

The News - Banner

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2024 BLUFFTON, INDIANA • Wells County's Hometown Connection \$1.00



Marching bands on the banks

Marching bands throughout the region participated in the On The Banks of the Wabash marching band competition Saturday. Above, the Norwell Marching Band's percussion section, from left to right, Bodie Sutliff, Abby Schlemmer, Jack Pedroza, Drew Miller and Bri Schlemmer play "Nocturnalia," with Lucy Thompson in the background. At right, Norwell's Brock Martin plays his horn. Norwell's performance earned them first place in the Scholastic B division and Best Music, Best General Effect and Best Visual awards for said division. Below, Anakin Egula and Sierra Baughman stand beside Dakotah Jennings as she plays a trumpet solo in Bluffton High Schools' exhibition performance. At bottom, Elijah Bendes and Elijah McCollum play their saxophones as part of the band's performance, called Voyage to Valhalla. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)



Ossian Days looks at the past, present, and future of transportation

By SYDNEY KENT

The quiet streets of Ossian will soon be interrupted by Ossian Days, the town's long-loved festival.

The event will return to downtown this week from Thursday, Sept. 12 through Saturday, Sept. 14. The theme for this year's festival is "Transportation: The Past, Present, and Future" in honor of this year's grand marshal, Dave Furey. The theme is a nod to Furey's career, who has roots with the Ossian Fire Department, the Norwell Community Schools transportation department, and Ossian Emergency Medical Services. Furey was also one of the first volunteer medics in the county in 1975.

The Northern Wells Food Pantry will trade two tickets for every non-perishable item starting at 5 p.m. on Thursday at the Food Pantry booth. Ride tickets are limited and on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Jefferson Street on S.R. 1 will be closed to through traffic at 9 a.m. Thursday, with vendors setting up until 3 p.m. when the festival officially opens.

The annual Ossian Revitalization pork chop dinner will take place between 4-7 p.m. on Thursday at the event tent on West Craig Street, just off the midway. Carryout is available with pickup on the west side of the Ossian Days event tent on Craig Street. Tickets are \$15 per person and are available from any member of the Ossian Revitalization Committee.

Helen Witte's coveted pie auction will occur at 6 p.m. Thursday in the event tent. This year's ceramic pie plates are made by John and Angie Platt of Platt Pottery in Auburn. The Lance Hunter Humanitarian Award will then be announced in the event tent at 6:30 p.m.

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At left, Christian Bohata returns a ball, while Jason Schindler readies himself for the return. (Photos by Jonathan Snyder)

New indoor pickleball building opens in Ossian

By JONATHAN SNYDER

Local pickleball is available in Ossian, with MyPickleFix having its grand opening Friday and Saturday.

MyPickleFix owner Bob Meyer opened the facility, located at 1645 Hillcrest Dr. in Ossian, because of his desire for a flexible and affordable alternative to other facilities. Meyer wants to foster a community of local players through pickleball, a sport that is growing nationally.

"I was trying to figure out, 'What is the best way to be able to afford pickleball indoors?'" Meyer said. "Right now, the only indoor facilities are churches and the YMCA, and they tell you when to play. And it's open court, so it's whoever shows up at that time. I wanted to develop a venue that would be affordable and that would allow people to play on their schedule and play with the people they want to play with and in their small town."

Through pickleball, Meyer has found a group of close friends who now pray and support each other through hard times. Meyer wants others to find that same community within the groups they play with. During opening weekend, Meyer had extra paddles and balls available for people who wanted to try the game out.

"This is a community," Meyer said. "It's more than just a sport. It is a community of people who care about each other."

Players can download the MyPickleFix



Above, is a view of the courts and curtain that separates them.

app on their phone and reserve court times on the app. Courts can be reserved from 5 a.m. until midnight Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, the courts will open at 1 p.m. until midnight. Open court times are Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 10 a.m., with that hour on Tuesdays being reserved for male players and Thursdays reserved for female players.

