

# The News - Banner

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BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection

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## Court denies request to dismiss battery charges

### Defendant requests plea change

**By SYDNEY KENT**  
A Bluffton man accused of abusing his wife attempted to have his case dismissed last week. His request was denied.  
Matthew Lewis Cassenta, 40, Bluffton, is facing charges of domestic battery and strangulation, both Level 5 felonies, and intimidation, a Level 6 felony.

According to a probable cause affidavit, the charges were filed in May after Cassenta's wife reported multiple episodes of abuse that occurred in a two-month span. She advised that Cassenta strangled her and made her fear for her life. Specific dates were not listed in court documents.

During the hearing, Cassenta's public defender, Patrick Miller, attempted to use this as a reason to dismiss the case.  
"Your honor, this is so vague," Miller said. "The details we have heard — my client can't account for his whereabouts for every minute of every day for two months on something that was brought a couple of months after it allegedly happened."

Miller reasoned that if Cassenta was found guilty and convicted, he could still potentially get charged with another incident in the same time period.

"This oftentimes happens in cases like this," Prosecutor Timothy Sipes said. "There is a delay in reporting. We would like to have it more specific, but there was delayed reporting because of the nature of the relationship."  
Miller called Cassenta to testify. During his time on the stand,  
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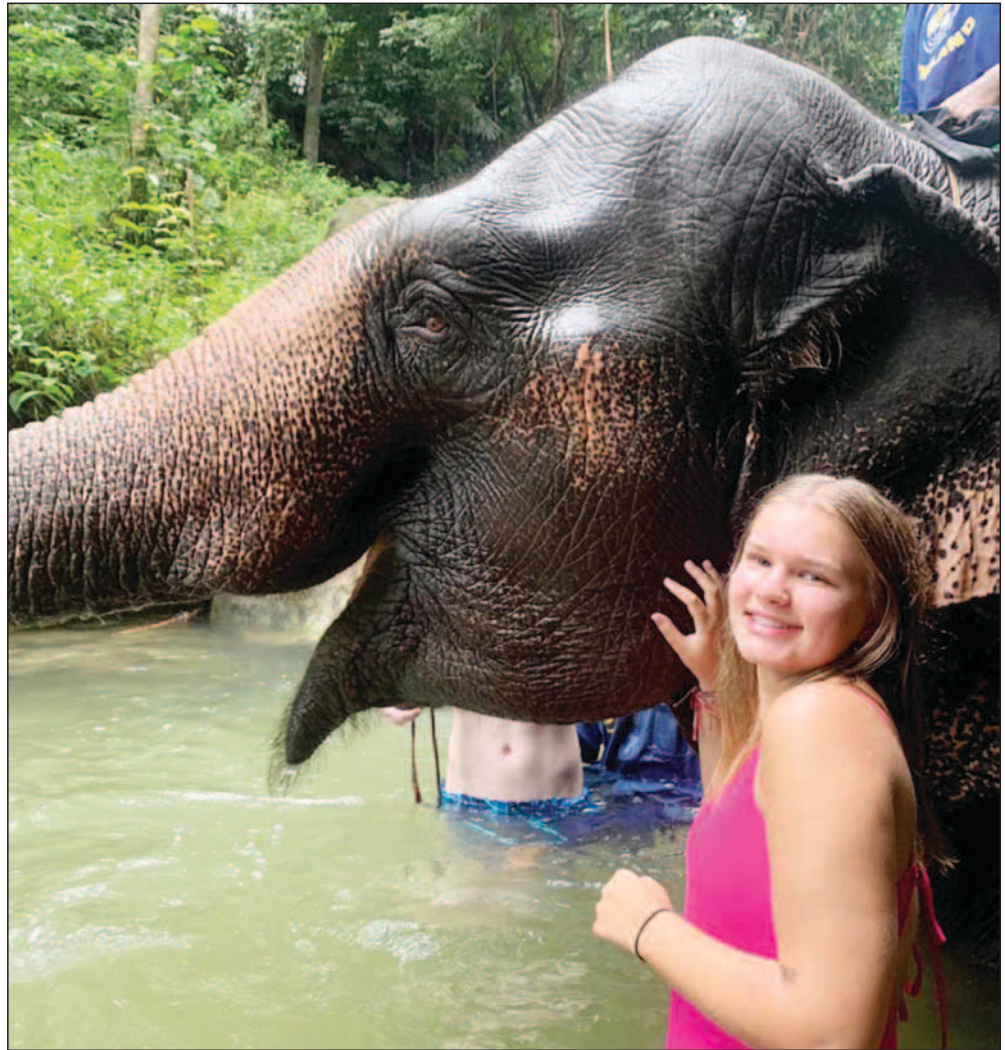
## Around the world and back again

### BHS student returns from year in Thailand

**By HOLLY GASKILL**  
This time last year, a 16-year-old Leah Brown landed at an airport in Thailand, on her own and without knowing a word of the native language.  
Though she had only just been given the responsibility of a driver's license, the Bluffton High School sophomore was then trusted to live across the world for nearly an entire year. With endless optimism, Brown zealously rose to the opportunity for all she could learn and experience.

Over 10 months in a foreign country, Brown would grow to be conversational in the native language, travel to several other countries, teach English to children and collect cross-cultural experiences to last a lifetime.  
Brown traveled to Thailand through the Rotary International Youth Exchange program, a high school exchange program that partners with other Rotary clubs across the world. She was sponsored by Bluffton's Rotary Club, which partnered with a host club in Phuket, Thailand. Brown attended a Thai school and stayed with three host families, an intentional part of the program to experience different family cultures.

Altogether, Brown's cultural experience of Phuket is nearly the complete opposite of Bluffton — the coastal province is roughly two-thirds the size of Wells County but with a population of over 400,000. People speak Thai and other regional native dialects — although English isn't uncommon — and practice Buddhism.  
Brown also found that the area had quite a different relationship with food — most meals were street food eaten at markets, where Brown could buy a bowl of noodles for 45 cents. Breakfasts were also typically savory, sometimes including chicken, and most meals were fried and served with rice.  
If meals were prepared at home, they were often done in an outdoor kitchen. Brown also learned that most dairy products weren't culturally stored in the fridge. "So I didn't eat cheese," she laughed. She did eat, however, a variety of bugs, scorpions and chicken feet.  
The country also celebrates numerous holidays, with Brown's favorite being the Thai New Year.



Leah Brown, a Bluffton High School student, spent her junior year as an exchange student in Thailand. Brown is pictured with an elephant at left. (Photo provided)

with three host families, an intentional part of the program to experience different family cultures.

The April holiday is accompanied by a three-day country-wide water fight.  
"It was probably one of the craziest experiences," Brown shared.

"There's just people lining the roads with these water guns. It was just actually the most insane experience and everybody was soaking wet."

**Homesickness & Health**  
While culture shock could be considered an understatement, Brown found that the varying  
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### Lancaster Park paving

Paving work for the new parking lots has begun at Lancaster Park. At right, workers dig out the trench, where a concrete shoulder will be placed for safety from road traffic. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



## Preview: Wells County begins 2025 budget review Tuesday

### By HOLLY GASKILL

Preparation of the 2025 Wells County budget has begun, and members of the Wells County Council will meet with department leaders about changes and requests next week.

Copies of the budget proposals from each department were provided to The News-Banner, and below are a few of the notable changes and requests.

#### Health First Indiana hits the budget

Wells County Commissioners opted to join Health First Indiana in May, bringing in \$551,202.90 from the state. The Wells County Health Department was receiving just \$51,777.15 from the state in previous years.

Subsequently, there are quite a few changes to the Health Department's budget in 2025.

Notably, the department has opted to cover some positions with HFI funding — the health officer, environmental sanitarian and public health nurse. Multiple other line items for supplies and services have also moved under the HFI umbrella.

The second environmental sanitarian, which is vacant, and the administrator remain separate. The county's contribution to the Health Department is proposed to be \$158,130.

A large portion of HFI funds are allocated for grants to local organizations addressing health needs. The proposed budget identifies \$135,000 in total for grants — \$35,000 of which will be for community-based orga-

nizations, \$25,000 for faith-based organizations, \$25,000 for non-hospital clinical services, and \$50,000 for other organizations. Grant applications have not yet opened.

The budget also includes \$54,951 for a department vehicle and \$55,000 for a generator.

#### Flock cameras join Sheriff's budget

The Wells County Sheriff's Department introduced license plate reading cameras earlier this year and has requested to continue the software license with Flock Safety.

The cameras were originally purchased and installed out of Wells County Jail's commissary fund, which was permitted by the Indiana Code. Sheriff Scott Holliday told The News-Banner that he did not want to use taxpayer money to test out the new equipment but believes they're valuable tools to continue to use.

The license will cost \$18,900 for 2025.

Six Flock cameras are positioned to capture vehicles entering the county at State Road 1, S.R. 224, and S.R. 124. The cameras register vehicles' make, model and general characteristics, as well as recognize plate numbers reported as stolen or registered to an individual with a warrant for their arrest. Law enforcement is unable to search for license plates without a case number.

The cameras and the use of commissary funds were met with some criticism from the council members. However, Holliday has continued to present the benefits, par-

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**Outside**  
  
A breezy, beautiful day in Bluffton  
Today Sunday Monday  
High 73 High 75 High 75  
Low 53 Low 55 Low 59  
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## Court denies request

(Continued from Page 1)

Cassenta testified that he had prior convictions in Alabama. He also stated that he acquired new charges for theft while on probation for theft of property, criminal mischief, and burglary.

When asked where he would live, Cassenta stated that a friend would allow him to stay with him for several weeks and that a job was pending. Three men were present in support of Cassenta.

"My goal would be to help myself so I can help what little family I have left," Cassenta said. "I just want to be able to support them financially. I know there is a no-contact order, but that doesn't negate the fact that I have a financial obligation to my daughter and even my wife at this point."

Detective Cliff Thomas with the Bluffton Police Department also testified during Cassenta's hearing.

"(The victim) came into the police station wanting to report a domestic battery," Thomas explained. "During that two-month period, she described a situation where Matthew became upset with her. He grabbed her by the throat, pinned her against the wall, and made the comment 'I will make sure I finish the job this time.' She said that two months was a roller coaster of constant verbal and physical abuse. It was hard to pinpoint one

abuse from the other."

Thomas said that the victim also later reported that Cassenta threatened to kill her and their daughter. At this, Cassenta audibly gasped and attempted to look for his wife in the courtroom. Miller repeatedly silenced his attempts to speak.

"Today is the first time my client has heard he allegedly threatened to kill his daughter," Miller said.

"There is a situation where medical records were brought to me," Thomas said. "During that discussion of medical records, that is when it was mentioned to me."

Thomas noted that the information was available in documents pertaining to the case.

"These allegations only came out after we filed the motion to dismiss," Miller questioned. "And the no contact order. Correct?"

"And after I got her medical records — yes," Thomas replied.

Judge Kenton Kiracofe cited two Indiana cases where a time range was given in the case rather than specific dates.

"I understand your dilemma, however, it is not grounds to have the charge dismissed," Kiracofe said. "The statute allows it and (the time frame) is not beyond the statute of limitations. Given that, I don't think it supports a motion to dismiss."

Miller then asked the court to cancel the no-contact order between Cassenta and his daughter. The request was also denied.

"It is commonplace for this court to include minor children in these protective orders," Sipes said. "No one wants the children to be used as a weapon or a tool to use the child to not testify against the individual."

"Again, for a no-contact order on someone not listed as a victim or witness — it's extraordinary," Miller said. "It sounds more like a CPS or domestic relations issue, not something the state should be doing."

Kiracofe questioned how conversations between Cassenta and his daughter could be facilitated, given that the child is too young to communicate without the victim's help. Kiracofe offered to reconsider the request if third-party plans were arranged.

In 2020, Cassenta was previously convicted for domestic violence in the presence of a child and strangulation, both Level 6 felonies. He was sentenced to 730 days in prison with 610 days suspended and 50 days of jail credit in the case.

Miller requested a change of plea hearing with a sentencing hearing following immediately. Both hearings are set for 9 a.m. on Sept. 11 in the Wells Circuit Court.

sydney@news-banner.com

## Weather

Saturday, August 10, 2024

(24-hour observations at 9:49 p.m. Friday)

High: 77; Low: 63; Precipitation: None

Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.25 feet at 8:45 p.m. Friday

## Wells County forecast

**Today:** Sunny, with a high near 73. West wind 5 to 15 mph, with gusts as high as 20 mph.

**Tonight:** Mostly clear, with a low around 53. West wind around 5 mph.

**Sunday:** Sunny, with a high near 75. West wind 5 to 10 mph.

**Sunday Night:** Partly cloudy, with a low around 55. Northwest wind around 5 mph becoming calm in the evening.

**Monday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 75.

**Monday Night:** Mostly cloudy, with a low around 59.

**Tuesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 78.

**Tuesday Night:** Mostly clear, with a low around 59.

**Wednesday:** Mostly sunny, with a high near 80.

**Wednesday Night:** A 20% chance of showers. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

**Thursday:** A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 80.

**Thursday Night:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy, with a low around 62.

**Friday:** A chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly sunny, with a high near 79.

## Budget review

(Continued from Page 1)

ticularly in time-sensitive cases. When a child was abducted from Zanesville last December, law enforcement was able to locate the vehicle in Wisconsin through the Flock database.

