

# The News - Banner

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THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Steve Reinig (pictured) driving his 1965 'Drag-U-La' replica through the Ossian Days parade last week. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

## A visit from 'Drag-U-La'

• More photos on Page 10  
By SYDNEY KENT

Steve Reinig of Ossian has been building cars for much of his life. Whether a 1970 Roadrunner, pickup trucks from the 1950s, or "woodie" Station Wagons — he's interested. One of Reinig's most recent and jaw-dropping projects, The 1965 "Drag-U-La" replica from The Munsters television show, was parked alongside rows of classic cars in the annual antique car show at the Bluffton Street Fair on Tuesday. "All of it is handmade. The first time I saw this car," Reinig grinned. "I was only seven-years-old. It stuck in the back of my mind." The head-turning replica took Reinig approximately two-and-a-half years to build and paint. He then spent an addi- (Continued on Page 2)

## Wells Republican Party caucus for county recorder will be Oct. 5

By HOLLY GASKILL

The Wells County Republican Party will hold a caucus for the county recorder directly following its monthly breakfast, 8 a.m. Oct. 5. Party Chairman Zachary Rodgers told the Election Board about the upcoming caucus during the board's meeting Tuesday. Current Recorder Carolyn Bertsch was appointed via a caucus to replace Ossian Clerk-Treasurer Angie Ealing, who's retiring from the role, on Dec. 1. Rina Stuck is the only candidate running for the position in the general election, and currently the only one for the October caucus. Also during their meeting, the board

discussed raising the cost of preparing a list of registered Wells County voters — sometimes requested by campaigning candidates — from \$5 to \$10. Clerk Beth Davis said she put the item on a future agenda; Republican board member Roy Johnson was present Democrat board member Larry Sell was absent on Tuesday. Davis also reminded board members of their upcoming public test of voting equipment, 2 p.m. on Oct. 1. Voter registration is open until Oct. 7 and early voting begins on Oct. 8. Davis has directed those interested in helping with election day to their party chairman. holly@news-banner.com

## Indiana's industry leaders unveil new statewide apprenticeship plan

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle

A coalition of nearly 200 Indiana leaders released a new statewide education pathway Tuesday that seeks to create additional classroom and work-based learning opportunities, especially in the form of apprenticeships, for high school students. Known as CEMETS iLab Indiana, the coalition said the strategic plan, detailed in a new report, is meant to address Indiana's talent shortages by supplementing the traditional high school-to-college pathway. It ultimately will prepare students for in-demand careers while simultaneously developing a new talent pipeline for employers. If the plan is implemented as expected — and supported by state education officials — the new pathway will welcome students in at least one occupation starting with the 2025-2026 school year. "The iLab's strategic plan is the culmination of eight years of research and learning,

Hoosiers need more pathways to well-paying jobs, and we are excited to move forward with this broad and engaged coalition on clear next steps for building and scaling a system that could welcome students as soon as the 2025-2026 school year," said Claire Fiddian-Green, co-chair of CEMETS iLab Indiana. She's also the president and CEO of the Richard M. Fairbanks Foundation, which has so far provided more than \$12 million in funding to support the creation of a statewide youth apprenticeship system. The pathway announcement comes as Indiana's top education officials are continuing to hash out a massive high school diploma redesign meant to maximize "flexibility" and allow students to personalize learning pathways and experiences, including with college courses taken while still in high school. Internships, apprenticeships, military experience and other work-based learning will also be allowed to count toward (Continued on Page 2)



### Parade on the midway

Wednesday night at the Bluffton Free Street Fair brought all the heavy metals to midway, with the tractor, car and marching band parades. A line of John Deere tractors kicked off the tractor parade, pictured above. Sierra Baughman with Bluffton High School's color guard is pictured below.