Players will need a membership to use the courts. Membership options are available at \$50 per year or \$5 per month. Members can invite other players directly from the app and cover the fee for friends if they choose. After the membership fee, the starting rates for reserving the courts are about \$3 per person for every one hour session. A one-hour session for eight players, the maximum amount, would cost \$24. The rates rise to \$36 for an eight player session on

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Kentucky interstate shootings wound 5, suspect still missing

By BRUCE SCHREINER and LEAH WILLINGHAM Associated Press

LONDON, Ky. (AP) — Authorities searched a rugged, hilly area of southeastern Kentucky on Sunday for a man suspected in the weekend shooting of nine vehicles and wounding of five people on a busy interstate.

Joseph A. Couch, 32, was named a suspect in Saturday's shootings on Interstate 75 after authorities said they recovered his SUV on a service road near the crime scene. They later found a semi-automatic weapon nearby that they believe was used in the shooting, said Deputy Gilbert Acciaro, a spokesperson for the Laurel County Sheriff's Office.

The search was focused on a remote area north of London, a community of about 8,000 people some 75 miles south of Lexington.

"Where is he? that's the big question right now," Acciaro told reporters as law enforcement searched a heavily wooded area before sunset. "We're still in there. We still feel like that he's in there or we obviously wouldn't be searching wholeheartedly like we are."

During an early evening media briefing,

Acciaro said that if the searchers failed to find Couch before nightfall, the search would resume early Monday morning.

"We've not had any luck so far, no trace so far, no information or evidence that's at the scene to indicate that he's there. But we believe that he's there," Acciaro said.

Couch — who earlier this year faced a later-dropped misdemeanor charge for "terroristic threatening," according to court records — most recently lived in Woodbine, a small community about 20 miles south of the shooting scene. Acciaro said authorities found his abandoned vehicle Saturday and then an AR-15 rifle on Sunday in a wooded area near a highway where "he could have shot down upon the interstate from." A phone believed to be Couch's was also found by law enforcement, but the battery had been taken out.

Couch was initially considered a person of interest in the case until he was upgraded to a suspect on Sunday, Acciaro said.

Authorities believe there was only one shooter. Acciaro said the shooting appeared to involve some planning but seemed to be a "random act" of violence in which no particular person was targeted. He wouldn't speculate as to a possible motive.

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Outside

Sunny and warm today, cool and breezy tonight

Today	Tuesday	Wed.
High 77	High 84	High 88
Low 51	Low 54	Low 56

More Weather on Page 2

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September 9, 2024

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Ossian Days

(Continued from Page 1)

On Friday, Norwell High School's show choir will be hosting a fundraising whole hog sausage dinner from 5-8 p.m. in the event tent. The dinner will include a quarter-pound sausage patty sandwich, green beans, a dinner roll, pretzels, a cookie and bottled water for \$12.

The annual prince and princess contest is slated for the event tent at 6 p.m., with voting already underway at various locations in town. Face painting will be available from 5:30-7:30 p.m. on Friday beside the Ossian

Days booth.

The Applejack Cloggers will perform in front of the event tent at 7 p.m. Friday and will finish with Nathan's Karaoke and D.J. Service in front of the event tent from 8:30-10 p.m. when the night officially closes for the day.

Festivities begin bright and early at 7 a.m. with the youth fishing tournament at the Archbold-Wilson Park pond. A sausage and pancake breakfast from the St. Aloysius Yoder Knights of Columbus will be available in the event tent between 7

and 10:30 a.m.

The beloved Big Wheel race starts at 10 a.m. in the parking lot of the Farmers and Merchants State Bank. Signup is at 9:30 a.m. There are two age groups: 3-4 and 5-6. Big wheels and helmets are supplied by the event organizers.

The annual donut hole eating contest will take place at noon in front of the event tent, with Bessie's Movement Cow Patty Bingo following right after. Tickets are \$5 per square.

The Saturday parade begins at 5 p.m. with partici-

pants lining up at the Ossian Town Hall at 4 p.m. and judging taking place at 4:30 p.m. Those who wish to enter a float, or vehicle, or to march in the parade must fill out the parade registration form on the Ossian Days website no later than Sept. 13.

Free face painting will be available from 6-9 p.m. on Saturday beside the Ossian Days booth. The festival will close with live music provided by the Austin City Band at the event tent.

The full schedule can be viewed at ossiandays.com.
sydney@news-banner.com

Pickleball courts

(Continued from Page 1)

the weekends. Players must also bring their own paddles and balls.