Holliday told The News-Banner that nearby Adams County, the city of Decatur and the town of Markle are also seeking license plate-reading cameras.

In addition to renewing the Flock cameras, Holliday requested two additional jail staff to "help reach the state requirements". These positions have also been requested in previous years.

**Commissioners add new position, nix PIO**  
The Wells County Commissioners are seeking to add a new full-time building inspector to their budget.

A job description for the position was included with the budget proposal, stating that the building inspector would be "responsible for the day-to-day activities of the department by overseeing and coordinating all operations." These essential day-to-day activities include overseeing the finances and budget for the county buildings, inspecting county buildings, receiving complaints and investigating building violations, and approving building permits. A four-year degree and Certified Building Official certification is required.

The position is budgeted at a \$70,000 salary.

Meanwhile, the commissioners have eliminated the budget for their public information officer, a part-time role held by Leann Wyss. The position was first approved in 2022 to help facilitate communication between departments and with the public.

At the time, it was met by disagreement between the council members about the necessity for the position, and approved 4-3. The position was met by a similar skepticism in 2023, but the council ultimately decided to give it another year to gauge the impact.

The proposed budget also sees significant increases in building insurance and liability. The commissioners increased insurance coverage with WalkerHughes Insurance after several discussions about building val-

ues with a new building and recent renovations, as well as inflation. The building insurance line item jumped from \$46,000 to \$74,000 in 2025 and liability from \$120,000 to \$140,000.

The commissioners also increased funding for bridge inspections from \$124,241 to \$174,000 and Economic Development from \$110,000 to \$150,000. The county and city of Bluffton have not yet filled the vacancy for a director of economic development.

**Prosecutor requests child support program increase**

The Prosecutor's Office requested the county's support for two paralegals who work predominantly with child support issues. The office currently has four full-time paralegals in this particular division.

In a letter with his request, Prosecutor Colin Andrews indicated state and federal funding for these positions has not matched the cost of living nor the increasing demand. He wrote, "The four paralegals are intimately involved with daily operations from fielding phone calls to preparing cases for court ... This is a deep concern for me and frankly this should have been brought to your attention years ago."

The proposed budget increases the county's match for two positions from \$22,240 and \$20,740 to \$45,814 and \$42,888. The county will receive a 66% refund from the state on the salaries, Andrews stated.

**New software needed for IT**

Wells County's IT Department requested a \$27,095 increase in computer hardware and software to upgrade its Microsoft Office subscriptions and replace another host server.

In a letter with his request, IT Director Roger Richardson wrote, "We try to space these replacements out so that we do one about every other year. We have three hosts, so this means the one to be replaced is 6-7 years old."

The request is a 46% increase for the line item.

The council will begin their appointments at 8 a.m. on Tuesday at the Wells County Annex. A schedule of appointments is listed in the Local Roundup.

holly@news-banner.com

## Local Roundup

### Friends of the Shelter will meet Monday afternoon

Friends of the Shelter, the organization that provides support for the Bluffton/Wells County Animal Shelter, will meet at 5:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, in the Council Chambers on the second floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

### Ossian, Jefferson Township Advisory Board to hold special meeting Monday

The Ossian Town Council and Jefferson Township Advisory Board will meet at 6 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, directly preceding the regular town council meeting, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian. The only item on the agenda is the discussion of the 2025 fire budget.

### Regional Sewer District board will meet Monday

The board of the Wells County Regional Sewer District will meet at 6:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Superintendent report.
- Project updates.
- Discussion of property acquisition.

### Ossian Town Council will meet Monday evening

The Ossian Town Council will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12, at the Ossian Town Hall, 507 N. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

Items on the agenda include:

- Reports from the Fire Department, Park Board and Police Commission.
- Financial matters.
- Consideration of an unofficial detour from the Indiana Department of Transportation.
- Funding request from the Poka-Bache Trail Task Force.
- Review of quotes for baseball diamond repair.

### Wells County Council will meet Tuesday morning

The Wells County Council will meet at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

The council will meet with department leaders to discuss budget requests and changes for 2025. The appointment schedule is as follows:

- 8 a.m. — Commissioners, LIT, economic development
- 8:15 a.m. — Recycling Center
- 8:20 a.m. — Highway Department
- 8:40 a.m. — Surveyor, Drainage Board
- 8:50 a.m. — Health Department
- 9:10 a.m. — Assessor
- 9:40 a.m. — Recorder
- 9:50 a.m. — Treasurer
- 10 a.m. — Custodian
- 10:10 a.m. — I.T. Department
- 10:20 a.m. — Coroner
- 10:30 a.m. — Purdue Extension Office
- 10:40 a.m. — Veteran's Office
- 10:50 a.m. — Emergency Management
- 11 a.m. — Area Plan Commission
- 11:10 a.m. — Soil and Water Conservation District
- 11:20 a.m. — Prosecutor
- 11:30 a.m. — Superior Court
- 11:40 a.m. — Circuit Court
- 11:50 a.m. — Probation Department
- Noon — Community Corrections
- 12:10 a.m. — Sheriff's Department
- 12:30 p.m. — Clerk and Election Board
- 12:40 p.m. — Statewide 911
- 12:50 p.m. — Auditor
- 1 p.m. — Innkeepers Tax Collections
- 1:10 p.m. — Wells County Council, Rainy Day Fund, and Cumulative Capital Fund

### Wells County SWCD board will meet Tuesday morning

The board of the Wells County Soil and Water Conservation District will meet at 9 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Service Center at 117 W. Harvest Road in Bluffton.

### Bluffton Board of Works to meet Tuesday afternoon

The Bluffton Board of Public Works and Safety will meet at 4:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, in the meeting room on the first floor of City Hall, 128 E. Market St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Consideration of a water bill adjustment.
- Personnel and financial matters.

### Norwell school board will meet Tuesday evening

The board of the Norwell Community Schools will meet at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, at Ossian Elementary School, 213 S. Jefferson St. in Ossian.

Doors will open at 4:45 p.m. for the tour of the building's renovation, and the board meeting will follow.

Items on the agenda include:

- Personnel and financial matters.
- Superintendent's report regarding Ossian Elementary School renovations and continued projects.
- Discussion regarding the 2025-26 school calendar.
- Discussion regarding ongoing facility improvement.
- Approval of an increase rate for substitute teachers.

### Wells County Public Library board will meet Tuesday

The board of the Wells County Public Library will meet at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 13, in the meeting room of the main library, 200 W. Washington St.

Items on the agenda include:

- Department reports.
- Financial and personnel matters.
- Staff report.
- Committee reports on building, budget, policy and bylaws, public awareness/outreach, nominating, and director evaluation.
- Discussion of 2025 budget.

### Visitors Commission will meet Wednesday morning

The Wells County Convention and Visitors Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday, July 17, at the Wells County Commerce and Visitors Centre, 211 Water St. in Bluffton.

Items on the agenda include:

- County map input and Friends of Ouabache progress.
- Approval of a contract with a marketing firm.
- Consideration of meeting dates.

### UWRBC board will meet Wednesday morning

The board of the Upper Wabash River Basin Commission will hold its regular bi-monthly meeting at 8 a.m. Tuesday, Aug. 14, at the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

### County health board will meet Thursday morning

The board of the Wells County Health Department will meet at 6:30 a.m. Thursday, Aug. 13, in Room 105, the multi-purpose room on the lower level of the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St.

Topics on the agenda include:

- Bi-monthly reports.
- Department updates.
- Health First Indiana.
- 2025 meeting dates.



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OBITUARIES

G. Joe Hanauer, 86

G. Joe Hanauer, 86, of Markle, passed away Wednesday morning July 31, 2024, at his home, after his four-year struggle with Alzheimer's.

Joe was raised in Union Township of Wells County, and attended Union Center School for grade and high school, where he was an excellent basketball and baseball player. He graduated from University of Findlay in Findlay, Ohio, in 1960 with a degree in education, and then a master's in education from Ball State University in 1963. Joe was an outstanding basketball player at University of Findlay, and was a member of the college's first team to play in the Division II NAIA national basketball finals. He was elected to the Findlay Hall of Fame in 1993.

Joe taught high school social studies, drivers training and coached basketball and baseball at Union Center School, Lancaster School, Norwell Middle School and High School from 1960 to 1995.

He also loved playing baseball and played in the Fort Wayne Senior Federation League for the Colonial Oilers through his 20s. His love for baseball was expressed through much of his adulthood by coaching Little League and Pony League in the Markle Fish & Game Club Park program. He also loved playing golf and worked at the Frazanda Golf Course near Huntington for over 15 years following his retirement from teaching.

He was a member of the NEA and Markle United Methodist Church and attended the Orange Beach United Methodist Church. Joe loved being a "snowbird" during the winter months and being in the sunshine of Orange Beach, Alabama. He loved U.S. History, as evidenced by the annual family trips to a variety of historical sites across the country. Joe instilled a



love of the West in his daughter and enjoyed traveling to new places to visit as she moved around the country. His favorite past-time was coaching his children and watching his grandchildren participate in sports and attending all the sporting events. Joe loved his garden and farm, fishing in his pond, teaching the grandchildren to fish, play sports, and camping with them.

Joe was born on Feb. 27, 1938, in Zanesville, a son of the late Valentine H. and Freida R. (Jacobs) Hanauer.

He was united in marriage to Barbara J. Wisel on June 16, 1962 in Fort Wayne. Barbara survives.

Additional survivors include a son, Kent (Stephanie) Hanauer of Anderson; a daughter, Stephanie Hanauer of Gaston; a daughter-in-law, Laura Hanauer of Hartford City; four grandchildren, Tristen Hanauer, Georgia Hanauer, Avery (Christain) Poole and Isaac Hanauer; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by a son, Michael "Mick" Hanauer; two brothers, Dick Hanauer and John Hanauer; and two sisters, Lois Lothamer and Janice Solberger.

Visitation will take place from 2-4 p.m. and 6-8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 23, 2024, at the Myers Funeral Home, Markle Chapel 415 N. Lee St., in Markle.

Memorial Service will take place at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 24, 2024, at the Myers Funeral Home, Markle Chapel. There will be one hour of visitation prior to the services.

In lieu of flowers Memorial Contributions can be made out to either Stillwater Hospice or University of Findlay Oilers Club supporting baseball or basketball. Both can be sent in care of Myers Funeral Home, P.O. Box 403, Markle, IN 46750.

Bluffton Parks & Rec News & Notes



By Brandy Fiechter

Destination Recreation

We are thrilled to inform you that the 2024 Free Kehoe Park Concert Series ended with a record-breaking total season attendance of 5,667, clearly indicating the event's growing popularity and success in our community! Can you believe our one-night record attendance reached 1,350? Thanks for joining us and being a part of what makes this city a great place to live, work, and play. It's never too early to let us know if you are interested in partnering with us as a sponsor for next year. The more support we have, the bigger the shows we can bring to town.

Congratulations to Mary Martin, the 2024 Bluffton Parks Department Volunteer of the Year. Established in 2001, the Eugene Edington Memorial Award is a testament to the selfless dedication of individuals who generously serve our community.

Mary's impact on our community is immeasurable. Her years of service with our department, including the distribution of food each Tuesday at the Farm Wagon, have been a true blessing. Her involvement with the Friends of the Shelter, where she currently serves as president, is equally commendable. Mary's diligent work aids the animal shelter in its mission to help pets in need, including the distribution of pet food every other week. We appreciate all of our dedicated volunteers who roll up their sleeves and put in the time to serve others. Bluffton is very fortunate to be a city full of very kind-hearted individuals.

If you have stopped by Jefferson Park lately, you will see a new Gaga Ball Pit in the play area for the kids to enjoy, courtesy of Dakota Lee. We are very proud of her hard work in earning the highest rank for Girl Scouts, completing the Gold Award. We would also like to thank the Youth as Resources Grant for funding this

youth-led project. We love these types of partnerships that allow teens to learn life skills while benefitting the community.

It's hard to believe that kids have returned to school already, and the pool has started the process to close for the season as it usually does this time of year. Our staff returns to college, work, or school after their busy summer, and we are so thankful for another great season. The guards gave 134 private lessons this year and offered three sessions of two-week group lessons, as well as pee wee and tot swim classes. The pool scheduled 35 party rentals and the swim team had a very successful year hosting the meets. Overall daily pool attendance this year came to 10,318, just 31 fewer than last year. Sadly, our most popular holidays, Memorial Weekend and the 4th of July, were closed due to poor weather; otherwise, we would have been on track for a very strong season.

The new parking lot at Lancaster Park looks fantastic. The additional cement stabilization that it needed to get a firm base paid off, and we will have a quality product when this is all said and done. Lights will be going up at the Pickleball Court soon, and once the fence is installed around the court, we can soft open the park again for your families to enjoy. There will be a few sporadic days that we will temporarily close to install the final items and paint the courts, but we are headed into the home stretch.

Next week is a big week for the Inter-urban Trail, too. There will be some final grading at the beginning of the week and paving towards the end of the week. We can't tell you how excited we are to see these projects get to the final stages.

