice, 2:30 p.m.; Saturday, qualifying, 3 p.m.; Saturday race, 7:30 p.m. (FS1).
Next race: Aug. 25, West Allis, Wisconsin.

FORMULA ONE
F1 is off for most of August, returning with the Dutch Grand Prix on Aug. 25.
Next race: Aug. 25, Zandvoort, Netherlands.

INDYCAR
IndyCar is also off for the Olympics, returning in mid-August from its last race on July 21.

Fast facts: There are five races to go in the IndyCar season. ... After visiting World Wide Technology Raceway outside St. Louis in two weeks, the series runs in Portland, Oregon, and then two races at the Milwaukee Mile before finishing up at the Nashville Superspeedway on Sept. 15. ... Alex Palou has a 49-point lead over Will Power. Scott Dixon is in third, four points behind Power.

Next race: Aug. 16, Madison, Illinois.

NHRA DRAG RACING
Drag racing's top series takes the second of its two weeks off before returning with the NHRA Nationals in Brainerd, Minnesota.

Next event: Aug. 15-18, Brainerd, Minnesota.
WORLD OF OUTLAWS
Next events: Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday at Knoxville, Iowa.

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BASKETBALL

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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.

Arizona 7, Cleveland 3, 1st game
Chicago Cubs 8, Minnesota 2
Houston 6, Texas 4
Oakland 3, Chicago White Sox 2
N.Y. Yankees 5, L.A. Angels 2, 1st game

Arizona 5, Cleveland 3, 2nd game
Baltimore 7, Toronto 3
St. Louis 5, Tampa Bay 2
L.A. Angels 8, N.Y. Yankees 2, 2nd game

Kansas City 8, Boston 4
Detroit at Seattle, late

Thursday's Games
L.A. Angels (Anderson 8-10) at N.Y. Yankees (Cortes 5-9), 7:05 p.m.
Baltimore (Kremer 4-8) at Toronto (Gausman 9-8), 7:07 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Baz 0-1) at St. Louis (Gibson 7-4), 7:15 p.m.
Detroit (TBD) at Seattle (Woo 5-1), 9:40 p.m.

Friday's Games
Cleveland at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m., 1st game
L.A. Angels at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 6:50 p.m.
Texas at N.Y. Yankees, 7:05 p.m.
Oakland at Toronto, 7:07 p.m.
Houston at Boston, 7:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.
Cleveland at Minnesota, 8:10 p.m., 2nd game
St. Louis at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.
Detroit at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

Arizona at Cleveland, ppd.

Wednesday's Games
Arizona 7, Cleveland 3, 1st game
Chicago Cubs 8, Minnesota 2
Arizona 5, Cleveland 3, 2nd game
San Francisco 7, Washington 4
Miami 6, Cincinnati 4
St. Louis 5, Tampa Bay 2
Milwaukee 8, Atlanta 5
San Diego 9, Pittsburgh 8, 10 innings

N.Y. Mets at Colorado, late
Philadelphia at L.A. Dodgers, late

Thursday's Games
San Francisco (Harrison 6-5) at Washington (Herz 2-4), 12:05 p.m.
Milwaukee (Montas 5-8) at Atlanta (Morton 6-6), 12:20 p.m.
San Diego (Vásquez 3-6) at Pittsburgh (Ortiz 5-2), 12:35 p.m.
N.Y. Mets (Peterson 5-1) at Colorado (Gomber 3-7), 3:10 p.m.
Cincinnati (Greene 8-4) at Miami (Tyler 0-2), 6:10 p.m.
Tampa Bay (Baz 0-1) at St. Louis (Gibson 7-4), 7:15 p.m.
Philadelphia (TBD) at Arizona (Montgomery 7-5), 9:40 p.m.