At left, Matthew Gerber speaks during the community worship event later that evening. (Photos by Holly Gaskill)



## Fed signals end to inflation fight with half-point rate cut

By CHRISTOPHER RUGABER  
AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Federal Reserve on Wednesday cut its benchmark interest rate by an unusually large half-point, a dramatic shift after more than

two years of high rates that helped tame inflation but also made borrowing painfully expensive for American consumers. The rate cut, the Fed's first in more than four years, reflects its new focus on bolstering the job market, which has shown clear

signs of slowing. Coming just weeks before the presidential election, the Fed's move also has the potential to scramble the economic landscape just as Americans prepare to vote. The central bank's action lowered its key rate to roughly 4.8%,

down from a two-decade high of 5.3%, where it had stood for 14 months as it struggled to curb the worst inflation streak in four decades. Inflation has tumbled from a peak of 9.1% in mid-2022 to a three-year low of 2.5% in August, not far above the Fed's

2% target. The Fed's policymakers also signaled that they expect to cut their key rate by an additional half-point in their final two meetings this year, in November and December. And they envision four more rate cuts in (Continued on Page 2)

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Early morning fog rolls in, otherwise hot and sunny  
Today Friday Saturday  
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## Congress has a lot to accomplish in a short time. Don't expect much.

Congress went back into session after its summer recess on Sept. 9 with a full plate of competing demands. With the fall elections less than two months away, members want to walk away with some accomplishments — but not spend much time achieving them. Or as Roll Call put it, they want “to get out of Washington as quickly as possible while doing just enough to avoid a government shutdown.”

This is nothing new — and it's entirely understandable. There is a point in every cycle when a politician's focus changes from crafting policy — or stopping policy from being passed — to getting re-elected. The reason, of course, is simple: You don't get to focus on policy without getting elected, and that requires playing politics. With an election looming, the pressure to be out on the hustings is intense. And so is the need to keep the election in mind while back in Washington.

This year especially, lawmakers have to legislate in the face of deep uncertainty. They're looking at a presidential election in which Vice President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump are essentially neck-and-neck in the polls. Democrats narrowly control the Senate this fall, but this year's electoral map gives the edge to Republicans, so the possibility of a GOP takeover there is in the back of everyone's mind. Similarly, the GOP currently has a House majority, but the prospect of a Democratic takeover is very real; control come January will likely come down to a relative handful of districts.

As one GOP senator said recently, “There's a lot of handwringing going on and a lot of anxiousness about where this election is headed.” He could have been speaking for either party.

With the looming election in the back of legislators' minds, it's no surprise that the politicking around the remainder of this session has grown intense. It's been made even more so because the first order of business for Congress is to fund the government before the end of September; unless it does so, we face a government shutdown beginning October 1.

The most likely way forward is a so-called “continuing resolution” that would fund federal agencies into next year, but some Republican House conservatives — and Trump — have pushed to attach a measure requiring proof of citizenship in order to vote, a move Democrats argue is unnecessary because it's already illegal for non-citizens to vote, and that has virtually no chance in the Senate. House Speaker Mike Johnson is promoting the idea along with his bid to fund the government into the next administration, but even within his own caucus there's opposition. Expect a lot of pushing and pulling around this as the deadline nears — government shutdowns tend to boomerang against Republicans, and GOP members in tight races have very little appetite for one as they head into an election.

There are other pitfalls ahead, as well. Defense officials argue that the proposed continuing resolution, which would fund the military at 2024 levels, will harm US readiness. The federal farm bill lapses at the end of September, and pressure will be intense on farm-state members to extend it, possibly as part of a continuing resolution. There are bills focused on China, the possibility of a vote in the Senate on legislation supporting access to fertility treatments like IVF, rumblings among GOP hard-liners in the House favoring an attempt to impeach President Joe Biden, and more.

In a sense, the policy specifics are less notable than the moment. Especially this time around — as we're in the very unusual situation of members in both the House and the Senate recognizing that control of their chamber could well flip in January, not to mention that who will win the White House is very much up in the air. With just weeks to go until the election, expect political tactics to reign supreme. It may not be pretty, but that's probably as it should be at this moment. We make our system work through politics; it's the price legislators pay for the chance to serve as legislators.

*Lee Hamilton is a distinguished scholar with the IU School of Global and International Studies. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.*

## Today in History

### By The Associated Press

Today is Thursday, Sept. 19, the 263rd day of 2024. There are 103 days left in the year.

Today in history: On Sept. 19, 2022, Great Britain and the world said a final goodbye to Queen Elizabeth II at a state funeral that drew presidents and kings, princes and prime ministers — and crowds who thronged the streets of London.