Meyer's facility will not be staffed, instead using technology to automatically turn the lights on the court on and off. Security cameras and an entry code system to enter the building will allow Meyer to keep the building secure. No food, non-water drinks, chairs, wheels or tables will be allowed in the facility.

The strict rules are set to keep the court in as pristine a condition as pos-

sible. The court surface is made out of five layers of rubber laid down and covered with paint. The surface has more cushioning than wood, carpet or concrete floors, leaving a lower chance of injury. While susceptible to stains, regular scrubbing to clean spills could lead to the court losing its traction, making for a slippery surface.

The indoor courts make for a year-round accessible facility away from the elements. A curtain separates the two courts in the facility, which

should minimize the amount of time spent chasing mis-hit balls. Pickleball instructional classes will also be available for all ages, and tournaments will be held periodically.

Meyer stated that if the Ossian location succeeds, another facility could be opening in Bluffton. A promotion allows new members that sign up before Sep. 15 to have \$25 added to their account to cover any future court reservations.
jonathan@news-banner.com

Kentucky interstate shootings

(Continued from Page 1)

Authorities were notified at about 5:30 p.m. Saturday about gunshots near the interstate's exit 49. An individual who was "off that exit" fired multiple rounds into the northbound and southbound lanes, striking nine vehicles and wounding five people, Acciaro said. The shooter was not in a vehicle at the time.

"When our first two units got to the scene there, they said it was a madhouse: people on the sides of the road, emergency flashers going, bullet holes, windows shot out, nine vehicles shot," Acciaro said.

The wounded — one person from Kentucky and others from out of state — were hospitalized in stable

condition early Sunday. Some had "very serious" injuries, including one person shot in the face, Acciaro said.

Residents of Laurel County were on edge as authorities searched with a drone, helicopter and on foot in a remote and sparsely populated wooded area near the highway.

Cody Shepherd, sipping a bloody mary outdoors while waiting to watch a football game at the Pour Boyz Sports Lounge in London on Sunday, said locals were abuzz with speculation. A resident of London, he was at a party Saturday at a friend's house about 10 miles south of where the shooting occurred.

"We were listening to the police scanners all night,"

he said, adding they heard sirens and saw a helicopter overhead.

On Sunday, several local churches canceled services. But Rodney Goodlett, pastor of Faith Assembly of God in London, was helping direct traffic as parishioners gathered for a morning service. He expected the search would hold down attendance.

"This is tragic, obviously, that somebody would randomly do violent acts," he said. "You hear media things taking place all around our country, but then when it hits home, it's a little bit of a wake-up call."

Authorities released a photo of Couch and warned residents he was believed to be armed and dangerous.

According to Kentucky state court records, Couch was charged in February with misdemeanor "terroristic threatening." However, the charge was dismissed when a victim failed to appear in court. In 2015, Couch was sentenced to six months in jail after being convicted of criminal mischief and unlawful transactions with a minor. Couch also has had a handful of traffic violations and a public intoxication conviction in 2020.

Acciaro said the search is dangerous for first responders and is painstaking because of thick foliage. There are "a lot of woods, a lot of cuts in the rock," he said. "He could be hiding behind a tree and us walk right up on him."

Shooting at the West Bank-Jordan border crossing kills 3 Israelis

ALLENBY CROSSING, West Bank (AP) — Three Israelis were shot and killed Sunday at the border crossing between the West Bank and Jordan, Israeli officials said, in what appeared to be an attack linked to the 11-month-old war in Gaza.

Israel's military said the gunman approached the Allenby Bridge Crossing from the Jordanian side in a truck and opened fire at Israeli security forces, who killed him in a shootout. Israel's Magen David Adom rescue service said the three Israelis were men in their 50s and the military said they were civilians.

Relatives identified the gunman as Maher al-Jazi, a retired Jordanian soldier from Athroh, a town in the impoverished Maan area. Jordan's state-run Petra News Agency said he was transporting goods to the West Bank. The interior ministry said that, based on initial investigation results, the incident was an individual act.

Jordan was investigating. The Western-allied Arab country made peace with Israel in 1994 but is deeply critical of its policies toward the Palestinians. Jordan has a large Palestinian population and has seen mass protests against Israel over the war in Gaza.