Have a great week!



Pictured in the photo holding the sign are Levi Wernsing and Erica Yoder Feinberg surrounded by Walmart staff and Chamber Ambassadors. (Photo submitted)

Wells County Chamber honors Walmart as the Member of the Month for August

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce and its dedicated ambassadors surprised the Bluffton Walmart Superstore last week by naming them the August Member of the Month. This recognition highlights Walmart's ongoing commitment to the community through numerous charitable initiatives and local outreach efforts.

Store manager, Levi Wernsing, has been with Walmart since September 2006. Wernsing has led the team at Bluffton Walmart Superstore since October 2021, which typically includes 265 employees, 9 salaried managers, and 28 team leads on any given day. Under his leadership, Walmart has made significant contributions to the local community, striving to assist wherever possible. "We just try to do everything we can for the community," said Wernsing. "We reach out to a lot of different organizations, provide grants, and even raise money directly from our store for community causes."

Each month, Walmart sets aside a budget for donations, ensuring their efforts remain focused within Wells County. "I like to keep everything in the community," Wernsing emphasized, noting that donations typically don't go outside of Wells County.

Some notable contributions include providing new pool chairs for the local pool

this spring, supporting the fire department and police department with grants, and sponsoring events like "Shop with a Cop" and "Shop with a Firefighter." Additionally, Walmart has been actively involved in local events like the Parlor City Christmas and has provided grants to parks such as Lancaster Park and Lions Park.

A recent highlight for the store was exceeding their fundraising goal for the Children's Miracle Network, raising over \$11,000 in just 30 days for Riley Children's Hospital. Wernsing shared, "It was cool. We really go big with that one every single year."

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce expressed their gratitude for Walmart's active involvement in the community. "It's an honor to have Walmart in our community and to recognize their continuous efforts in making Wells County a better place," said the Chamber's representative.

From toys and video games to fashionable clothing and matching shoes for the whole family, your Bluffton Walmart Superstore has it all, conveniently located at 2100 N Main St, Bluffton, IN 46714. For more information about Walmart, visit their Facebook page or contact them at 260-824-0296.

Police Notebook

INCIDENTS

**City:**  
Thursday, 2:45 p.m., Walmart. Caller requested to have subject trespassed.

Thursday, 3:41 p.m., 300 block of West Wabash Street. Caller stated they did not receive money from ATM.

Thursday, 5:06 p.m., Co Co China. Report of property damage on callers car after eating.

Thursday, 5:52 p.m., Connecting Center. Subject warned for trespassing.

Thursday, 7:32 p.m., 200 block of East Central Avenue. Report of family issues.

Thursday, 8:03 p.m., 200 block of White Bridge Court. Report of domestic issue.

Thursday, 11:43 p.m., Phils One Stop. Report of elderly subject nodding off in truck for over an hour in parking lot.

Friday, 5:25 a.m., 900 block of South Jersey Street. Report of bike found on property.

Friday, 9:09 a.m., 100 block of North Oak Street. Report of harassment.

Friday, 11:18 a.m., South Mulberry and East Market streets. Welfare check requested for three kids by the river. Children were near parents, who are admittedly a slower pace of people.

**County:**  
Thursday, 2:29 p.m., 3100 South Main Street, Liberty Center. Caller reported chickens ruining her property. Officer advised she had three options: terminate the chickens, put up chicken wire, or let it go.

Friday, 10:04 a.m., South 100E and East 700S, Poneto. Report of a dead deer, permit issued.

**Ossian:**  
Thursday, 4:23 p.m., 5800N 450E, Ossian. Report of stolen no solar sign.

**ARRESTS**  
Christopher Ray Williamson, 44, Ossian; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Paul Raymond Storm, 35,

Monroeville; driving while suspended — prior, a Class A misdemeanor. Booked and released.

Lonny R. Moser

Calling: 2 - 8 p.m. Monday, August 12 at the funeral home.  
Funeral: 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, August 13 at Apostolic Christian Church East.



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2 SAMUEL 23:8-12

SATURDAY | AUGUST 10

Eleazar stood his ground and struck down the Philistines till his hand grew tired. [ 2 SAMUEL 23:10 ]

**CLINGING TO GOD**

When Joni Eareckson Tada speaks of Rika, she highlights her friend's "deep, time-tested faith in God" and the endurance she's developed while living with a debilitating chronic condition. For more than fifteen years, Rika has been bedbound, unable even to see the moon from her room's tiny window. But she hasn't lost hope; she trusts in God, reads and studies the Bible, and as Joni describes it, she "knows how to stand firm during fierce battles against discouragement."

Joni likens Rika's tenacity and persistence to that of Eleazar, a soldier at the time of King David who refused to flee the Philistines. Instead of joining the troops who took off, "Eleazar stood his ground... till his hand grew tired and froze to the sword" (2 SAMUEL 23:10). Through God's power, "The LORD brought about a great victory that day" (v. 10). As Joni observes, even as Eleazar hung on to the sword with determination, so too does Rika cling to "the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God" (EPHESIANS 6:17). And there, in God, she finds her strength.

Whether in glowing good health or battling discouragement over a chronic condition, we too can look to God to deepen our stores of hope and to help us to endure. In Christ we find our strength.

What examples of tenacity and endurance have you witnessed? How does God restore and renew you when you feel spent and wrung out?

God of all power, thank You for loving me and helping me to endure. Please help me to focus on You that I might continue to trust and love You.

Amy Boucher Pye

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

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## Witnessing democracy at work

It seems the epithet of choice among more than a few politicians is to charge an opponent with being “a threat to democracy.” Mostly this accusation is used against Donald Trump, his threat being primarily to the election prospects of his opponents.

One can get into an endless debate on whether Republican policies or Democrat policies are the greater threat to our sacred democracy. A libertarian (and I have a libertarian chromosome or two) would suggest both parties represent threats as they proliferate government power through a multitude of federal regulations focused on telling us Americans what we may no longer do.

What is left is the denial of any useful meaning to the word “democracy.” America is not now, nor was it ever, a democracy in the philosophical sense. We are a republic, a form of government in which citizens vote on representatives who vote on laws. Some might call this representative democracy. Fair enough, if properly understood.

That said, representative democracy does exist in America if one looks to the local level. It is in this place where citizens are most likely to have immediate access to their elected representatives. It is here where the citizenry is confronted with the governmental decisions that have the most impact on their daily lives and pocket-books.

At least that is the way an ad hoc group of citizens in north central Indiana sees it.

As a contributor to The Indiana Policy Review’s “Indiana Mandate: An Agenda for the 2020s,” I was invited to speak to this gathering of community activists on the topic “Property Rights: Theory and Application.” The meeting was held in Francesville, a town in Pulaski County and one I had never visited before. And thanks to the barricades the State Highway Department has placed on state road IN14, I almost didn’t visit it that night..

The group has a common purpose, that of having their voice heard when county officials make decisions on large projects such as wind and solar farms or carbon-dioxide pipelines. These issues are the nexus between practical democracy and property rights. In the words of the Declaration of Independence, we are talking about the “pursuit of happiness” and how conflicting views of this are adjudicated.

Take the wind farm case as an example. An energy company has negotiated with sufficient north central Indiana landholders to place dozens of these large wind turbines on their farmland. Those farmers feel with some justification that they simply are exercising their pursuit of happiness by disposing of their property as they wish. Many libertarians would agree with them.

But there are always at least two sides to every issue. Adjoining property owners see the value of their land falling due to these windmills. The exercise of property rights by one devalues the property of another. Is this fair?

One complaint of the group, a complaint shared by my colleagues at The Indiana Policy Review, is that these projects are never properly costed. One hears of jobs created, positive economic impact and a laundry list of other putative benefits. Post-project accounting hardly ever attests to the validity of these pre-project claims.

If the project fails to deliver on its promises, what was its true cost? Economists don’t do debit and credit accounting for cost; they use a tool called “opportunity cost,” what one gives up when a choice is made. Most people have never heard this term but they do understand it viscerally. One comment that night was that if a wind farm were to be built where proposed, that ground could never be developed for homes. Exactly.

This is where zoning raises its menacing head. Zoning is typically used to control what can be done within a limited geographic area. Does a zoning decision reduce the right of those within the zone to use their property in pursuit of their happiness or does it rightly preserve the property value of others? Whichever, it represents a power of government subject to abuse by those who wield that power.

A professor from my undergraduate days reduced all public-policy decision-making to identifying whose ox was being gored. In other words it often comes down to who has the most at stake and their ability to recruit sufficient political support to prevail. If it’s not my ox, I probably don’t care. But if it is my ox, I have the incentive to use the American system of representative democracy to my benefit and for my protection.

The good citizens I met in Francisville definitely see their oxen being gored and are rallying to prevent that. Based on the individual county reports I heard that night, they are having at least a modicum of success — and they remain resolute.

The officials in those counties best gird their metaphorical loins.

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

## Today in History

**By The Associated Press**  
Today is Saturday, Aug. 10, the 223rd day of 2024. There are 143 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Aug. 10, 2020, a powerful derecho struck several Midwest U.S. states, causing four fatalities and an estimated \$11 billion in damage, making it the costliest thunderstorm in modern U.S. history.

Also on this date:

In 1792, during the French Revolution, mobs in Paris attacked the Tuileries Palace, where King Louis XVI resided. (The king was later arrested, put on trial for treason, and executed.)

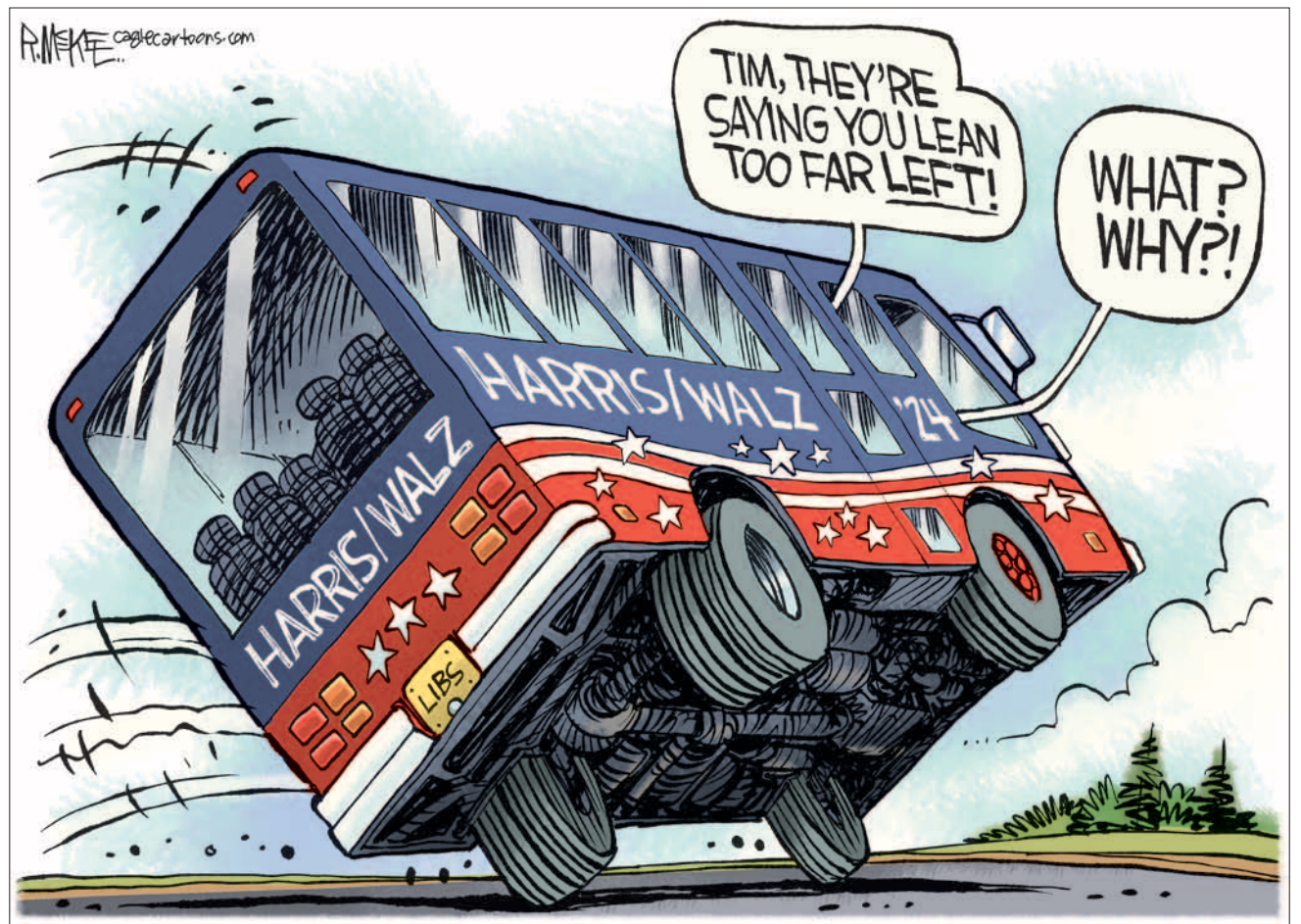
In 1821, Missouri became the 24th state admitted to the Union.