Friday's Games
L.A. Angels at Washington, 6:45 p.m.
San Diego at Miami, 7:10 p.m.
Chicago Cubs at Chicago White Sox, 8:10 p.m.
Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 8:10 p.m.
St. Louis at Kansas City, 8:10 p.m.
Atlanta at Colorado, 8:40 p.m.
Philadelphia at Arizona, 9:40 p.m.
N.Y. Mets at Seattle, 10:10 p.m.
Pittsburgh at L.A. Dodgers, 10:10 p.m.
Detroit at San Francisco, 10:15 p.m.

BASEBALL

MLB

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Baltimore	68	47	591	—
New York	68	47	591	—
Boston	61	52	540	6
Tampa Bay	57	56	504	10
Toronto	52	62	456	15½

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Cleveland	67	47	588	—
Minnesota	63	50	558	3½
Kansas City	64	52	552	4
Detroit	54	60	474	13
Chicago	28	89	239	40½

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Houston	59	55	518	—
Seattle	59	55	518	—
Texas	54	61	470	5½
Los Angeles	50	64	439	9
Oakland	48	68	414	12

Tuesday's Games
Toronto 5, Baltimore 2
St. Louis 4, Tampa Bay 3
Chicago Cubs 7, Minnesota 3
Houston 4, Texas 2
Boston 6, Kansas City 5
Chicago White Sox 5, Oakland 1
Detroit 4, Seattle 2
Arizona at Cleveland, ppd.
L.A. Angels at N.Y. Yankees, ppd.

Wednesday's Games

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Philadelphia	67	46	593	—
Atlanta	60	53	531	7
New York	59	54	522	8
Washington	52	63	452	16
Miami	43	72	374	25

Central Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Milwaukee	64	49	566	—
St. Louis	59	56	513	6
Pittsburgh	56	57	496	8
Chicago	57	60	487	9
Cincinnati	55	59	482	9½

West Division

W	L	Pct	GB	
Los Angeles	66	48	579	—
Arizona	63	52	548	3½
San Diego	63	52	548	3½
San Francisco	58	58	500	9
Colorado	42	72	368	24

Tuesday's Games
San Diego 6, Pittsburgh 0
Cincinnati 8, Miami 2
Washington 11, San Francisco 5
Milwaukee 10, Atlanta 0
St. Louis 4, Tampa Bay 3
Chicago Cubs 7, Minnesota 3
Colorado 6, N.Y. Mets 3
Philadelphia 6, L.A. Dodgers 2

Harbaugh

(Continued from Page 6)

between Moore and Stallions were recovered and that the coach provided them to the NCAA.

The NCAA had already put Michigan on three years of probation along with a fine and recruiting limits after reaching a negotiated resolution in the case. Harbaugh did not go along with the agreement, contesting allegations he failed to cooperate with investigators, and his case was handled separately.

The committee on infractions noted that Harbaugh's "intentional disregard" for

NCAA rules amplified the severity of the case and prompted the panel to classify Harbaugh's case as Level I-aggravated, leading to a one-year suspension as part of the show-cause order.

The order runs through Aug. 6, 2028. It requires any school wanting to hire Harbaugh over the next four years to suspend him for the first full season. After that, Harbaugh would be still be barred from athletics-related activities, including team travel, practice, video study, recruiting and team meetings until the order expires.

Wilson and Young help US rout Nigeria to reach Olympic women's hoops semifinals

By DOUG FEINBERG
AP Basketball Writer

PARIS (AP) — The U.S. made a change in its starting lineup, inserting Jackie Young for Diana Taurasi, to try to get off to a better start.

It paid immediate dividends as the Americans started strong and beat Nigeria 88-74 on Wednesday night in the quarterfinals of the Paris Games, extending their winning streak to 59 consecutive Olympic games.

Taurasi said coach Cheryl Reeve told her Tuesday of the lineup change. "I think it's the first game I've ever come off the bench since '04," the six-time Olympian said.

It was indeed the first time Taurasi hadn't started an Olympic contest since the 2004 Athens Games. The WNBA's all-time leading scorer said winning gold was all that mattered to her.

"I mean, that's really the only thing that's important, you know?" Taurasi said. "And you know, this team's just evolving and today was good in certain spots. And there's still things we'll get better at for the next game."