Also on this date: In 1796, President George Washington's fare-

well address was published. In it, America's first chief executive advised, “Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.”

In 1881, the 20th president of the United States, James A. Garfield, died 2 1/2 months after being shot by Charles Guiteau; he was succeeded by Vice President Chester A. Arthur.

In 1955, President Juan Peron of Argentina was ousted after a revolt by the army and navy.



Lee Hamilton

## Hoosier Opinions

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## A Kamala Harris crowd: Big and happy

WILKES-BARRE, PA. — In the days before Vice President Kamala Harris came here, on Friday the 13th, some Trump supporters in this northeastern Pennsylvania town speculated that she would have trouble attracting a big crowd to her rally. Even when attendees began to show up, the detractors said the number was small and perhaps they had been paid to attend.

Former President Donald Trump himself promoted the idea a few days earlier at his debate with Harris. “People don't go to her rallies,” Trump said. “There's no reason to go. And the people that do go, she's busing them in and paying them to be there.”

The idea of the Wilkes-Barre rally was for the Harris campaign to go into a Trump stronghold. The former president won surrounding Luzerne County by 14 points over Joe Biden in 2020 and by 19 points over Hillary Clinton in 2016. The point was not to win Luzerne County in November but to make progress there as part of winning Pennsylvania overall.

Trump has paid a lot of attention to the area. He has held rallies there several times, most recently on Aug. 17 at the Mohegan Arena, which can accommodate somewhere between 8,000 and 10,000 people, depending on how it is set up. Some accounts called Trump's August crowd “near capacity” — the exact crowd size has gotten caught up in a lot of trolling from the Harris campaign and some media outlets. But Trump undoubtedly drew a lot of people.

Entering Republican territory, Harris set a lower bar for herself, holding the rally at the McHale Athletic Center at Wilkes University. It's a good deal smaller than Mohegan, and not designed to accommodate arena-size crowds. Harris filled it up; local news reports said officials let just over 4,100 people into the event.

The day before, Harris held two rallies in North Carolina. In Greensboro, located in heavily Democratic Guilford County, which Biden won by 23 points over Trump in 2020 and Clinton won by 20 points over Trump in 2016, Harris drew a crowd estimated at 17,000. In Charlotte, where in Mecklenburg County Biden won by 35 points over Trump in 2020 and Clinton won by 30 points over Trump in 2016, the Harris campaign said it drew 7,500 people at the Bojangles Coliseum.

Quibble with the numbers if you want; crowd size has long been a point of contention in political battles. But Harris has been drawing big crowds, and they



Byron York

aren't bused in and they aren't paid. Some of the Republican grumbling going on now is reminiscent of 2012, in the Barack Obama-Mitt Romney race, when a number of Republicans convinced themselves that the polls were “skewed” and Democrats were demoralized. A visit to an Obama rally or two would have proved otherwise, but those Republicans chose to ignore the Democratic enthusiasm in front of their faces. Now, Republicans should be seeing a lot of Democratic enthusiasm in front of their faces.

More than anything, the Wilkes-Barre crowd seemed happy. Really happy. Harris didn't have to do much to please them; at one point, she literally said, “We're all in this together,” and they cheered wildly. They often broke into chants of *Ka-ma-la! Ka-ma-la! Ka-ma-la!* evoking memories of the Obama cult of personality in the 2008 campaign.

Many members of the audience fit the Harris/Democratic profile — they were social workers, teachers, students, school administrators, nurses, psychologists. In the course of several conversations, all described themselves as lifelong Democrats. Just one said he had feared the party had been heading toward defeat under Biden — “He's old, man” — while the rest said they fully supported Biden. Now, they're just as fully on board for Harris. All were ecstatic about Harris' performance against Trump in the debate a few days before.

As far as issues are concerned, when asked their most important issue, every woman said abortion or “women's issues,” by which they meant abortion. Some of the men said so, too, but several others said that preserving democracy was the most important issue to them. That was it. Certainly, they have other concerns, but when asked the simple question of what is most important to them, they listed Harris' strongest issue, and the issue Biden sought to make the centerpiece of his campaign.