Hundreds of Jordanians marched in Amman to celebrate the attack, chanting slogans in support of al-Jazi and burning the

Israeli flag. "We bless this heroic operation carried out by this noble Jordanian hero," said Murad Adaileh, head of the local Muslim Brotherhood Party.

The Allenby crossing over the Jordan River, also known as the King Hussein Bridge, is mainly used by Palestinians and tourists. The crossing has seen few security incidents, but in 2014 Israeli security guards shot and killed a Jordanian judge who they said had attacked them.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu condemned the attack and linked it to Israel's larger conflict with Iran and allied militant groups, including Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon.

The Israeli-occupied West Bank has seen a surge of violence since the war. Israel has launched near-daily military arrest raids into dense Palestinian residential areas, and there has been a rise in Israeli settler violence and Palestinian attacks on Israelis.

In Gaza, an Israeli airstrike killed five people, including two women, two children and a senior official in the Civil Defense — first responders who operate under the Hamas-run government. The Civil Defense said the strike targeted the home of its deputy director for northern Gaza, Mohammed Morsi, in the urban Jabaliya refugee camp.

Weather

Monday, September 9, 2024

(24-hour observations at 11:51 p.m. Sunday at Fort Wayne International Airport)

High: 70; Low: 39; Precipitation: None
Wabash River Level (at the Main Street bridge): 1.13 feet at 8:45 p.m. Sunday

Wells County forecast

Today: Mostly sunny, with a high near 77. West wind 5 to 15 mph.

Tonight: Clear, with a low around 51. Southwest wind around 5 mph.

Tuesday: Sunny, with a high near 84. Calm wind becoming southwest around 5 mph.

Tuesday Night: Clear, with a low around 54. Calm wind.

Wednesday: Sunny, with a high near 88.

Wednesday Night: Clear, with a low around 56.

Thursday: Sunny, with a high near 89.

Thursday Night: Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Friday: Mostly sunny, with a high near 85.

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

Saturday: A 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 81.

Saturday Night: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Partly cloudy, with a low around 61.

Sunday: A slight chance of showers and thunderstorms. Mostly sunny, with a high near 83.

Two NATO members say Russian drones violated airspace

KYIV, Ukraine (AP) — Two NATO members said Sunday that Russian drones violated their airspace, as one reportedly flew into Romania during nighttime attacks on neighboring Ukraine while another crashed in eastern Latvia the previous day.

A drone entered Romanian territory early Sunday as Moscow struck "civilian targets and port infrastructure" across the Danube in Ukraine, Romania's Ministry of National Defense reported. It added that Bucharest had deployed F-16 warplanes to monitor its airspace and issued text alerts to residents of two eastern regions.

It also said investigations were underway of a potential "impact zone" in an uninhabited area along the Romanian-Ukrainian border. There were no immediate reports of casualties or damage.

Later on Sunday, Latvia's Defense Minister Andris Spruds said a Russian drone fell the day before near the town of Rezekne, and had likely strayed into Latvia from neighboring Belarus.

Rezekne, home to over 25,000 people, lies some 34 miles west of Russia and around 47 miles from Belarus, the Kremlin's close and dependent ally.

While the incursion into Latvian airspace appeared to be a rare incident, Romania has confirmed drone fragments on its territory on several occasions since Russia invaded Ukraine in February 2022, as recently as July this year.

OSSIAN DAYS

SEPTEMBER 12, 13, 14, 2024

TRANSPORTATION THE PAST PRESENT AND FUTURE

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Thursday, September 12th

9am-3pm **Booth Setup**

3pm **Booths Open**

3pm-5:30pm **Forrest Carvings** Chainsaw Carving Demonstration

4pm-7pm **Smoked Pork Chop Dinner** \$15 per Dinner

5pm **RIDES OPEN**

6pm **Helen Witte Pie Auction** Business of the Year Announcement

6:30pm **Lance Hunter Humanitarian Award Announcement**

9pm **Festival closes for the day**

Friday, September 13th

5pm **RIDES OPEN**

5pm-8pm **Norwell Show Choir:** Whole hog sausage dinner, \$12.00

5:30-7:30 **Free face painting** provided by Ossian Days Inc; beside the Ossian Days booth.