In 1993, Ruth Bader Ginsburg was sworn in as the second female justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.



Mark Franke

## Hoosier Opinions



## Walz is Harris’s first unforced error – and an opportunity for Trump

In choosing Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz as her running mate, Vice President Kamala Harris made her first unforced error as the Democratic nominee, giving Donald Trump a huge opening with swing voters. The question is: Will he seize it?

Harris is the most radically left-wing presidential nominee in modern times, so many expected her to try to balance her ticket by choosing a centrist like Pennsylvania’s Josh Shapiro - a popular governor with 61 percent approval in a must-win swing state. If she had done so, she could have put Trump on his heels in the Keystone State and sent a message to the country that she would govern from the center, not the far left.

Instead, she doubled down by choosing a fellow leftist from a deep-blue state. You could hear Republicans exhale in relief. On the economy, she picked a running mate who declared last week (on a video call for something called “White Dudes for Harris”) that “one person’s socialism is another person’s neighborliness.” On the border, she chose a running mate who signed legislation giving illegal immigrants taxpayer-funded health care, driver’s licenses and free college tuition. On crime, she chose a running mate on whose watch violent crime in Minnesota increased for three straight years. On education, she went with a running mate who oversaw student reading and math scores on national tests plummet to their lowest in more than 20 years, even as spending on schools soared.

When CNN’s Jake Tapper asked the Minnesota governor how he responded to charges that he was a “big-government liberal,” Walz replied that he is “more than happy to take the label.” His record is so far left, it won the early endorsement of Sen. Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), who lobbied Harris to pick Walz over more moderate candidates.

In doing as Sanders urged, Harris made the same mistake Trump did in picking Ohio Sen. JD Vance: choosing a running mate who appeals almost exclusively to the base rather than to skeptical swing voters in key battleground states who will decide the election.

The difference is that most Americans are more comfortable with the MAGA agenda than they are with the democratic socialism of the Harris-Walz ticket. A new Harvard CAPS-Harris poll finds that a majority of voters support all the key elements of the GOP platform, and a 54 percent majority approve of the job Trump did as president - including majorities of every age and almost every demographic group.

The poll also shows that most voters believe Harris supports left-wing policies they disagree with, such as open borders and electric vehicle mandates - an impression she has now underscored with her vice-presidential pick. By selecting Walz, Harris has

clearly signaled that she cares more about placating her restive left-wing base than about appealing to swing voters by moving to the center.

That creates an opportunity for Trump. He can tell those swing voters: Democrats have now fielded the most left-wing presidential ticket in modern history. You may not love me or my behavior, but you love the job I did as president. The choice in this election is clear: Do you want socialism or common sense?

That is a winning message. But to take advantage of this opportunity, Trump needs to spend all his time hammering it home rather than focusing on energizing his base. In the wake of Trump’s attempted assassination, MAGA voters will walk over molten lava to cast their ballots for him. There is no need for him to pour fuel on that already-raging fire.

Rather, he needs to spend the next three months appealing to the swing voters in a handful of critical states who will decide this election - voters who don’t like Harris but are unsure about putting him back in the Oval Office. His every word, action and decision between now and Election Day should be focused on assuaging their concerns about him while raising their concerns about a Harris-Walz administration.

That means he needs to stop questioning Harris’s race and ethnicity and focus on questioning her judgment and ideology. He needs to contrast her record with his and present himself as the candidate who can return our country to safety, prosperity and normalcy. And to do that, he needs to stop doing things that undermine that message - such as getting into fights with fellow Republicans, as he did at a recent campaign rally in Georgia, where he attacked the state’s popular GOP governor, Brian Kemp, whose get-out-the-vote operation he needs if he’s going to win the presidency.

Can Trump do this? For months, he showed incredible discipline and even magnanimity - endorsing “Never Trump” GOP Senate candidates such as former Maryland governor Larry Hogan while staying out of the spotlight as Democrats writhed in the agony of pushing President Joe Biden out of the race. But since Biden dropped out, Trump has started to go off the rails again. If he does not correct course soon, he will blow one of the most winnable presidential elections in history.

With her selection of Walz, Harris has given Trump an opening. The fundamentals of the election are still in his favor. Harris faces a huge challenge to win the presidency. But Trump can easily lose it.

*Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X*



Marc Thiessen

## The teleprompter campaign

The basement campaign has been updated.

Kamala Harris isn’t in the cellar of the Naval Observatory campaigning via Zoom calls à la Joe Biden in 2020.

No, she’s speaking to adoring crowds fired up by pop stars. She’s identifying herself with the latest trends (she’s “brat” now). She’s clapping back against Donald Trump with panache.

In one of the great political transformations of our time, she’s gone from a subpar vice president to the second coming of Barack Obama in the space of about two weeks.

Except Obama was a genuine political talent who was glib enough to handle almost anything. He wasn’t an intellectual but was a writer with intellectual interests -- in another life, he could have been a staffer at The New Yorker instead of president (would that it had been so).

The people most aware that Kamala isn’t truly a new version of Obama are the people around her, who clearly fear putting her in any setting where she isn’t reading from a script.

Biden’s basement campaign in 2020 kept him from having to go out and build a crowd, but he did interviews. Kamala’s teleprompter campaign in 2024 is meant to limit her exposure to keep her from inadvertently bursting the media bubble that’s been created around her.

In that, her campaign may resemble the pre-debate Biden



Rich Lowry

approach this year more than his limited stumping in 2020. Biden’s operation feared putting him out in any setting where he’d be challenged, and when his abysmal debate performance forced them to do so anyway (to prove he’d just had “a bad night”), the additional exposure resulted in predictable disaster.

Kamala’s problem isn’t messing up names or dates or losing her train of thought -- hallmarks of aging. Rather, she often ends up repeating the same (usually banal) thought in slightly different words, so she expresses herself in an endless loop of vacuity.

In one of her few off-script comments since her ascension, she explained last Friday why Biden should get credit for the prisoner swap with Russia:

“This is just extraordinary testament to the importance of having a president who understands the power of diplomacy and understands the strength that rests in understanding the significance of diplomacy and strengthening alliances.”

For those keeping track, that’s three “understands,” two “diplomacys” and two “strengths” in one sentence. All that she said is that it’s important that Biden understands diplomacy, but she didn’t know how to land the plane after stating this simple idea in a brief sentence.

Because Kamala hasn’t been out there, we don’t know in her own words how she feels about the amaz-

ing turn of events over the last two weeks, how she plans to lead, or -- and this is important -- how she explains her multiple changes in position since she last ran for president.

If a presidential candidate flip-flops on one thing during a campaign, it’s usually a focus of discussion for weeks. She’s done it on about eight things with no explanation whatsoever and without generating any significant media static.

If you were them, wouldn’t you want to keep it that way?

The campaign will eventually need to do some interviews. Perhaps they will schedule some appearances on MSNBC and with sympathetic influencers. Then, they can address the criticism that Kamala is only talking to partisan outlets with a sit-down with a relatively safe journalist who has credibility in the broader media, say, Lesley Stahl of “60 Minutes.”

Besides that, back to the teleprompter!

It’s extraordinary that the Democrats had one presidential candidate whom they didn’t trust with interviews and have replaced him with another, fresh and younger candidate whom they also don’t trust with interviews.

This is why Trump has to debate Harris. Given the way Harris has been hiding from the media, a debate (or debates) may have to be one of the main means of trying to expose her.

She’s out of the basement, but she’s never off script.  
*Rich Lowry is on Twitter @RichLowry*

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*Opinions expressed on this page do not necessarily represent the views of this newspaper.*





# Call to Worship

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



**A CITY ON A HILL CHURCH**  
705 W.-900 N., Uniondale  
10 a.m. - Worship.

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

**APOSTOLIC CHRISTIAN CHURCH - NORTH**  
630 E. Dustman Rd.  
9:45 & 11:45 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Time to Take a Devotional Break

### HEAVENLY PREREQUISITES

Most educational systems are built on a hierarchy of learning. Elementary students must master specific academic standards to move to the next grade. High schools require prerequisite classes before more difficult courses are completed. Colleges expect freshmen to indicate a basic knowledge before enrolling in advanced coursework.

Gamers and sports lovers spend hours honing their skills to master every new challenge. Musicians dedicate countless hours of practice in musical or vocal compositions before a performance.

Every expert was once a beginner.

In the spiritual realm, God also has a hierarchy of learning and growth.

The sinner who admits their need for redemption begins a journey of discovery, learning to recognize the guiding voice of the Holy Spirit.

The novice level of faith comes when we recognize the need for Someone outside ourselves to satisfy our hearts' longings. Through the work of the Holy Spirit, that former skeptic realizes that only Christ could provide redemption and restoration to the Creator (Romans 3:23; Romans 6:23).

Beginners in Christ are

those whose newfound faith is energized and active, who seek to please out of gratitude for His sacrifice and work in their lives (1 Peter 2:2; Romans 12:1, 2). They may stumble and fall occasionally but quickly return to God in repentance.

Disciples who have moved beyond the milk of infancy in their faith develop patterns of obedience, avoiding the pitfalls before temptation becomes overwhelming. These intermediate-level Christians seek to perfect their knowledge of God's

Word and what pleases Him (2 Peter 3:18; Romans 5:2-6).

Seasoned saints have progressed from novice, beginner, and intermediate faith into lifestyles of love and joy when in the presence of God. Without reminders, they choose to spend time in prayer and fellowship with other believers.

While each of us finds ourselves at different points on the road to heaven — occasionally alone, other times accompanied by those we emulate or someone we seek to mentor — the ultimate need remains the cultivation of a heart willing to recognize our need, repent, and return to the God Who loves us eternally. Those are God's most important prerequisites.

mpaxson99@yahoo.com



by Martha Paxson

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

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

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

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

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

**HOPE MISSIONARY**  
429 E. Dustman Rd.  
hope4thefamily.com  
8 a.m., 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service at Main Campus. 9:30 & 11 a.m. - Service, north campus, Ossian.

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

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

**LANCASTER CHAPEL UNITED METHODIST**  
4510 E 400N, Craigville  
9 a.m. - Sunday School. 9:40 - Fellowship. 10 a.m. - Worship.

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

**LIBERTY CENTER BAPTIST**  
3071 W. Cherry St.  
8:30 a.m. - Pastor/Deacon's Prayer. 9 - Sunday School. 9:55 - Fellowship. 10:15 - Worship.

**LIBERTY CENTER COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
8:45 a.m. - Choir practice. 9 a.m. - Coffee, donuts, conversation. 9:30 - Worship w/infant nursery & children's church. 10:45 - Sunday School.

**LIFE COMMUNITY**  
428 S. Oak St.  
lifecommunity.net  
10:30 a.m. - Service (Children's programs available).

**LIVING FAITH MISSIONARY**  
17718 Bluffton Rd., Yoder  
10 a.m. - Worship. 11:30 - Sunday School.

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

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

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

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

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

**PARK COMMUNITY**  
617 S. Bennett St.  
parkccbluffton.org  
10 a.m. - Connection. 11 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**ST. MARK EV. LUTHERAN**  
16933 Thiele Rd.  
stmarkfw.org  
9 a.m. - Worship.

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

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

Pray for our Nation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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Leah Brown was able to volunteer at a local Burmese school while she studied abroad in Thailand. She's pictured with some of the students she worked with above. (Photos provided)



## Around the world and back again

(Continued from Page 1)

familial cultures were often the most jarring. Little questions, like how to turn on the shower or what was appropriate to wear for different parts of the day, were constantly popping into her mind.

All the while, Brown was careful about communication back home. Brown and her parents, Dustin and Rebecca, had been advised by RYE to be intentional about how often they spoke, to stay in touch but not worsen homesickness. She estimated she spoke with her parents about once a week — about 30 times across the 10 months.

"I was so overwhelmed the first week or so," Brown said. "And then after the first week, I got into the swing of things. And then every switch (in host families) ... there was a week where I was like, 'Get me out of here' ... Talking to my mom, I always felt better."

Brown feels lucky about her experience with homesickness, but it was at its worst when she wasn't feeling well. Although she never encountered any serious illnesses, Brown ended up in the hospital twice in Thailand — once from a concussion while whitewater rafting and another time after getting a ring stuck on her finger. Both were handled relatively easily.

### Back to School

As part of getting to know the culture, Brown attended a Thai school throughout her time in the country. In a school of 4,000 students in uniforms, she thought she would be able to blend in a bit.

"I very much was apart from the crowd," she laughed, adding, "I had to learn real fast to be real confident in myself."

Most of the classes were taught half in English and half in Thai, which helped to learn the language. Brown is already bilingual in English and Spanish, but Thai has its own alphabet and is entirely different from Germanic and Latin-based languages.

While it was difficult for Brown to say Thai names, many of her peers struggled to say "Leah" as well. Brown ended up getting a Thai nickname after a common Phuket flower. "It was cute," she said. "They actually give that nickname to a lot of foreigners who stay for a while."

Luckily, Brown clicked with friends who helped her practice her Thai speaking skills. Brown said she was largely fluent in speaking and understanding the language by the time she left, but recognized that it's a skill that will probably fade with time.