Harris' rallies are real-life illustrations of the standard poll question about voter enthusiasm. For months, when Biden was their candidate, Democrats lagged in the question of which party was more enthusiastic about the race. Now Democrats are ahead. That's not the only measure of what is important in an election, and it doesn't mean things can't change in the next several weeks. But it's something Republicans need to realize about the other side.

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## Potatoes of yesterday, today, and the future

Bluffton Free Street Fair vendors offer a variety of items boiled in liquid fat. Meat. Pastries. Cheese. Veggies include corn wrapped around meat on a stick, popped kernels ending with a sugar coating, and fish or pork coated with dust so they'll crisp up and hold more of the fat before being served in a bun. It's unhealthy, but one of the features that draws tens of thousands to the streets' festivities.

Potatoes as fries, a Street Fair feature starting before the birth of any of today's fair-goers, can be obtained as traditional sticks or wedges. Toppings besides salt are varied and optional.

In 1859, 39 years prior to Street Fair's 1898 debut, a local newspaper offered tips to those planting potatoes. Potatoes grow “eyes” from which become the plant to produce a new generation. The eyes' first nourishment comes from the white of the potato. Some plant a row of whole potatoes.

Someone discovered back in 1859 that only the eyes were needed to begin a plant. The remainder of the potato could be consumed. In 1789 Paris street vendors already sold French fries on the Pont Neuf bridge.

Use the point of a narrow knife and rim out the eyes on sprouting spuds. Plant the small eyes three to a hill. Separate hills by one foot. Cultivate to keep weeds down and the ground stirred and mellow, the news writer added. Potatoes grown in that way one and a half centuries ago ended up with a fine yield of large potatoes in every hill. No small, an important consideration at harvest. Zero diseased or unsound spuds were found in that growing method.

## Angelkeep Journals

Angelkeep reverted back to the whole-potato-planting scheme last spring when a bag of finger potatoes were overlooked too long. Eyes turned to sprouts larger than the potatoes. Cutting off the eyes would have left little or nothing to eat, thus three whole potatoes begging to be planted received their dirt home in a damaged garbage pail filled with dirt used as a planter.

Last year that pot grew pole beans of Jolly Green Giant height. Green beans were picked off of a 12-foot step ladder. Angelkeep's potato crop, as yet unearthed, grew five-foot vines up, over the bin rim, and to the ground. Perhaps the potatoes should have been harvested and displayed during Street Fair in the Community Building, as done by so many in days long ago.

Reminder: Try those five-foot long curly fries, or corkscrew potato chip-fries, at Street Fair with plenty of sea salt and ketchup. This variety began in Bluffton years ago when cut by a drill blade held in a mounted Craftsman electric hand drill.

Bluffton Free Street Fair corkscrew fries heaped high and overflowing on a paper dinner plate are not like Arby's curly fries. That style can actually be traced back to an 1824 publication of “The Virginia Housewife.” Did that author steal a



Alan Daugherty

recipe from the Meuse Valle region of Namur, Spanish-Netherlands, when curly fries were popular in 1680?

Potatoes made the political stage in 1992 when Vice President Quayle became the lead news story by mistakenly correcting a sixth grade student's spelling. VPOTUS suggested “potato-with-an-e.” Quayle was never “e”-lected to any political office again.

Angelkeep once grew potatoes with only peelings tossed into a compost pile after the preparation of some good old mashed spuds.

One absolute post-walleye sandwich must come as this year's partaking of a Street Fair Nacho Potato sold on West Market. Order with plenty of jalapenos. This iconic local vendor offers a Taco Potato. Angelkeep never ate one. After a year's craving for a nacho variety, the possibility of trying a Taco Potato was simply unthinkable. However, nachos with meat are supreme.

Don't be fooled. Rice cauliflower never will substitute as spuds.

Brits and Aussies call French fries “chips,” as in fish and chips. Many Europeans call deep fried potatoes “pommes frites.” Some European vendors create them as deep fried, and then place them in a steamer to soften. It's a preferred consumption style of non-Americans.

When will Bluffton Free Street Fair find a vendor offering French fries served under a ladle of sausage-bacon gravy?

Angelkeep will see you at “The Fair.”