6pm **Ossian Days Prince & Princess Contest**

7pm **Applejack Cloggers** in front of the Event Tent

8:30-10pm **Nathan's Karaoke & D.J. Service** in front of event tent

Saturday, September 14th

7:00am-8:30am **Fishing Tournament** Archbold-Wilson Park pond. Ages 1-5, 6-10,

11-15. Gifts cards to top 3 in each group. All participants get a prize.

7am-10:30am **Pancake & Sausage Breakfast** St. Aloysius Knights of Columbus. Adults

\$8.00, Children \$3.00, Under 5 free

9:30am **Big Wheel Race sign-ups begin.** Ages 3-6

This year F. & M. Bank north employee parking lot. NEW LOCATION!

10am **Big Wheel Race** All participants get prizes; winners get trophies; awards following the final race.

12 noon **RIDES OPEN**

12 noon **Donut Hole Eating Contest;** in front of the event tent. Register at Ossian Days Booth.

Contestants under 18 must have parent/guardian signature to compete.

1pm **Bessie's Movement:** behind event tent on Craig Street. Bessie's Movement tickets are \$5 per

square. You can buy them at the Ossian Deli, Ossian Do-It Best Hardware, Farmer's and Merchants Bank and Ginger

Fresh Market. We only sell 240 tickets, so purchase yours soon! If her "movement" falls on your square, you win

\$500 prize.

4pm **Parade line up** Fill out form at www.ossiandays.com and submit on website by September 12.

Check-in at Town Hall.

4:30pm **Float Judging**

5pm **Parade Begins**

After parade **Platinum Sponsor Acknowledgments** (please have representative come

to the announcers table) **Presentations to float winners** (if your float is announced as a winner,

please have a representative come to the announcers table right after the parade)

6:00 -9:00pm **Free face painting and balloon animals** provided by Ossian Days Inc;

beside the Ossian Days booth.

7pm-9pm ***Free Live music in the event tent.** Austin City Band Austin City

plays country, rock & roll and oldies.

10pm **Festival Closes**

Visit our website for more details - www.ossiandays.com

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OBITUARIES

Robert Daniel Barton, 89

Robert Daniel Barton, 89, of Bluffton, passed away on Monday afternoon, Aug. 26, 2024, at his home, surrounded by his family.



He was born on Feb. 9, 1935, in Mc Dowell County, West Virginia to Robert and Bessie (Cook) Barton. After moving to Bluffton in 1955, Robert worked Sterling Casting for 16 years and as a Furnace Operator at Franklin Electric in Bluffton for 24 years, retiring in 1996. After retirement, Robert drove for Helena Chemical Company part time for 17 years.

Survivors include his children, Ann Whinery of Bluffton, Chris (Peter) Swanson of Anderson, South Carolina; along with five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren, Jamie (Gina) Barton and children, Julyan and Hayden Barton; Nathaniel (Rena) Whinery and daughter Frankie Whinery, Sarah (Billy) Swanson-Jackson, Jacob Swanson and daughter Arabella Swanson, and great-grandson, Allen Barton.

He is preceded in death by a son, Danny Ray Barton in 2009; and a grandson, Jason A. Barton in 2003; and siblings, Ellen Barton, Owens Grady Barton, Buzz Elden Barton, Arnold Jay Barton, Dusty Barton and Lillian Blocker.

Private family services have taken place with burial at Stahl Cemetery. Memorial may be made in Robert's memory to St. Jude Children's Hospital.

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

Kenneth W. Lackowsky, 63

Kenneth "Kenny" W. Lackowsky, 63, resident of Bluffton, passed away Sunday morning, Sept. 8, 2024, at Lutheran Hospital in Ft. Wayne.

Arrangements are pending with Goodwin - Cale & Harnish Memorial Chapel in Bluffton.

Jane Ann Searles, 72

Jane Ann Searles, 72, of Bluffton, passed away on Friday evening, Sept. 8, 2024, at Parkview Regional Medical Center.

Funeral arrangements are currently pending with the Lemler family of Thoma/Rich, Lemler Funeral Home in Bluffton.