### Ambassadorship

Perhaps the most unexpected part of Brown's study abroad experience was the extent to which she was asked to represent U.S. politics to those around her. Everyone Brown encountered wanted to know her takes on all kinds of U.S. issues.

"I think being an American in the current year and last years — everyone wanted to know my opinion on everything," she said. "I was questioned about everything."

In her Rotary Club alone, there were 16 different nationalities present, and more throughout the clubs she interacted with in the region.

Brown tried to handle subjects with care, often providing context to differing opinions.

However, she also found the conversations challenging as she was actively exposed to different cultural experiences and perspectives that were broadening her own views.

"They would find out I was American and the first thing they would ask about is school shootings," she shared. "Which is really sad, especially being a high schooler, like that's something we think about. Often in Thailand, they just don't have that problem because arms aren't a problem there."

It became even more difficult to consider as Brown learned that there had been a firearm found at BHS in April. "It was very difficult for me to grapple with it, honestly," she said.

Although the subject matter was an unexpected burden, it was one Brown found herself grateful to have experienced. She had hoped to learn how to "live life not in a box," she told The News-Banner in August 2023.

"I think that's actually a common theme throughout my exchange year," Brown said. "I think the big one was (learning that) your perspective is valid, but so is everybody else's ... I think traveling and meeting people all over the world has made me a better person in a lot of ways."

In addition to her experiences in Phuket, Brown was able to travel to Bali, Thailand, and the country's capital, Bangkok. She also went out of the country to Singapore and Laos.

### A Bittersweet Goodbye

During the last few months in Thailand, Brown's host parents were a retired couple who were primarily involved in humanitarian

work. Because she was on break from school, she took the opportunity to be involved in this work, teaching English and music to children at a Burmese school.

While Brown is hesitant to place many 'favorites', she does credit the last three months as being the reason it was bittersweet to come home.

"Much of my exchange year was very — I want to say selfish — but it was very much about me and what I was learning," Brown said. "And it was so cool to teach other kids."

Brown spent those days teaching at the school, spending time with friends and Rotarians, and exploring parts of the city with her host parents.

"Oh, my host dad — I love him, he's so funny," Brown shared. "He plays the harmonica. And so I would go to the most random bars, like literally bars, and we'd walk in and sit down, and he'd play music. That was one of our favorite things to do together. We'd play music all the time."

She added with a smile, "And then I'd wake up the next day and do it all again."

### Back Home Again in Indiana

In the months leading to her return to the U.S., Brown learned something about her flight plans had messed up and she had to change the dates. And thus, a plan was hatched.

Brown returned three weeks earlier than expected and surprised her close friends one by one. She even planned a series of social media posts to look like she was still in Thailand, all while boarding a plane to Chicago or sitting at home. "And I bamboozled everybody," she smirked.

Of course, she was also ecstatic to be reunited with her family.

"The moment I landed in Chicago, I was bawling, like all the waterworks," Brown laughed. "I was so excited to see my mom. I was so excited to go home. And drink Dr. Pepper."

Readjusting home has not always been a seamless process, but she takes it one day at a time. Now 17-years-old, Brown finds herself realizing that her friends, BHS and Bluffton aren't the same as when she left. She's not the same as when she left either.

"My best friend kept me grounded a lot because she would say things like, 'It's exciting to meet a new version of Leah,'" she shared. "I mean, I left a sophomore and came back as a senior — that's bizarre."

It's also helpful that Brown is always looking forward. She started a mixed soda stand business with her dad and hosted her first event. She's organizing an internship for her senior year. She wants to host a Bluffton fundraiser for the Burmese school she volunteered at. She's planning a trip back to Thailand with her family for next year.

"I cannot sit still, I simply cannot," she joked.

Before Brown's year abroad, she was thinking about studying international relations after high school, but now she's leaning toward the government policy side. Wherever she lands, the sky's the limit — and she'll always know where the best view is.

Brown smiled, "Now I've seen sunsets literally on the other side of the world. Indiana sunsets — nothing like them, nothing like them."

holly@news-banner.com

## Iran is accelerating cyber activity that appears meant to influence the U.S. election, Microsoft says

NEW YORK (AP) — Iran is accelerating online activity that appears intended to influence the U.S. election, in one case targeting a presidential campaign with an email phishing attack, Microsoft said Friday.

Iranian actors also have spent recent months creating fake news sites and impersonating activists, laying the groundwork to stoke division and potentially sway American voters this fall, especially in swing states, the technology giant found.

The findings in Microsoft's newest threat intelligence report show how Iran, which has been active in recent U.S. elections, is evolving its tactics for another election that's likely to have global implications. The report goes a step beyond anything U.S. intelligence officials have disclosed, giving specific examples of Iranian groups and the actions they have taken so far. Iran's United Nations mission denied it had plans to interfere or launch cyberattacks in the U.S. presidential election.

The report doesn't specify Iran's intentions besides sowing chaos in the United States, though U.S. officials have previously hinted that Iran particularly opposes former President Donald Trump. U.S. officials also have expressed alarm about Tehran's efforts to seek retaliation for a 2020 strike on an Iranian general that was ordered by Trump. This week, the Justice Department unsealed criminal charges against a Pakistani man with ties to Iran who's alleged to have hatched assassination plots targeting multiple officials, potentially including Trump.

The report also reveals how Russia and China are exploiting U.S. political polarization to advance their own divisive messaging in a consequential election year.

Microsoft's report identified four examples of recent Iranian activity that the company expects to increase as November's election draws closer.

First, a group linked to Iran's Revolutionary Guard in June targeted a high-ranking U.S. presidential campaign official with a phishing email, a form of cyberattack often used to gather sensitive information, according to the report, which didn't identify which campaign was targeted. The group concealed the email's origins by sending it from the hacked email account of a former senior adviser, Microsoft said.

Days later, the Iranian group tried to log into an account that belonged to a former presidential candidate, but wasn't successful, Microsoft's report said. The company notified those who were targeted.

In a separate example, an Iranian group has been creating websites that pose as U.S.-based news sites targeted to voters on opposite sides of the political spectrum, the report said.

One fake news site that lends itself to a left-leaning audience insults Trump by calling him "raving mad" and suggests he uses drugs, the report said. Another site meant to appeal to Republican readers centers on LGBTQ issues and gender-affirming surgery.

A third example Microsoft cited found that Iranian groups are impersonating U.S. activists, potentially laying the groundwork for influence operations closer to the election.

Finally, another Iranian group in May compromised an account owned by a government employee in a swing state, the report said. It was unclear whether that cyberattack was related to election interference efforts.

Iran's U.N. mission sent The Associated Press an emailed statement: "Iran has been the victim of numerous offensive cyber operations targeting its infrastructure, public service centers, and industries. Iran's cyber capabilities are defensive and proportionate to the threats it faces. Iran has neither the intention nor plans to launch cyber attacks. The U.S. presidential election is an internal matter in which Iran does not interfere."

The Microsoft report said that as Iran escalates its cyber influence, Russia-linked actors also have pivoted their influence campaigns to focus on the U.S. election, while actors linked to the Chinese Communist Party have taken advantage of pro-Palestinian university protests and other current events in the U.S. to try to raise U.S. political tensions.


Microsoft said it has continued to monitor how foreign foes are using generative AI technology. The increasingly cheap and easy-to-access tools can generate lifelike fake images, photos and videos in seconds, prompting concern among some experts that they will be weaponized to mislead voters this election cycle.

While many countries have experimented with AI in their influence operations, the company said, those efforts haven't had much impact so far. The report said as a result, some actors have "pivoted back to techniques that have proven effective in the past — simple digital manipulations, mischaracterization of content, and use of trusted labels or logos atop false information."


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Norwell Knight golfers Emma Burnau (left) and Jessica Bynum (right) take some of their opening shots during the first regular season match of the season at Timber Ridge Friday evening. Burnau tied the team lead with Ellie Gatton with a 47, while Bynum scored a 53 as the Knights defeated the New Haven Bulldogs. (Photos by Ryan Walker)

## Knights roll Bulldogs in home golf opener

Norwell's first time at Timber Ridge was a successful one, defeating Northeast 8 Conference foe New Haven.

It was the opening day at the home course and for the regular season. The Knights recently finished first in both the South Adams and Belmont Invitationals earlier this week.

Friday, the Knights scored a 195 to the Bulldogs 266. New Haven did not have a fifth golfer, so their score automatically reached a 90 for the nine-hole match.

Ellie Gatton and Emma Burnau led the way with 47s, while Savanna Simerman was next at 48. Jessica Bynum shot a 53 and Kylee Nevius 55.

Norwell will be at home again next at 4:30 p.m. Monday, Aug. 12 to face North Side and South Side.

## High School Calendar

**SATURDAY, AUG. 10**

No events scheduled.

**MONDAY, AUG. 12**

GIRLS GOLF: North Side, South Side at Norwell, 4:30 p.m.; Bluffton at Belmont, 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**

No events scheduled.

**THURSDAY, AUG. 13**

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

## Sha'Carri Richardson rallies U.S. women in Olympic 4x100

By **EDDIE PELLIS**  
AP National Writer

SAINT-DENIS, France (AP) — Sha'Carri Richardson made her first Olympic gold-medal moment memorable — giving the sprinters behind her the side-eye, then stomping her foot to the track on her final step across the finish line.

Afterward, she moved aside to watch the U.S. men do what they do best in the 4x100 relay — find a way to lose.

Richardson, who won silver in the 100 last weekend, powered from third to first in the anchor leg to lift the United States to victory Friday, then had a front-row seat to watch the U.S. men extend their streak to 20 years without a medal at the Games.

"I was very comfortable with these ladies," Richardson said of a foursome that includes her training partners, 100-meter bronze medalist Melissa Jefferson and Twanisha Terry, and 200-meter champion Gabby Thomas.

The men were racing without Noah Lyles, who called it quits for the Olympics after winning the bronze medal in the 200 while fighting COVID. Hard to think that even he could've saved them.

This race unraveled on the first exchange, when Christian Coleman crashed into Kenny Bednarek, then actually ran by him as they were awkwardly passing the baton.

By the time Fred Kerley took the stick for the anchor lap, the U.S. was in seventh place. They ended up being disqualified for the illegal pass. Not even Lyles could've overcome that.

"It just didn't happen," Coleman said. "Maybe we could have put in some more work. I just think in the moment it didn't happen."

US loss opens it up for Canada and De Grasse to get a win

With the U.S. out, Andre De Grasse put a bright mark on his otherwise disappointing Olympics by anchoring Canada to gold in a time of 37.50 seconds.

It was the first medal in Paris for De Grasse, and the first for the Canadians in the one-lap relay since Donovan Bailey anchored them in 1996. South Africa finished second and Britain third.

The secret?

"We've been together since 2021, or 2019, even," De Grasse said. "We all train in Florida. We always practice for this moment. We know what we're capable of."

America's Rai Benjamin pulls off hurdles victory

In the evening's final race, American Rai Benjamin finally pulled out of the shadow of world-record holder Karsten Warholm, getting his first individual major title by blowing past the defending champion in 46.46 seconds.

Alison dos Santos of Brazil finished third for the second straight Olympics, giving these Games the same three men on the podium as Tokyo.

This race was no repeat of that one — the fastest hurdles race ever — but Benjamin still ran a time that would've been a world

record 37 months ago, before Warholm took it below 46 seconds.

Carl Lewis sounds off (again) after (another) relay debacle

Looking in on the relays in disgust, but not surprise, was Carl Lewis, a two-time winner in this race who is never shy about calling out what he sees.

"It is time to blow up the system," he said on social media. "This continues to be completely unacceptable. It is clear that EVERYONE at USA (Track and Field) is more concerned with relationships (than) winning. No athlete should step on the track and run another relay until this program is changed from top to bottom."

In an interview last week with The Associated Press, Lewis suggested experts in the U.S. develop a relay manual and send it to every high school coach in the country.

"The issue has always been politics, has always been drama, has always been deception," Lewis said. "If they can eliminate those things, there's no question they have the fastest team in the world."

Did late removal of Noah Lyles make a difference?

Some might blame the latest loss on the impact of the lineup shuffle. Lyles, who ran anchor in the U.S. victory last year at world championships, probably would have done so again at Stade de France.

But that task went to Kerley, and Bednarek ran second. It set him up to receive the pass from Coleman.

Most of the problems over the years — and all this week — have been toward the front. On Thursday, in qualifying, Coleman handed to Kerley with his right hand while grabbing Kerley's arm with his left — an awkward exchange that didn't cost anything.

This one did. The only U.S. podium finish during its dry spell was a silver in 2012 that was later stripped due to doping.

"At the end of the day, we knew what we could do," said Kyree King, who ran the third leg. "We came out here and we had the mindset of no risk, no reward, so we went out there and went big. It didn't happen."

Sha'Carri and company had no such problems

The run by Richardson and her teammates was everything the men's race was not — filled with smooth safe passes of a rain-slickened baton, then capped off by America's fastest 100-meter runner.

Richardson received the baton from Thomas in third place.