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

## The News-Banner

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**Sorority donates supplies to Grace & Mercy**

Pam Tuttle, second from right, dropped off household supplies to Grace & Mercy Transitional Housing that were donated by members of Sigma Phi Gamma Sorority, Epsilon Zeta Chapter. (Photo submitted)

**Swiss Stitchers to meet Sept. 23 at Berne Fire Station**

Swiss Stitchers will meet Monday, Sept. 23 in the Berne Fire Station at 7 p.m. There will be a short business meeting. Yvette will present the program, talking about "what our long-arm quilter wants us to know." Carol has also agreed to add her thoughts. As always we will end with show and tell. Guests are welcome. If you have questions please contact Vivian Lemmon (260) 692-6227.

**Rendezvous on the Reserve Sept. 20-22**

A Fur Trading Era Living History Camp will be presented on the weekend of Sept. 20-22 at the Blackford County Reservation of Myaamia Chief Francois Godfroy. The site is located at 4400 North 800 East, Montpelier. Admission is \$6 (cash only) for adults with those under 12 free. Hours will be from 9 to 5 on Friday, 9 to 6 on Saturday and 10 to 4 on Sunday. Golf cart tours will be offered on Saturday. The Mississinewa Confederation Native Village will be set up and visitors may visit with settlers, traders, trappers and Johnny Appleseed. Fiddlers will provide live music. Other activities will include Muzzleloading, archery, hawk and knife and women's and kid's games. Janel Franks will be on hand with linens and wool. Food (ham & beans and Prairie dogs & burgers) will be available. For more information check out [www.rendezvousreserve.weebly.com](http://www.rendezvousreserve.weebly.com)

**Wagon Wheel productions**

Current productions and the 2025 summer season for the Wagon Wheel Center for the Arts have been announced.

Current production is Neil Simon's **Rumors** on the weekend of Sept. 27-29 and tickets are \$20. (Note: This production contains gunshots, strong language and reference to suicide).

**Zombie Night** (the Musical) will be on stage the weekend of Oct. 25-27. A Not So-Haunted Open House begins one hour before curtain time. Admission is \$20.

**Miracle on 34th Street** (musical) will be presented the weekends of Dec. 6-8, 13-15, 20-22.

**2025 Summer Season**  
Joseph & the amazing technicolor dreamcoat: June 5-14; South Pacific: June 19-28; Sister Act: July 3-12; Steel Magnolias: July 17-26; Grease: July 31-Aug. 9

Ticket sales are offered through Sept. 30 with season tickets priced at \$195 (after Oct. 1 the price increases to \$225). Information at [wagonwheel.org](http://wagonwheel.org) or at 866-823-2618.

**Harvest Festival at Salomon Farm Park**

Harvest Festival, a two day celebration of the American farm, will be held at Fort Wayne's Salomon Farm Park on Sept. 27 & 28. Admission is free with parking being \$5.

Food, flowers, pumpkins, pony rides and face painting available for purchase.

There will be wagon rides, a children's maze and Barrel Train rides.

Demonstrations will include wheat threshing, saw mill, corn shredding and rock crushing.

Hours on Saturday are from 10 to 3 and Sunday 10 to 5.

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**A Talk with Tego**

Cupid is a Spayed Female Gray Tabby 4mo.  
Sassy is a 2mo Female tiger.  
Tego

**Tego's Tips:** Use social media or post fliers if a pet is missing.

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

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**Interpretive programs**

**Ouabache State Park**  
4830 E SR 201, Bluffton, IN 46714, 260-724-0926

Interpretive Naturalist: Lydia Ade

**Friday, Sept. 27**  
4:30 p.m.: Phenology Friday: meeting at the Park Office to study the seasons and how things change while looking for birds, mammals, plants and more. Bring binoculars and hiking boots if desired.

**Saturday, Sept. 28**  
FREE fishing day (bag and size limits still apply)  
10 a.m.: Bison Feeding, meeting at the Bison Enclosure to learn about our national mammal and watch them being fed.  
12:30 p.m.: Fishing 101, meeting at the steps leading up to the lake to learn basic fishing techniques. Poles and bait will be provided while materials last.