Pictured are, from left, Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Erin Prible, Danielle Thompson, Bruce Stinson, Jessica Beste, Kate Stinson, Ben Renkenberger, Christi Wright, Casey Robbins, Jenna Wright, Birdie (The Wright Insurance Company Mascot), Brandon Wright, Mayor John Whicker, Kevin Sills, Alyssa Brown, Angie Topp, Hattie Wondercheck and Erica Lehman. (Photo submitted)

The Wright Insurance Company celebrates opening

The Wells County Chamber of Commerce is excited to welcome The Wright Insurance Company to the community. Located just outside of city limits at 430 N 450 E, Bluffton, The Wright Insurance Company is a local insurance brokerage founded in 2016 by Brandon Wright.

Brandon began his career with Farm Bureau Insurance, gaining valuable experience before deciding to venture out on his own. "We started this company from scratch," Wright shares. "We didn't buy a book of business. We built it from the ground up, beginning in Indianapolis, where we still have an office, and I travel back and forth every other week."

The Wright Insurance Company differentiates itself by functioning as a brokerage rather than representing a single carrier. "We have over 20 insurance carriers that we work with, which allows us to shop around for our clients and find the best coverage for their needs," explains Wright. "While many people turned to online options for insurance in the mid-2000s, we saw an opportunity to offer both choice and personalized advice. We provide a unique approach where we shop around for clients and then put an advisor in front of them to discuss the coverages that will fit their needs."

With a relaxed approach to business, The Wright Insur-

ance Company prides itself on building relationships rather than making cold calls. "We've never relied on cold calls or call lists," Wright states. "Our business is 100% referral-based, and we work with people who enjoy working with us. We're here to support the community."

As a "whole house brokerage," The Wright Insurance Company offers every line of insurance. Wright explains, "I'm good enough at everything but a master of none. For specialized needs, I have brokers who are experts in specific areas, whether it's a customized farming operation or a unique business need."

When asked about the company's future, Wright emphasizes the importance of community involvement. "We love being part of the Bluffton community and several local organizations. Our goal is to support our clients and the community. If we have a client who owns a business, we patronize that business. If they run a farm, we support them in whatever way we can."

Looking ahead, Wright hopes to continue growing the business sustainably. "Our five-year plan is to continue to grow sustainably, potentially adding another advisor as our number of clients increases. It's an exciting time to be part of this community."

Dale Huffman & Babcock Law Firm announces new partner Michael J. Huffman

Dale, Huffman & Babcock is pleased to announce that Michael J. Huffman has been promoted to partner in the firm. Born and raised in Bluffton, Indiana, and a proud member of the 2006 Norwell High School Class, Michael J. Huffman received his undergraduate degree from Indiana University, and his legal education from the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington. Michael was admitted to the Indiana Bar in October 2013 and has practiced in the areas of Elder Law and Medicaid Planning, Trust and Estate Planning, as well as Estate Administration. Michael has served numerous families in the area over his eleven years of experience, further strengthening

the firm's capabilities and commitment to providing the best legal services possible for Hoosier families.

"Watching him grow and serve the community has been such a gift," said Timothy K. Babcock, managing partner at Dale Huffman & Babcock. "We are excited to have Michael on board as a leader and are confident his talents and service to the community will greatly benefit our clients and the firm."

At Dale, Huffman & Babcock, our experienced attorneys provide counsel in a wide variety of practice areas and will continue to do so for years to come. Each member of our team has unique experience in a particular practice area. Our attorneys can help you with cases involving:



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Lilly Endowment awards \$50M grant for Indiana state parks

By NIKI KELLY, Indiana Capital Chronicle

The Lilly Endowment on Wednesday announced a \$50 million grant to the Indiana Department of Natural Resources for a variety of enhancements at Indiana State Parks.

The money will be used for several improvements at Prophetstown State Park, and for other upgrades across the state parks system, a state news release said. They're aimed at improving visitors' experiences.

"Today's incredible investment from Lilly Endowment marks a significant milestone in Indiana State Parks history," DNR Director Dan Bortner said. "Our parks are places where everyone can come together to enjoy the outdoors, and where together we strive to preserve Indiana's natural and cultural heritage for future generations. In a world of constant change, this investment helps us protect that cherished, shared heritage."

DNR is providing an additional \$10 million match to Lilly Endowment's \$50 million grant, which will be invested into deferred maintenance needs.