Reeve said the staff has been evaluating the roster since the WNBA All-Star Game last month in Phoenix.

"Just accumulate information about our roster, you know, gave opportunities in different places," she said of the lineup change. "Then when we got to the medal rounds that we will be locking in on a solid rotation."

Up next is a familiar opponent, Australia, in the semifinals on Friday night. The Opals routed Serbia 85-67. The other medal-round game will feature host France playing Belgium. The Americans haven't lost since the 1992 Barcelona Games and are two victories away from an unprecedented eighth consecutive gold medal.

Young made the most of the start, scoring 15 points, and also was a defensive stopper.

"I know that's kind of my role in the team. You know, come in and be aggressive on the defensive end," she said. "Be physical, get stops. And you know that kind of gets us playing in transition on the offensive end."

A'ja Wilson scored 20 points and Breanna Stewart added 13 for the Americans, who led 26-17 after the first quarter.

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

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Lottery Numbers

Wednesday's Drawings
HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 04-10-15-24-42

Lotto Plus — 02-03-14-15-31-33

Cash4Life — 18-24-37-50-56, Cash Ball: 01

Quick Draw Midday — 03-04-05-06-12-14-17-25-26-32-40-42-50-53-54-58-59-69-76-77, BE: 59

Daily Three-Midday — 01-07-01, SB: 08

Daily Three-Evening — 01-05-00, SB: 03

Daily Four-Midday — 00-06-03-01, SB: 08

Daily Four-Evening — 00-00-03-08, SB: 03

Quick Draw Evening — 02-04-10-15-19-23-30-32-39-42-49-58-61-62-63-64-66-67-72-79, BE: 62

Hoosier Lotto — 02-14-18-24-32-46

MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Friday): \$389 million

POWERBALL
06-19-35-47-57 Powerball: 09; Power Play: 3X

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NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION IN THE WELLS CIRCUIT COURT DOCKET NO. 90C01-2407-EU-000024 OF WELLS COUNTY, INDIANA

Notice is hereby given that KATRINA J. DRILLIEN and HEATHER M. BULTEMEIER were on the 2nd day of August, 2024, appointed co-personal representatives of the estate of LARRY N. CURRY, deceased, who died on the 22nd day of June, 2024, and were authorized to administer his estate without Court supervision.

All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Wells Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or those claims will be forever barred.

Dated at Bluffton, Indiana, this 2nd day of August, 2024.

Beth Davis
Clerk, Wells Circuit Court

Matthew P. Hayes
Attorney for Co-Personal Representatives
Attorney No. 32002-02
GORDON & ASSOCIATES
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION
119 East Oak Forest Drive
Bluffton, IN 46714
(260) 824-9377

nb 8/8, 8/15

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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. Sale managers Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Rod Fetters, 260-557-8451, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 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. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, kjauction.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. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, 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., 8941 N 750 E, Ossian, IN. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, 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! *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, 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! *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, 260-724-3499, 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. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 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. *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, steffengrp.com.

This Week's Garage Sales



1565 WEXFORD CT Aug 8, 8am-1pm, Aug 9, 8 am-4 pm, Aug 10, 8 am-12 pm. Samsung 43" Smart TV, furniture, twin bed/Beautyrest mattress, home & Holiday decor, trees, HP printer, linens, kitchen, patio, boy bikes, toys, misc.

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8	7
9	6
5	4
1	8
2	

9/11 hearings in upheaval after surprise order by U.S. defense chief

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER
Associated Press
FORT MEADE, Md. (AP) — Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's surprise decision to throw out a plea deal with accused 9/11 mastermind Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and two of his co-defendants has left their case at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, in disarray, with the defense, prosecution and judge all uncertain about when and how it would move forward.

A court session on Wednesday was the first since the Pentagon released notice of Austin's decision late Friday. The plea agreement, which would have spared the defendants the risk of the death penalty, generated strong feelings among both opponents and supporters of the deal, including the families of Sept. 11 victims. It drew intense criticism of the Biden administration from senior Republican lawmakers.