2:30 p.m.: Fish Printing, meeting at the Lakeside Shelter to make some Gyo-taku-style fish prints and learn about the kinds of fish in Kunkel Lake.  
**Sunday, Sept. 29**  
FREE admission day!  
10 a.m.: Breakfast with the Birds, meeting at the Lakeside Shelter to enjoy some donuts and coffee, while supplies last, then go on a casual walk around the lake to look for birds.

12 p.m.: Spotted Lantern Fly Detection Dogs. Meet at the Lakeside Shelter to see a special demonstration by Kallie Bontrager and learn about techniques used to detect invasive insects.

**LSM Fall Golf Tourney October 5**  
Loving Shepherd Ministries will be hosting a Fall Golf Tournament on Saturday, Oct. 5, at the Timber Ridge Golf Course. Registration begins at 8 a.m. with tee off time at 9 a.m. Cost is \$400 for a 4-player team. More information from Rick Schwartz, Golf Event Coordinator at [rick@loving-shepherd.org](mailto:rick@loving-shepherd.org).

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# When cutting ties with a parent is the only way to heal

Dear Annie: This is not a letter to play the victim, so please hear me out. My mother has caused me so much hurt for as far back as I can remember. When I was a kid, I was sexually abused by my brother. I told her, and she said I was lying. I used to think I was adopted because there was no way a parent could be so mean to a biological child.

When I became pregnant at age 17, she gave me three days to get out of the house.

Fast-forward to adulthood: When my son got killed in a car accident 13 years ago, she posted on Facebook that I got what I deserved. When I finally got up the nerve to divorce the man my parents forced me to marry at age 17, she posted on his Facebook how she would always love him. She taught me that you stay, no matter what. My dad and her have been married for 50 years, even though she says when she hears my dad pull up to the house, she gets sick to her stomach.

My 9-year-old daughter was sexually abused by her father and I reported it immediately. He signed over his rights, and my new husband (her stepdad) adopted her. My mom defended the ex, saying, "That is still her dad."

At one point I told her I was sorry I had not been to see her in a while. Her response was, "You are just like your dad. It's always something."

The last straw was I enrolled in college to get my degree, and when I was about to graduate, I asked her if she would attend. She said hatefully, "Where's it even at?"

Being in the same room as her makes me physically ill, and it really triggers my emotions. Everywhere you read or turn, people will say, "That's your mom, you better love her while

you can, because one day she will be gone." I need some sort of validation to protect my mental health, to go no-contact with her, because I am almost to that point. Forty-eight years is enough.

— Help  
*Dear Help:*  
Normally, I try to advocate for making amends. After all, you only get one mother, and beneath all the hurt and pain, there is usually a trace of love.

But your situation is different. Your mother's behavior has been repeatedly abusive, malicious and narcissistic. You need to focus on your own survival, as well as the well-being of your children. That will require reframing your expectations for your mother, as well as limiting — if not completely eliminating — contact with her. Communicate your feelings with her before you take such a measure, whether it be in a letter or in a conversation. That way, if she decides she does want to be a part of your life, she will know what she needs to do.

"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to [dearannie@creators.com](mailto:dearannie@creators.com).

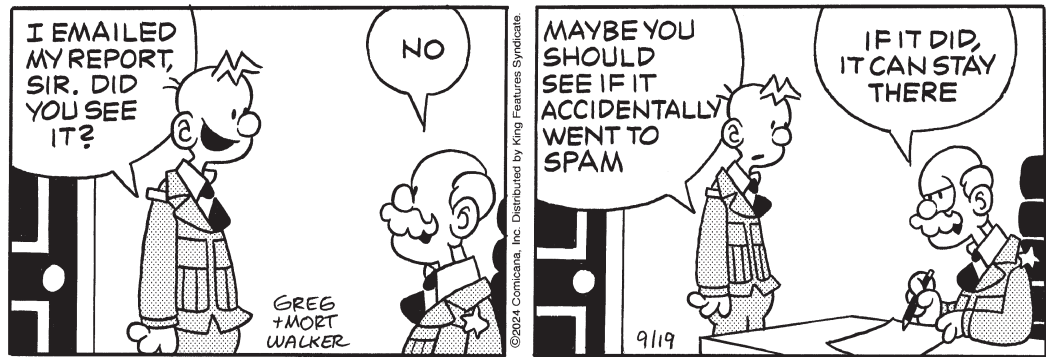
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## Dear Annie