By the halfway point of her leg, Richardson had overcome runners from Britain and Germany. She glanced to her right — and backwards — and gave a look of "you're not catching me," then took eight more steps.

On the ninth one, Richardson slammed her left foot on the ground over the finish line and let out a yell.

The Americans won in 41.78 seconds, good for a .07-second win over Britain, which struggled with two baton changes in the rain.

## Olympics, closing ceremony coming to an end this weekend

By **The Associated Press**

PARIS (AP) — The Paris Olympics are coming to a close this weekend.

U.S. gymnastics star Simone Biles made a triumphant return, taking her Olympic gold tally to seven. French swimmer Léon Marchand won five medals — four of them gold — fulfilling comparisons to Michael Phelps. Armand "Mondo" Duplantis won another gold medal, but the real show for the 80,000 at the Stade de France — which will be the site of Sunday's closing ceremony — was when he broke the world record for the ninth time.

Noah Lyles won the 100 meters in a historically close race, but the American sprinter came up short in his bid for a double in the 200 — after he was diagnosed with COVID-19.

There's been controversy, too. Boxers Imane Khelif of Algeria and Lin Yu-ting of Taiwan have been in the spotlight because of misconceptions about their gender.

(Continued on Page A2)

## Sizemore in a spot he never envisioned as interim manager

By **ANDREW SELIGMAN**  
AP Sports Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — Grady Sizemore felt like a kid playing video games as he filled out the lineup card for the Chicago White Sox as they prepared to host the cross-town Cubs on Friday. The stakes, of course, weren't quite the same.

"This is on a different level, a different scale, but it's still fun and I can't wait to go out there and compete," he said.

Sizemore found himself in a position he never really envisioned in his first game as interim manager, a day after the White Sox fired Pedro Grifol with the team on course to finish with the worst record of baseball's modern era.

The switch came two days after the team ended a 21-game losing streak that tied the American League record. Chicago entered Friday's game 28-89 and on pace to finish 39-123, which would be the worst major league record since the National League's Cleveland Spiders were 20-134 in 1899.

Sizemore, a three-time All-Star and two-time Gold Glove center fielder with Cleveland, spent last year as an intern with the Arizona Diamondbacks under general manager Mike Hazen after several years away from baseball. He joined



Grady Sizemore

Grifol's staff as a major league coach this season.

General manager Chris Getz has said the White Sox will hire a manager from outside the organization after the season and it would be someone currently in a major league uniform. That's fine with Sizemore.

He said he is "grateful for the opportunity" and "never saw that coming." He didn't get back into baseball with an eye on leading a team.

"I didn't come in this to manage," he said. "There was no appeal factor there. It was really getting to know these guys, building trust, trying to build relationships and make an impact. I started this because I enjoyed working with some players and I enjoyed the feedback I get from them when I was able to help. That's what I'm trying to lean in to."

The White Sox are headed toward their sixth 100-loss season, which would be the first time in franchise history it has occurred in consecutive years. Their worst winning percentage (.325) was in 1932, when they went 49-102-1.

"I want to help any way I can," Sizemore said. "I have a feeling that part of the reason Chris asked me to do this was the guys in the locker room. I owe it to them to do my best to get this team going in the right direction."

## LeBron James, still leading the way for the U.S. at age 39, has another chance at an Olympic gold medal

By **TIM REYNOLDS**  
AP Basketball Writer

PARIS (AP) — LeBron James knows there aren't many moments like this left. He's 39. He's entering his 22nd professional season. It's logical to expect that the Paris Olympics will be his last time on this stage, and who knows if he's got one more NBA championship run in him.

If this is the Olympic finish line, though, he's not sputtering toward it.

He's leading — on pace to do so in a way that the U.S. has never seen before.

James could win the third gold medal of his Olympic career on Saturday night, when the U.S. takes on France for the title in Paris. If it happens, he'll become just the third men's player with at least three golds; Kevin Durant would have a record four golds should the U.S. win, and James would tie Carmelo Anthony for second on the all-time list with three Olympic titles.

"We know what we're here for," said James, who was one of the flag bearers along with tennis star Coco Gauff, tasked with leading the U.S. into the opening ceremony.

James enters the final as the U.S. leader in points (14.8 per game), rebounds (7.0 per game) and assists (8.2 per game) during these Olympics. Since all those stats started being tracked — assists were added to the box score at the Olympics starting with 1976 — no U.S. men's player has ever led an Olympic team in all three of those categories. Some have come close, notably Durant at the Tokyo Games three years ago. But nobody has finished atop the list in all three categories.

So, yet another accolade may await. U.S. coach Steve Kerr needs only one word to describe how James — the NBA's all-time scoring leader and the U.S. all-time Olympic leader in assists, by a wide margin — is still playing, still dominating, at 39.

The word: "Crazy."

"This is maybe one of the best things about this trip for me, to see LeBron behind the scenes, see the preparation, see the focus and getting a picture for why he is who he is," Kerr said. "It's just amazing to watch him. He loves the game so much. He loves the work. He loves his teammates. There's an energy and a joy to LeBron that just sort of spreads through the locker room. He's obviously one of the very best all-time players, but it goes so far beyond one thing. It's just everything, the whole package. He's just brilliant."

He's played brilliantly all summer, too.

James, to hear U.S. coaches tell the story, began setting the tone for how this team would operate from the very first practice in Las Vegas more than a month ago. He could have been elsewhere that day; his son Bronny James was making his summer league debut for the Los Angeles Lakers in San Francisco, a game that his dad — and now Lakers teammate — surely would have been courtside for in any other circumstance. He was in Vegas instead, watching highlights after the first practice.

And while the people in leadership roles for USA Basketball like Grant Hill, Sean Ford and Kerr were technically the ones who assembled the roster, James took on the unofficial role of principal recruiter. When the U.S. finished fourth at the World Cup last summer, James was the one on the phone asking players like Stephen Curry if they wanted to team up for an Olympic run this year.

"We're all different as we get older, but the thing about greatness is that you adjust and find ways to continue to be effective," Durant said. "And that's what LeBron has done at that age. He's not running and jumping the same way as he was when he was 25 years old, but he's still jumping pretty high

(Continued on Page A2)



# News-Banner Scoreboard

## BASKETBALL

**WNBA**

**EASTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	Pct	GB
New York	21	4	840
Connecticut	18	6	750
Indiana	11	15	423
Chicago	10	14	417
Atlanta	7	17	292
Washington	6	19	240

**WESTERN CONFERENCE**

W	L	Pct	GB
Minnesota	17	8	680
Seattle	17	8	680
Las Vegas	16	8	667
Phoenix	13	12	520
Los Angeles	6	18	250
Dallas	6	19	240

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

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

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

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

guez 1-4), 3:07 p.m.  
 Detroit (TBD) at San Francisco (Webb 9-8), 4:05 p.m.  
 Houston (Arrighetti 4-10) at Boston (TBD), 4:10 p.m.  
 Texas (Bradford 3-0) at N.Y. Yankees (Cole 3-2), 4:35 p.m., 2nd game  
 L.A. Angels (Canning 4-10) at Washington (Corbin 2-12), 6:45 p.m.  
 Cleveland (Williams 1-4) at Minnesota (Woods Richardson 3-2), 7:10 p.m.  
 St. Louis (Pallante 4-6) at Kansas City (Wacha 8-6), 7:10 p.m.  
 Baltimore (Burnes 12-4) at Tampa Bay (TBD), 7:15 p.m.  
 Chicago Cubs (Steele 3-5) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-11), 7:15 p.m.  
 N.Y. Mets (Manaea 8-4) at Seattle (Gilbert 6-8), 9:40 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**  
 L.A. Angels at Washington, 11:35 a.m.  
 Houston at Boston, 1:35 p.m.  
 Texas at N.Y. Yankees, 1:35 p.m.  
 Oakland at Toronto, 1:37 p.m.  
 Baltimore at Tampa Bay, 1:40 p.m.  
 Cleveland at Minnesota, 2:10 p.m.  
 Detroit at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.  
 N.Y. Mets at Seattle, 7:10 p.m.

(Muñoz 2-6), 4:10 p.m.  
 L.A. Angels (Canning 4-10) at Washington (Corbin 2-12), 6:45 p.m.  
 Cincinnati (Martinez 6-5) at Milwaukee (Myers 6-5), 7:10 p.m.  
 St. Louis (Pallante 4-6) at Kansas City (Wacha 8-6), 7:10 p.m.  
 Chicago Cubs (Steele 3-5) at Chicago White Sox (Flexen 2-11), 7:15 p.m.  
 Atlanta (Fried 7-6) at Colorado (Quantrill 7-8), 8:10 p.m.  
 Philadelphia (Nola 11-5) at Arizona (Gallen 9-5), 8:10 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh (Skenes 6-1) at L.A. Dodgers (Ryan 1-0), 9:10 p.m.  
 N.Y. Mets (Manaea 8-4) at Seattle (Gilbert 6-8), 9:40 p.m.

**Sunday's Games**  
 L.A. Angels at Washington, 11:35 a.m.  
 San Diego at Miami, 1:40 p.m.  
 Cincinnati at Milwaukee, 2:10 p.m.  
 Atlanta at Colorado, 3:10 p.m.  
 Detroit at San Francisco, 4:05 p.m.  
 Philadelphia at Arizona, 4:10 p.m.  
 Pittsburgh at L.A. Dodgers, 4:10 p.m.  
 N.Y. Mets at Seattle, 7:10 p.m.

## TRANSACTIONS

**Friday's Transactions**

**BASEBALL**

**Major League Baseball American League**

**BALTIMORE ORIOLES** — Agreed to terms with INF Jean Segura on a minor league contract.  
**BOSTON RED SOX** — Placed RHP Brayson Bello on the paternity list and RHP Cooper Criswell on the COVID-19 related injured list, retroactive to Aug. 8. Recalled LHP Cam Booser and RHP Brad Keller from Worcester (IL).  
**CLEVELAND GUARDIANS** — Placed RHP Carlos Carrasco on the 15-day IL, retroactive to Aug. 8. Recalled LHP Joey Cantillo, CF Will Brennan and RHP Peter Strzelecki from Columbus (IL). Optioned SS Angel Martinez to Columbus. Reinstated RHP Alex Cobb from the 60-day IL. Designated CF Anthony Gose for assignment.  
**LOS ANGELES ANGELS** — Optioned SS Charles Leblanc to Salt Lake (PCL). Reinstated 3B Taylor Ward from the paternity list.  
**MINNESOTA TWINS** — Selected the contract of RHP Scott Blewett from St. Paul. (IL). Reinstated INF Kyle Farmer from the 10-day IL and his rehab assignment. Placed RHP Joe Ryan on the 15-day IL and INF Brooks Lee on the 10-day IL. Transferred RHP Brock Stewart from the 15-day IL to the 60-day IL. Recalled RHP Louie Varland from St. Paul.

**NEW YORK YANKEES** — Acquired OF Cam Eden from the Toronto Blue Jays in exchange for cash considerations and assigned him to Scranton/Wilkes-Barre (IL).  
**OAKLAND ATHLETICS** — Sent RHP Gerardo Reyes outright to Reno (PCL).

**National League**

**ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS** — Recalled RHP Scott McGough from Reno (PCL). Optioned RHP Slade Cecconi to Reno.  
**MILWAUKEE BREWERS** — Sent LHP Rob Zastryzny to Nashville (IL) on a rehab assignment.  
**PITTSBURGH PIRATES** — Designated LHP Josh Walker for assignment. Selected the contract of RHP Doningo German from Indianapolis (IL).

## BASEBALL

**MLB**

**AMERICAN LEAGUE**

**East Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Baltimore	69	48	590
New York	68	48	586
Boston	61	53	535
Tampa Bay	58	57	504
Toronto	54	62	466

**Central Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	67	49	578
Minnesota	65	50	565
Kansas City	64	53	547
Detroit	55	61	474
Chicago	28	90	232

**West Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Houston	60	55	522
Seattle	60	56	517
Texas	54	61	470
Los Angeles	51	65	440
Oakland	48	69	410

**Thursday's Games**  
 Toronto 7, Baltimore 6  
 L.A. Angels 9, N.Y. Yankees 4  
 Tampa Bay 6, St. Louis 4  
 Seattle 4, Detroit 3

**Friday's Games**  
 Minnesota 4, Cleveland 2, 1st game  
 Baltimore 4, Tampa Bay 1  
 Toronto 3, Oakland 1  
 Washington 3, L.A. Angels 2, 10 innings

**Saturday's Games**  
 Houston 8, Boston 4  
 Minnesota 6, Cleveland 3, 2nd game  
 Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 6  
 St. Louis 8, Kansas City 5  
 N.Y. Mets at Seattle, late  
 Detroit at San Francisco, late  
 Texas at N.Y. Yankees, p.p.

**Saturday's Games**  
 Texas (Eovaldi 8-5) at N.Y. Yankees (Rodón 12-7), 1:05 p.m., 1st game  
 Oakland (Bido 2-3) at Toronto (Rodríguez 1-4), 3:07 p.m.