"Indiana's state parks are enjoyed by millions of people each year, and the parks offer affordable recreational and educational opportunities for Hoosiers as well as thousands of visitors who come to Indiana to experience an impressive array of state parks," said Ronni Klothe, Lilly Endowment's vice president for community development. "We at Lilly Endowment are pleased to provide this funding to the Department of Natural Resources to help further develop and better tell the history of Prophetstown and enhance parks throughout the state for the use and enjoyment of current and future generations."

Half of the grant will go to Prophetstown State Park, Indiana's newest state park, which last month celebrated its 20th anniversary. The park, which offers guests a unique prairie landscape at the confluence of the Wabash and Tippecanoe rivers near Battle Ground, is a part of the Myaamia (Miami) homelands and was also used by other Indigenous peoples. It is the site of Prophets Town, where individuals from multiple tribes gathered with Shawnee leaders Tenskwatawa and Tecumseh from 1808 to 1811.

The investment will double the number of campsites in the park and build facilities that will foster greater understanding of the landscape and its Native American heritage.

"We are happy to see this investment in Indiana's state parks," said Scott Brewer, Chair of the Native American Indian Affairs Commission and a member of the Pokagon Band of Potawatomi.

Small plane crashes in cornfield, killing all onboard

ANDERSON, Ind. (AP) — A single-engine plane traveling from Iowa to Indiana crashed in a central Indiana cornfield Friday, killing everyone on board, authorities said.

The plane left Fort Dodge, Iowa, just after 6:45 a.m. and was projected to land at Anderson Municipal Airport, about 9:55 a.m. but crashed into a nearby cornfield, said Capt. Darwin Dwiggin of the Madison County Sheriff's Department.

Dwiggin said the plane came in too high on its initial approach to the Anderson airport.

He said witnesses said it appeared the pilot may have been trying to turn back toward the airport shortly before the crash. Dwiggin said one witness "described it as flipping over and just nosediving into the cornfield and bursting into flames."

The Federal Aviation Administration said in a preliminary statement that "four people were on board" the Piper PA-46. Dwiggin said there were no survivors.

The National Transportation Safety Board, which is leading the crash investigation, said the plane crashed "under unknown circumstances." An NTSB investigator was expected to arrive Friday evening to begin documenting the scene and examining the aircraft.

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Cities are pitching their own tax reform agendas

The momentum is clear: property taxes are a top issue in this election cycle and will almost certainly be addressed in some way in the 2025 legislative session. That's why cities and towns are coming to the table now.

Accelerate Indiana Municipalities (AIM) is touting three areas in the discussion its members can find common ground on.

"I want to say that this is a free-market system that was developed by the legislature in 2009 and overwhelmingly put into the state's constitution. So, we don't believe, from a local perspective, this needs to be a massive overhaul," Noblesville Mayor Chris Jensen said. "This really should be a surgical examination of pain points for Hoosiers and addressing them accordingly."

He chairs the organizations' legislative committee and talked with the ICC about the coming session.

AIM says it doesn't want Hoosiers to lose their homes. But the group also notes that property tax revenue accounts for almost 60% of a municipal budget — and nearly half of those budgets are spent on public safety. The remaining funding comes from local income taxes, road dollars, food and beverage taxes and more.

Any significant revenue losses could mean cuts in services that mayors around the state want to avoid, especially with inflation remaining problematic.

But there are also numbers on the side of the homeowner. According to an analysis by the Association of Indiana Counties and Policy Analytics, the gross assessed value of homes jumped 16.5% on average between 2022 and 2023 and property tax bills increased by 18.2% on average.

The jumps are largely related to increased assessed value of property following the pandemic. The value is based on sales of similar properties.

But Jensen and others note this is cyclical and values are already starting to normalize. For instance, the certified net assessed value for all properties statewide grew 6% in 2024, a lower increase than 15% in 2023.

The Indiana Department of Local Government Finance has recent data for the property taxes being paid in 2024.

The median property tax bill for homesteads went up 5.63% in 2022 compared to 3% in 2018. But then in 2023 the median property tax bill for homesteads jumped almost 13%. For 2024, that increase is 4.73%.

All three candidates for governor have laid out plans that would have differing impacts on local government budgets.

The Libertarian proposal is most drastic but also has little to no chance of becoming law.

Republican Mike Braun, however, could gain traction with his plan should he win in November. The campaign didn't provide a fiscal analysis for his proposal but rough estimates are upwards of a \$1 billion loss for local government. Of course, that also means a savings for citizens.