The disruption caused by the unexpected override of the plea deal was just the latest to hit the special U.S. military-run commissions and their more than decade-long effort to bring the men accused of killing nearly 3,000 people on Sept. 11, 2001, to trial.

The unusual location

and nature of the offshore commissions, and legal challenges, including those stemming from the torture the men underwent in CIA custody in the first years after their capture, all have contributed to the delays, keeping the case still in pre-trial hearings.

Defense attorneys on Wednesday said they would challenge the legality of Austin's order and suspended their participation in hearings until those challenges were resolved. They contended that the plea deal still stood.

Walter Ruiz, an attorney for 9/11 defendant Mustafa al Hawsawi, said Austin's order suggested "unlawful interference at the highest levels of government."

More broadly, Ruiz said, it raised questions "whether we can ethically continue to engage" in the Pentagon-run military commission in the face of an action "that goes right at the heart of the integrity of the system itself."

Military prosecutors also appeared taken by surprise by Austin's intervention. Lead prosecutor Clay Trivett raised the prospect of having to freeze other litigation in the case as they try to learn what led to his decision and work through the legal issues it raises.

"We do not have our position fully articulated and coordinated throughout the U.S. government on this," Trivett told the court. "It shouldn't be expected only a couple of days after the fact."

The 9/11 attacks were among the most damaging and deadly on the U.S. in its history. In the al-Qaida plot, hijackers commandeered four passenger airliners and flew them into the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, with the fourth coming down in a field in Pennsylvania.

Former President George W. Bush and his Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld set up the initial military commissions for the 9/11 defendants and other foreigners as the U.S. pursued what it called its war on terror.

The new developments unfolded after the Pentagon-approved chief authority over the military commission, Susan Escallier, approved the plea agreement between the military-appointed prosecutors and defense attorneys. The deal had been two years in the making.

Austin said in Friday's order that he was overriding Escallier's approval and taking direct control of such decisions in the 9/11 case going forward.

On Tuesday, he cited the American losses and sacrifice in the 2001 attacks and the subsequent U.S. military offensives against al-Qaida and other extremist groups.

"I have long believed that the families of the victims, our service members, and the American public deserve the opportunity to see military commissions, commission trials carried out," he told reporters.

A senior defense official, speaking to reporters on condition of anonymity to discuss administration thinking, said news of the plea deal came as a surprise to Austin and other officials, despite the long and publicly reported negotiations that led to it.

Asked whether political pressure and election-year considerations influenced the reversal, the official said, "That had nothing to do with the decision that the secretary made."

White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said the decision was Austin's. "We had nothing to do with the 9/11 plea deal reversal," she said.

On Wednesday, the judge overseeing the case, Air Force Col. Matthew McCall, vowed not to be influenced by any additional outside pressure.

"If more political pres-

sure is put on the parties to make a decision one way or the other," that could build the case for illegal interference in the case, "but ... it's not going to affect me," McCall told prosecutors, defense attorneys and defendants, including Mohammed, who listened intently and spoke with his lawyers. Reporters were able to monitor the proceedings from Fort Meade, Maryland.

McCall agreed to excuse the defense attorneys from participating in the pre-trial hearings while expected challenges to Austin's actions play out.

Gary Sowards, the lead attorney for Mohammed, the accused mastermind of the 9/11 attacks, warned the court on Wednesday that that process alone was likely to take up to two years.

"To intervene in this most unusual way ensures

total chaos from this point forward," Sowards told McCall, referring to Austin's action.

Under the plea agreement, Mohammed, Hawsawi, and fellow defendant Walid bin Attash would have entered guilty pleas in exchange for the government not seeking the death penalty against them.

Defense attorneys stressed Wednesday the agreement would have committed the accused to answer any lingering questions about the attack from family members of victims and others.

After Wednesday's tumultuous start, the hearing proceeded with the questioning of an FBI witness, with the active defense participation of only one defendant who had not taken the plea agreement, Amar al Baluchi.