**NATIONAL LEAGUE**

**East Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Philadelphia	69	46	600
New York	61	54	530
Atlanta	60	54	526
Washington	53	64	453
Miami	43	74	368

**Central Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Milwaukee	66	49	574
St. Louis	60	57	513
Chicago	58	60	492
Pittsburgh	56	58	491
Cincinnati	56	60	483

**West Division**

W	L	Pct	GB
Los Angeles	66	49	574
San Diego	65	52	556
Arizona	63	53	543
San Francisco	59	58	504
Colorado	42	74	362

**Thursday's Games**  
 San Francisco 9, Washington 5, 10 innings  
 San Diego 7, Pittsburgh 6  
 Milwaukee 16, Atlanta 7  
 N.Y. Mets 9, Colorado 1  
 Cincinnati 10, Miami 4, 10 innings  
 Tampa Bay 6, St. Louis 4  
 Philadelphia 6, Arizona 4

**Friday's Games**  
 Washington 3, L.A. Angels 2, 10 innings

**Saturday's Games**  
 San Diego 6, Miami 2, 10 innings  
 Milwaukee 8, Cincinnati 3  
 Chicago Cubs 7, Chicago White Sox 6  
 St. Louis 8, Kansas City 5  
 Atlanta at Colorado, late  
 Philadelphia at Arizona, late  
 N.Y. Mets at Seattle, late  
 Pittsburgh at L.A. Dodgers, late  
 Detroit at San Francisco, late

**Saturday's Games**  
 Detroit (TBD) at San Francisco (Webb 9-8), 4:05 p.m.  
 San Diego (Waldron 7-9) at Miami (López 1-4), 3:07 p.m.

## Midwest League

**High-A Midwest League**

**East Division**

W	L	Pct.	GB
Dayton	24	16	600
West Michigan	23	16	590
x-Lake County	21	18	538
Great Lakes	20	19	513
Lansing	19	21	475
Fort Wayne	16	24	400

**West Division**

W	L	Pct.	GB
x-Wisconsin	24	15	615
Peoria	21	19	525
Quad Cities	20	20	500
Cedar Rapids	19	21	475
Beloit	18	22	450
South Bend	13	27	325

**Thursday, Aug. 8**  
 Beloit 5, West Michigan 1  
 Dayton 4, Lake County 2  
 Great Lakes 5, Lansing 0  
 Fort Wayne 5, South Bend 2  
 Quad Cities 9, Wisconsin 3  
 Cedar Rapids 5, Peoria 4

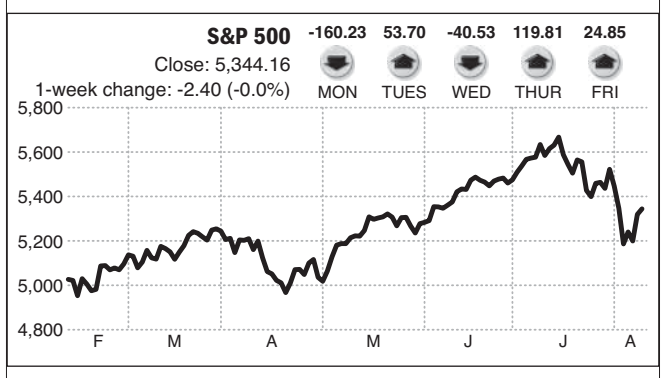
**Friday, Aug. 9**  
 West Michigan 8, Beloit 0  
 Dayton 7, Lake County 3  
 Lansing 8, Great Lakes 4  
 Fort Wayne 4, South Bend 3  
 Wisconsin 7, Quad Cities 4  
 Peoria 1, Cedar Rapids 0

**Saturday, Aug. 10**  
 Wisconsin at Quad Cities, 7 p.m.  
 Lake County at Dayton, 7:05 p.m.  
 Lansing at Great Lakes, 7:05 p.m.  
 Beloit at West Michigan, 7:05 p.m.  
 Fort Wayne at South Bend, 7:05 p.m.  
 Cedar Rapids at Peoria, 8:05 p.m.

**Sunday, Aug. 11**  
 Lake County at Dayton, 1:05 p.m.  
 Lansing at Great Lakes, 1:05 p.m.  
 Wisconsin at Quad Cities, 2 p.m.  
 Beloit at West Michigan, 2 p.m.  
 Fort Wayne at South Bend, 2:05 p.m.  
 Cedar Rapids at Peoria, 3:05 p.m.  
 Monday, Aug. 12  
 No games scheduled

# THE WEEK IN REVIEW

## WEEKLY DOW JONES AND S&P 500



## STOCK MARKET INDEXES

High	Low	Name	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	12-mo %Chg
41,376.00	32,327.20	Dow Jones Industrials	39,497.54	-239.72	-.60	+4.80	+11.95
16,495.76	13,471.47	Dow Jones Transportation	15,334.53	-46.99	-.31	-3.55	-5.40
1,036.59	765.47	Dow Jones Utilities	997.33	-21.13	-2.07	+13.12	+11.55
18,841.48	14,638.37	NYSE Composite	18,267.15	+104.90	+.58	+8.39	+13.16
18,671.07	12,543.86	Nasdaq Composite	16,745.30	-30.86	-.18	+11.55	+22.72
5,669.67	4,103.78	S&P 500	5,344.16	-2.40	-.04	+12.04	+19.72
3,143.02	2,322.38	S&P MidCap	2,935.55	-12.46	-.42	+5.54	+10.34
56,825.18	41,178.32	Wilshire 5000	53,461.49	-25.78	-.05	+10.70	+18.57
2,300.00	1,633.67	Russell 2000	2,080.92	-28.39	-1.35	+2.66	+8.09
19,317.10	13,496.96	Lipper Growth Index	17,745.03	+145.03	+.82	+9.43	...

## STOCK EXCHANGE HIGHLIGHTS

NYSE GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)					NYSE LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)					NYSE ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)				
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Vol	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Vol	Name	Vol	(00)	Last	Chg
LumenTch	5.57	+2.50	+81.4	...	JumiaTch	4.62	-6.07	-56.8	...	LumenTch	8172026	5.57	+2.50	...
HeartHlth	10.33	+2.83	+37.7	...	AVangrd	5.12	-3.73	-42.1	...	Palantir	4460441	30.01	+5.27	...
ClearSec	25.85	+6.54	+33.9	...	CleanPpr	32.60	-19.80	-37.8	...	FormM	4227443	10.10	+2.2	...
Swelgen	35.01	+8.49	+32.0	...	BRC Inc	3.50	-2.06	-37.1	...	BkofAm	2306241	38.28	+7.8	...
Klaviv n	31.09	+7.18	+30.0	...	AltaEC	6.01	-1.32	-34.2	...	BcoBrad	1957202	2.68	+4.8	...
InspRML	193.23	+43.60	+29.1	...	NeuroCorp	6.01	-3.04	-33.6	...	SnplncA	1939484	9.05	-3.1	...
OPpFi	4.52	+1.01	+28.8	...	TrueBlue	7.71	-3.57	-31.6	...	Pfizer	1728420	28.55	-1.88	...
Shopify	69.30	+14.87	+27.3	...	Chegg	2.10	-0.90	-30.0	...	Nu Hldg	1700662	12.40	+1.48	...
Similiv	7.80	+1.64	+26.6	...	EmerBio	7.09	-3.02	-29.9	...	AT&T Inc	1653545	19.49	+1.12	...
Mednar	10.02	+2.03	+25.4	...	TelusIntl	2.98	-1.17	-28.2	...	Vale SA	1639948	10.27	+2.7	...

NASDAQ GAINERS (\$2 OR MORE)					NASDAQ LOSERS (\$2 OR MORE)					NASDAQ ACTIVES (\$1 OR MORE)				
Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Vol	Name	Last	Chg	%Chg	Vol	Name	Vol	(00)	Last	Chg
TenXKean	40.50	+28.19	+229.0	...	HelporAI	4.19	-7.78	-65.0	...	Nvidia s	2045686	104.75	+2.52	...
MGO Girs	6.12	+3.49	+32.7	...	TalisBio	3.76	-5.14	-57.8	...	Intel	5309545	19.71	-1.64	...
GIThera	7.09	+3.11	+78.1	...	Wheeler s	2.04	-1.85	-47.6	...	Tesla	3670979	200.00	-7.67	...
RgnBlBio	13.15	+5.55	+73.0	...	Cardlytc	3.78	-3.40	-47.4	...	Apple Inc s	3406610	216.24	-3.62	...
Exagen	3.38	+1.34	+65.7	...	PaciraBio	11.70	-9.56	-45.0	...	AMD	2884411	134.27	+1.62	...
U-BX Th n	11.10	+4.26	+62.3	...	Inspirato s	3.67	-2.63	-41.7	...	Amazon	2714991	166.94	-0.96	...
Iteris	7.00	+2.68	+62.0	...	SunshBio s	2.77	-1.91	-40.8	...	WBrodIs A	2430857	7.03	-1.25	...
DigitTurb	3.12	+1.14	+57.6	...	NextDec	4.97	-3.33	-40.1	...	PlugPowr h	2212299	1.99	-1.19	...
UpstarHld	36.25	+12.49	+52.6	...	Vacasa Ars	2.39	-1.55	-39.3	...	SoFTech	1853679	6.64	-0.1	...
Harrow	35.94	+12.34	+52.3	...	HiPerfm	2.20	-1.35	-38.1	...	Alphab A	1817760	163.67	-2.99	...

## STOCKS OF LOCAL INTEREST

Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg	Name	Div	Last	Wk Chg	Wk %Chg	YTD %Chg
AFLAC	2.00	101.21	+1.97	+2.0	+22.7	Intel	.50	19.71	-1.64	-7.7	-60.8
AT&T Inc	1.11	19.49	+12	+6.1	+6.2	IBM	6.64	191.45	+1.60	+2.1	+1.71
AMD	1.60	134.27	+1.77	+1.3	-8.9	Inv QQQ	1.16	450.41	+4.66	+4.0	+10.0
Amazon	...	166.94	-.96	-.6	+9.9	Kroger	1.28	53.92	-.41	-0.8	+8.0
AEP	3.52	97.53	-3.38	-3.3	+20.1	LinNat	1.80	29.59	-.43	-1.4	+9.7
Apple Inc s	1.00	216.24	-3.62	-1.6	+12.3	Lumes	4.60	235.83	-4.59	-1.9	+6.0
ApldMatl	1.60	191.18	+3.97	+5.2	+18.0	LowenTch	...	5.57	+50.2	+81.4	+204.4
BP PLC	1.74	33.26	-.34	-1.0	-6.0	MaxeonS	...	.16	-.01	-.4	-97.8
BcoBrad	0.4	2.68	+4.8	+21.8	-23.4	McDonalds	6.68	267.91	-8.78	-3.2	-9.6
BkofAm	1.04	38.28	+7.0	+1.9	+13.7	Microsoft	3.00	406.02	-2.47	-.6	+8.0
BmySq	2.40	46.72	-2.05	-4.2	-8.9	NL Inds	.32	6.17	+3.3	+5.7	+10.0
CampSp	1.48	49.13	+0.3	+0.1	+13.6	NISource	1.06	31.35	-.46	-1.4	+18.1
Caterpillar	5.64	338.26	+17.39	+5.4	+14.4	NorfolkS	5.40	239.62	-3.79	-1.6	+1.4
Chevron	6.52	144.99	-3.56	-2.4	-2.8	Nuoor	2.16	145.14	-5.91	-3.9	-16.6
Cisco	1.60	45.47	-1.19	-2.6	-10.0	Nvidia s	...	104.75	-2.52	-2.3	+111.5
Citigroup	2.24	57.84	-.36	-.6	+12.4	Palantir	...	30.01	+5.27	+21.3	+74.8
CocaCola	1.94	68.68	-.65	-.9	+16.5	PepsiCo	5.42	172.39	-5.65	-3.2	+1.5
ConstMn	...	.15	...	...							



Struggling with girlfriend's hidden past

Dear Annie: I've been in a committed relationship with my girlfriend, "Sarah," for three years. We live together and have been discussing marriage. However, I recently discovered something that's left me feeling confused and betrayed.

While cleaning out our closet, I stumbled upon a hidden stash of letters and mementos from her ex-boyfriend, "Scott." The letters were deeply personal and intimate, expressing a level of passion and emotion she's never shown with me. They dated for four years before we got together, and she's always insisted that she's completely over him.

I confronted Sarah about it, and she admitted she occasionally reads the letters but swears it's purely nostalgic. She says she loves me and wants a future with me, but I can't shake the feeling that I'm competing with a ghost. It hurts to think she might still have feelings for him.

Now, I'm questioning everything. Am I just a placeholder for her true love? Is it normal to keep such mementos, or am I right to feel betrayed? I don't want to end our relationship over this, but I also don't want to live in the shadow of her past. What should I do? — Thrown off by My Girlfriend's Past

Dear Thrown: If you really love Sarah, you shouldn't have read her private letters without her permission. However, it's not uncommon for people to keep mementoes like these from previous relationships — not because they still harbor feelings for an old flame but, as Sarah said, out of nostalgia for something that was once important.

Sarah's relationship with this old boyfriend ended for a reason. Be transparent with her about how this discov-

ery made you feel, but believe her feelings for you. You can't move forward together if you're constantly looking at the path behind you.