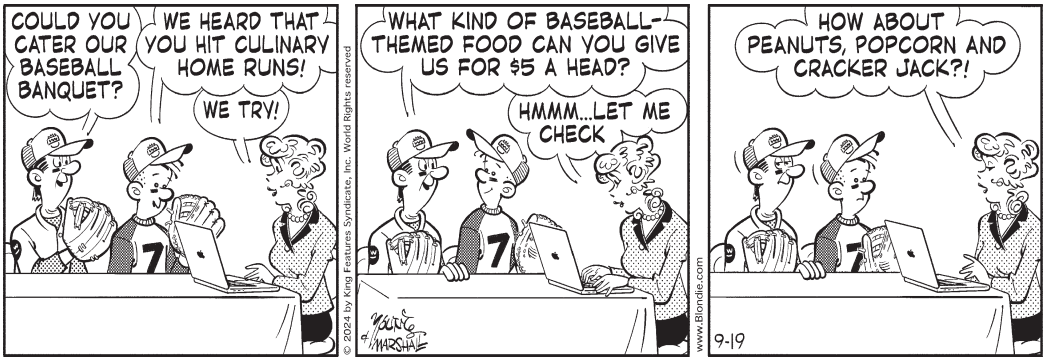
by Annie Lane



## BEETLE BAILEY



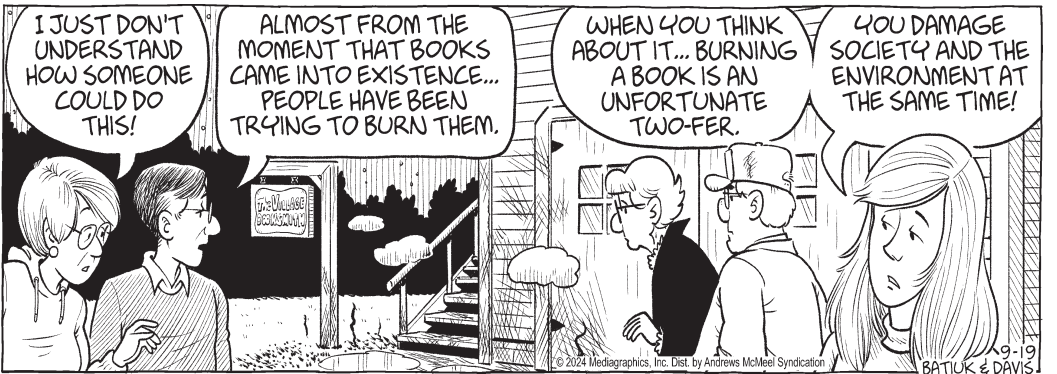
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## THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



## The LOCKHORNS



## My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



## Look to God for peace

we will only look to God who will heal our trespasses, and bring peace to the human heart.

Years after the Civil War, two Americans were crossing the Atlantic and began to sing, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul." Another man with a rich voice joined in. One of the men asked if he had been in the war. The singer said, "Yes, I was on sentry duty at the edge of the woods. I was frightened because the enemy was near. I felt homesick and so weary. To comfort myself I began singing, 'All my trust on Thee is stayed / All my help from Thee I bring / Cover my defenseless head / with the shadow of Thy wing.' After I sung those words, peace came to me."

The other man responded that he had been fighting on the other side, and when he and his men heard the soldier singing this great hymn, he said to the man with the mighty voice, "We were ready to fire at you, but when we heard you sing that song, we lowered our rifles and departed with those words in our minds."

For those who are weary, for those who want joy to replace their sorrow, look to God for peace. He will meet you in your need.

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

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Question: A well-known preacher made the comment recently that there is no such thing as PTSD, but rather the human mind is tormented by the disease of sin. Can't miracles cause these diseases to vanish? — M.A.

Answer: Suppose by some miracle all the past could be straightened out and all of life's tangles could be unraveled? Such a cure would cause worldwide joy!

There is such a joy. There is such a cure. People can be forgiven of all sin by humbling ourselves.