Great Barrier Reef waters hottest in 400 years over the past decade

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ocean temperatures in the Great Barrier Reef hit their highest level in 400 years over the past decade, according to researchers who warned that the reef likely won't survive if planetary warming isn't stopped.

During that time, between 2016 and 2024, the Great Barrier Reef, the world's largest coral reef ecosystem and one of the most biodiverse, suffered mass coral bleaching events. That's when water temperatures get too hot and coral expel the algae that provide them with color and food, and sometimes die. Earlier this year, aerial surveys of over 300 reefs in the system off Australia's northeast coast found bleaching in shallow water areas spanning two-thirds of the reef, according to Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority.

Researchers from Melbourne University and other universities in Australia, in a paper published Wednesday in the journal *Nature*, were able to compare recent ocean temperatures to historical ones by using coral skeleton samples from the Coral Sea to reconstruct sea surface temperature data from 1618 to 1995. They coupled that with sea surface temperature data from 1900 to 2024.

They observed largely stable temperatures before 1900, and steady warming from January to March from

1960 to 2024. And during five years of coral bleaching in the past decade — during 2016, 2017, 2020, 2022 and 2024 — temperatures in January and March were significantly higher than anything dating back to 1618, researchers found. They used climate models to attribute the warming rate after 1900 to human-caused climate change. The only other year nearly as warm as the mass bleaching years of the past decade was 2004.

"The reef is in danger and if we don't divert from our current course, our generation will likely witness the demise of one of those great natural wonders," said Benjamin Henley, the study's lead author and a lecturer of sustainable urban management at the University of Melbourne. "If you put all of the evidence together ... heat extremes are occurring too often for those corals to effectively adapt and evolve."

Across the world, reefs are key to seafood production and tourism. Scientists have long said additional loss of coral is likely to be a casualty of future warming as the world approaches the 2.7 degrees Fahrenheit threshold that countries agreed to try and keep warming under in the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Even if global warming is kept under the Paris Agreement's goal, which scientists say Earth is almost

guaranteed to cross, 70% to 90% of corals across the globe could be threatened, the study's authors said. As a result, future coral reefs would likely have less diversity in coral species — which has already been happening as the oceans have grown hotter.

Coral reefs have been evolving over the past quarter century in response to bleaching events like the ones the study's authors highlighted, said Michael McPhaden, a senior climate scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration who was not involved with the study. But even the most robust coral may soon not be able to withstand the elevated temperatures expected under a warming climate with "the relentless rise in greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere," he said.

The Great Barrier Reef serves as an economic resource for the region and protects against severe tropical storms.

As more heat-tolerant coral replaces the less heat-tolerant species in the colorful underwater rainbow jungle, McPhaden said there's "real concern" about the expected extreme loss in the number of species and reduction in area that the world's largest reef covers.

"It's the canary in the coal mine in terms of climate change," McPhaden said.

NASA: chances growing astronauts may switch from Boeing to SpaceX ride to Earth

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — What should have been a quick trip to the International Space Station may turn into an eight-month stay for two NASA astronauts if they have to switch from Boeing to SpaceX for a ride home.

There's lingering uncertainty over the safety of Boeing's new Starliner capsule, NASA officials said Wednesday, and the space agency is split over the risk. As a result, chances are increasing that test pilots Butch Wilmore and Suni Williams may have to watch from the space station as their Starliner is cut loose to return to Earth empty.

If that happens, NASA would leave behind two of four astronauts from the next SpaceX taxi flight in late September, with the vacant seats set aside for Wilmore and Williams on the return trip next February. The pair expected to be gone just a week or two when they launched June 5 as Starliner's first crew.

NASA is bringing in additional experts to analyze

the thruster failures experienced by Starliner before it docked. At the same time, NASA is looking more closely at SpaceX as a backup.

At this point, "we could take either path," said Ken

Bowersox, NASA's space operations mission chief.

During a recent meeting, "We heard from a lot of folks that had concern, and the decision was not clear," he said. A final decision is expected by mid-August.

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