Dear Annie: I have a close friend I've known for years. Recently, she started spending a lot of time with a new group of friends, and I feel left out. They have inside jokes and make plans without including me. I know it's natural for friendships to evolve, but I can't help feeling jealous and hurt. I've tried talking to her about it, but she says I'm overreacting and need to find new interests. I miss our old closeness and don't know how to handle these feelings. Should I confront her again or work on accepting the new dynamics? — Left Out

Dear Left Out: Perhaps you should take a page out of your friend's book and try to expand your circle, too. It's normal for friendships to ebb and flow. If this girl is meant to be a long-term friend, I'm sure you will naturally find your way back to your "old closeness." In the meantime, don't let her desire for space and new experiences keep you from feeling fulfilled and happy.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" features favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation. It is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit http://www.creatorspublishing.com for more information. Send questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

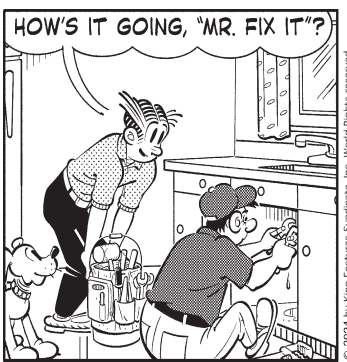
Dear Annie by Annie Lane



BEETLE BAILEY



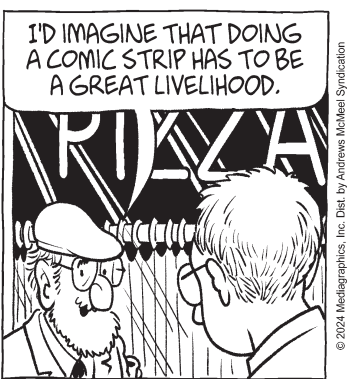
BLONDIE



ZITS



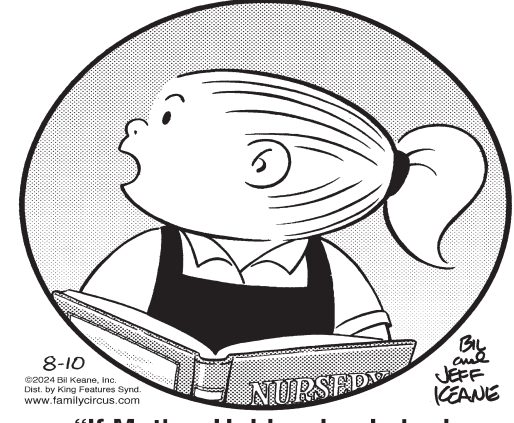
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



World of science cannot unequivocally deny the Bible

Question: My college professor claims that the Bible cannot be authenticated, particularly regarding the account of Jesus' resurrection. Can anyone prove other antiquated stories? — P.R.

Answer: There is more evidence that Jesus rose from the dead than there is that Julius Caesar ever lived or that Alexander the Great died at the age of 33. It is strange that historians will accept thousands of facts for which they can produce only shreds of evidence. But in the face of the overwhelming evidence of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, they cast a skeptical eye and hold intellectual doubts. Their spiritual vision is so blinded, and they are so completely prejudiced, that they can-

not accept the glorious fact of the resurrection of Christ on Bible testimony alone.

While many institutions are reluctant to authenticate Biblical accounts, the Smithsonian Institution states:

The Bible, in particular the historical books of the Old Testament, are as accurate historical documents as any that we have from antiquity and are in fact more accurate than many of the Egyptian, Mesopotamian, or Greek histories. These Biblical records can be and are used ... in archaeological work.

The world of science cannot unequivocally deny the Bible, and neither can history, based on the evidence of eyewitness accounts. Satan is on the move to discredit

God's Word and the resurrection. He wants people to reject the fact that Christ lives today in the hearts of those who believe in Him. He has longed to rob God of His rightful place. Satan will never accomplish his goal in the big picture, but he can accomplish it in our lives if we let him. But we must let Christ rule in our hearts.

The Bible authenticates itself — it is the Word of God. Jesus said, "My words will by no means pass away" (Luke 21:33, NKJV).

(This column is based on the words and writings of the late Rev. Billy Graham.)

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Table with columns for date, time, and program details for the week of 08/10.

Table with columns for channel, program name, and time slot for various channels.

Advertisement for classifieds: BUY IT, SELL IT, RENT IT, FIND IT, FILL IT, GET IT, DO IT. Place your Ad 24/7/365!

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Casino chip, e.g. 5 Faxed 9 Lass 12 Villa d'— 13 Rock's Mötley — 14 Pub potable 15 Run off 16 Memory method 17 Chess pieces 18 Pack (down) 19 Belief 20 Turns blue? 21 Light touch 23 Green prefix 25 Vocal group 28 Indira of India 32 Nymph pursuer 33 Lieu 34 "Venus of Urbino" painter 36 Animal product shunners 37 Born abroad?

Crossword puzzle grid with clues and solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer grid for crossword puzzle.



# The Classifieds

## SUDOKU

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

### King Classic Sudoku

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

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Difficulty: ★★★★★ 8/10

### Campers/RV's

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

### SERVICES

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

**HANDYMAN SERVICES**, NO job too big or too small, 260-353-9339.

## This Week's Garage Sales



3425 E 500 N, Ossian, Fri. 11-4 pm, Sat. 8-4 pm, Sun. 11-3 pm. Kids and adult clothes, household items, 2 grills, toys, games, and much more!

Submit line classifieds to the Bluffton News-Banner office, 260-824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., classifieds.news-banner.com. Deadlines are Friday by 4 p.m. for Monday; day-before by 3:30 p.m. for Tuesday-Friday; Friday by 11:30 a.m. for Saturday.

## Public Sale Calendar

**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 motor-cycle, 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., 9841 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 8-SEPTEMBER 15 - (Online Only Auction) - Private Collector, seller.** Outstanding collection of 2,000+ comic books, large assortment of 8-Tracks, cassettes, CD's & DVD's, Star Wars figures, D lighting, vintage books, dolls, large Nativity set, toys, collectibles. Previews: Aug. 15, Sept. 5 and Sept. 12 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 117 W. Craig St., Ossian. Pat Carter, sale manager, 260-273-8294, The Steffen Group Inc., 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.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.

### EMPLOYMENT

#### Help Wanted

**BLUFFTON POLICE DEPARTMENT** Now Hiring! The Bluffton Police Department is accepting applications for the position of police officer. Applicant must be 21 years of age by close of application date, but less than 40; have a high school diploma; two-year college degree or equivalent (60 hours), or three years of work experience in police related field or an ILEA Basic graduate or equivalent. Must provide college transcripts. Applicant must possess and maintain a valid Indiana driver's license and responsible work experience. Applicant must pass a background investigation, written test, physical agility test, oral interview, voice stress examination, required statewide baseline physical and psychological examination and drug test. Applications may be picked up at the Clerk-Treasurer's Office, 128 E Market St, Bluffton, IN, between the hours of 8 am-4:30 pm Mon-Fri. or online at blufftonindiana.net. If you have questions about the application process, you may call the Bluffton Police Department at 260-824-3320, Kyle Randall, Chief of Police. Last day to accept applications will be September 30, 2024

#### INDOOR GOLF TEAM MEMBER

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

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

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

parandbelow.com  
Click "Join Our Team" to fill out an application.

**THE BLUFFTON POLICE** Department is seeking applications to fill the position of Ordinance Compliance Officer. This full-time civilian position is responsible for ensuring compliance with all city ordinances and is based in the police department working M-F 8a-4p. Duties include downtown parking enforcement and resolution of weed and junk complaints. The successful applicant must be at least 18 years old with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, possess a responsible driving history and clean criminal background. Knowledge of law procedures preferred. Application is available on the city's website www.blufftonindiana.net. For more information contact Chief of Police Kyle Randall at 824-3320 or kyle.randall@blufftonindiana.gov. Applications are due back August 23, 2024 by 4:30 p.m.

### FOR SALE

#### Miscellaneous

**NEW/UNOPENED, 3 MONTH** supply (capsules), women's and men's Nutrafol hair growth pack w/1.7 oz. hair serum, \$240 each, 260-273-7333.

### VEHICLES

#### Auto/Trucks

**OPEN TO THE PUBLIC - General Services Administration (GSA) Sale** Thurs., August 15, 12pm. View vehicles in person on August 14, 2pm until 5pm and August 15, 8am-12pm. View up to date listing at www.indianaautoauction.net or www.autoauctions.gsa.gov. (A)

### Auto/Trucks

**INDIANA AUTO AUCTION, INC.** Huge Repo Sale August 15, 2024. Over 100 repossessed units for sale. Money order or cashier's check only. \$500 cashier's check or money order deposit per person required. Register 8 am-9:30 am. No public entry after 9:30 am. All vehicles sold AS IS! 4425 W. Washington Center Road, Fort Wayne. (A)

### Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA )  
                                  ) SS:  
COUNTY OF Allen )  
                                  ) IN THE Allen Superior Court  
                                  ) CAUSE NUMBER:  
                                  ) 02D08-2407-JT-000129  
IN THE MATTER OF THE )  
TERMINATION OF THE )  
PARENT-CHILD RELATIONSHIP: )  
BD - DOB 7/19/2024 )  
A Safe Haven Infant )  
AND )  
Unknown Alleged Father (Alleged )  
Father) )  
Unknown Alleged Mother (Mother )  
AND )  
ANY UNKNOWN ALLEGED )  
FATHERS )

#### SUMMONS FOR SERVICE BY PUBLICATION & NOTICE OF TERMINATION OF PARENTAL RIGHTS HEARING

TO: Unknown Alleged Father  
Unknown Alleged Mother and  
Any Unknown Alleged Father  
Whereabouts Unknown  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN to the above noted parent whose whereabouts are unknown, as well as Any Unknown Alleged Fathers, whose whereabouts are also unknown, that the Indiana Department of Child Services has filed a Petition for Involuntary Termination of your Parental Rights, and that an adjudication hearing has been scheduled with the Court.  
YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED to appear before the Judge of the Allen Superior Court, 715 S. Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802, for a(n) Termination of Parental Rights on 10/17/2024 at 9:00 AM and to answer the Petition for Termination of your Parental Rights of said child.

The unnamed putative parent of a male infant was voluntarily surrendered on 7/19/2024 in Allen County, Indiana and was born on approximately 7/19/2024, or the person who claims to be a parent of the infant, is notified that a petition to terminate the parent-child relationship was filed in the office of the clerk of Allen Superior Court, 715 S. Calhoun Street, Fort Wayne, IN 46802.

If the unnamed putative parent seeks to contest the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship of the infant, the unnamed putative parent must file a motion to contest the petition in accordance with IC 31-35-1.5-8 in the above named court within twenty-eight (28) days after the date of service of this notice.

If the unnamed putative parent does not file a motion to contest the adoption within twenty-eight (28) days after service of this notice, the above named court shall hear and determine the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship. The unnamed putative parent's consent is irrevocably implied and the unnamed putative parent loses the right to contest the petition to terminate the parent-child relationship or the validity of the unnamed putative parent's implied consent to the termination of the parent-child relationship. The unnamed putative parent loses the right to establish a biological relationship with the child in Indiana or any other jurisdiction.

Nothing anyone else says to the unnamed putative parent of the infant relieves the unnamed putative parent of his or her obligations under this notice.

Under Indiana law, a putative parent is a person who claims that he or she may be the father or mother of an infant who has been voluntarily surrendered but who has not yet been legally proven to be the child's father or mother.

This notice complies with IC 31-35-1.5-5 but does not exhaustively set forth the unnamed putative parent's legal obligations under the Indiana adoption statutes. A person being served with this notice should consult the Indiana adoption statutes.

Christopher M. Nancarrow  
Clerk of Allen Circuit and Superior Courts  
(Seal)

Mitchell J. Gerber, 24603-53  
Attorney, Indiana Department of Child Services  
201 E. Rudisill Blvd., Suite 200  
Fort Wayne, IN 46806  
Fax: 317-232-1249  
Work Phone: 260-403-9792  
nb 8/10, 8/17, 8/24  
hspaxlp

### Lottery Numbers

#### Friday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY

**Cash 5** — 01-11-13-26-31  
**Cash4Life** — 05-18-26-36-43, Cash Ball: 04  
**Quick Draw Middy** — 02-10-17-23-32-34-37-39-40-42-44-48-52-61-66-67-69-71-74-80, BE: 39  
**Daily Three-MIDDAY** — 08-09-06, SB: 04  
**Daily Three-EVENING** — 07-09-05, SB: 03  
**Daily Four-MIDDAY** — 03-09-00-05, SB: 04  
**Daily Four-EVENING** — 06-00-01-06, SB: 03  
**Quick Draw Evening** — 16-20-25-28-31-34-35-36-39-47-48-54-57-62-64-67-68-70-75-78, BE: 34  
**Hoosier Lotto** — Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$19.1 million

#### MEGA MILLIONS

12-32-38-40-57, Mega Ball: 21, Megaplier: 2X  
**POWERBALL**  
Estimated jackpot (for Saturday): \$201 million

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Sept. deadline is Tues., Aug. 20!

### SUDOKU ANSWER

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