The sin and disillusionments of life can be replaced by righteousness and contentment, if

Table with columns for date, time, and channel listing TV programs. Includes channels like WINM, CBS, Antenna, ABC, NBC, etc.

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes a solution time of 24 mins and a grid with letters.

Table with columns 1-11 and rows 1-11 for crossword puzzle grid.





**A VISIT FROM 'DRAG-U-LA'**



Butch Patrick (pictured), an actor known for playing Eddie Munster, posed with Reinig's replica. (Photo submitted)



Bill Huguenard (left) helped Steve Reinig (right) place the hood back onto the car. (Photo by Sydney Kent)



Bill Huguenard (left) and Steve Reinig (right) stand with the 'Drag-U-La' at the fair on Wednesday. (Photo by Jonathan Snyder)



Butch Patrick's signature. (Photo by Sydney Kent)

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**FRIDAY**

7-9 pm - FNX Wrestling - Stage

**SATURDAY**

11 am - Diaper Derby- Baby crawl Race - Stage  
 11:15 pm - OPTIMIST Tractor Pull - 3-7 Year old - W Washington  
 11:30 pm - Kids Big Wheel Race- 6-8 Year old - W Washington  
 6-8 pm - Street Fair Idol - Main Event - Stage  
 9 pm - CONCERT: The Ultimate Garth Brooks Tribute - Stage

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**Blinken: Surprise escalations threaten to derail talks for a cease-fire in Gaza**

By ELLEN KNICKMEYER  
 Associated Press

CAIRO (AP) — U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken expressed frustration Wednesday at surprise escalations that threaten to derail efforts to broker a cease-fire deal in Gaza, noting that the United States is assessing a deadly attack that caused paggers used by Hezbollah to explode in Lebanon.

Blinken spoke to reporters in Cairo, where he traveled for talks on the cease-fire negotiations and U.S.-Egyptian relations. While Israel has not publicly spoken on responsibility in the pager attack, a U.S. official has said Israel briefed the United States after the explosions.

The United States, Egypt and other international partners are working for an agreement between Israel and Hamas to halt nearly a year of war in Gaza and release hostages held by the militant group. The U.S. says such a deal is the best chance at tamping down wider regional tensions, with Israeli leaders threatening to step up military action against Iranian-backed Hezbollah militants in Lebanon and the pager attack risking further escalation.

"Time and again" when the U.S. and other mediators believe they are making progress on a cease-fire deal in Gaza, "we've seen an event that ... threatens to slow it, stop it, derail it," Blinken said in response to a question about the previous day's explosions in Lebanon.

Personal paggers used by Hezbollah in Lebanon exploded nearly simultaneously Tuesday, killing at least 12 people, including two children.

Blinken reiterated that the U.S. was still gathering information on the circumstances of the pager attack and declined to make more specific comments.

In other unexpected events that have put a cease-fire deal at risk, Blinken spoke of the discovery this month of the bodies of six hostages who Israel said had been recently killed by Hamas. They were among those still held in Gaza following Hamas' Oct. 7 attacks in Israel that launched the war.

When news came of their deaths, negotiators had been making progress on the timing and other details of a swap that would have freed hostages in exchange for the release of Palestinian prisoners in Israeli detention, America's top diplomat said.

Blinken, who had meetings with Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi and Egyptian Foreign Minister Badr Abdelaty, said the most dire need in the troubled cease-fire negotiations was for both sides to show they actually wanted a deal.

He headed to his 10th trip to the Middle East since the war in Gaza began without the optimistic projections that the Biden administration has previously conveyed of a breakthrough in the negotiations. The U.S., Egypt and other allies say a deal is essential to quelling escalated attacks by Iranian-backed groups in Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq and Syria.

Israeli leaders warned this week of a possible military offensive in Lebanon to stop what have become daily exchanges of rockets and missiles between Hezbollah and Israel across the southern Lebanese border.

Abdelaty, the Egyptian foreign minister, said Wednesday the region was on the brink of wider war and spoke critically of Tuesday's targeted explosions in Lebanon.

"Any escalation, including what happened yesterday, certainly hinders reaching a cease-fire deal and the release of hostages and detainees," he said.

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