Then there is Democrat Jennifer McCormick, who would focus on giving income tax relief to make up for increases in property taxes. Her plan would save taxpayers \$600 million but would put the brunt of the losses on state revenue instead of local units of government.

Municipalities push their own ideas

The three areas cities and towns want to focus on are:

- The maximum levy growth quotient currently limits how much local property tax levies can rise in a year based on a six-year rolling average of non-farm personal income growth. Because of inflation, it rose to 5% in 2023 compared to 3.4% in 2019. Lawmakers last year put in an artificial cap of 4% — when, without the cap, this year's maximum would've been 5.5%, according to the Indiana Office of Management and Budget. AIM says it supports regional averages to soften spikes but doesn't support hard statewide caps.

- Mayors would like additional local revenue streams. This could come by making it easier for cities to implement local income taxes without going through the county council, or through food and beverage taxes without having to seek permission from the Legislature each year. "I don't think any of us are big spending mayors," Jensen said. "At the same time we know our communities, and if we need to go to that for an alternative revenue stream for our community, we should be allowed to do that and face the consequences and be accountable to voters."

- The last area would be targeting relief for at-risk Hoosiers, such as low-income seniors. AIM thinks the relief should be means-tested instead for every Hoosier above 65 years of age. Jensen noted there are many seniors in the state that are well off and can afford the tax bill; and seniors are the highest users of funded services by property taxes, such as police and fire.

Jensen said he thinks lawmakers want to take a measured approach. "Our goal right now is to link up with the legislature, to come out and say, 'Hey, we hear you. We want to be a part of this solution,'" he said.

I hope legislators consider these options and find a balanced approach. The fact is the system is operating as designed. And because property taxes are paid in arrears, the worst of the spike is already in the past.

There is always room for tweaks and minor change but if lawmakers cut too deeply cities, towns and counties won't be able to provide the basic services their current residents expect, and that attract newcomers to stay. And that puts jobs and state progress at risk.

Niki Kelly is the editor of the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a non-profit newsroom. nkelly@indianacapitalchronicle.com



Niki Kelly

Hoosier Opinions



GARY WATKINS
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COUNTERPOINT

Trump can knock Harris out of the race in one debate. Here's how.

If we have learned anything in recent months, it is that a single bad debate can end a presidential campaign — which is why Vice President Kamala Harris is apparently afraid to do more than one 90-minute, teleprompter-free exchange with former president Donald Trump.

If Harris's only interview since becoming her party's nominee is anything to go on, Democrats have reason to be worried. Harris was not prepared to answer the most simple and obvious question: If you are elected, what would you do on Day 1? How can someone run for president of the United States and not have a ready answer to that question? She had nothing to offer but a cringe-inducing word salad. A moment like that on the debate stage, with tens of millions watching, could be fatal.

But the evening holds risks for Trump, too. If he comes in too hot, like he did in 2020's first debate with Joe Biden, he risks alienating the small number of undecided voters in a handful of swing states who will decide this election. Many of these voters don't like the direction of the country but are nonetheless reluctant to put Trump back in the Oval Office. On the debate stage Tuesday, Trump's every answer should be focused on winning these voters over. Here are four ways he can do that.

1. Remind swing voters of what they like about him: his policies. At a recent rally, Trump mocked advisers who tell him to focus on policy, not insults: "They always say, 'Sir, please stick to policy. Don't get personal.' And yet [Democrats are] getting personal all night long." The reason they do so is because it is their only path to victory. In a fight over policy, Democrats lose. A July Harvard CAPS-Harris poll found that a majority of voters support all the key elements of the GOP platform, and 54 percent approve of the job Trump did as president — including majorities of every age and a dozen demographic groups. When he focuses on policy and contrasts his record with that of the Biden-Harris administration, he reminds swing voters of what they liked about his presidency. Focus on policy.

2. Don't remind swing voters of what they don't like about him. A July New York Times-Siena College poll asked: Has Donald Trump ever said anything that you found offensive? Six in 10 Americans said either "no" or "yes, but not recently." Among younger voters ages 18 to 29, it was nearly 7 in 10. Over the past four years, many voters' memories of the reasons they disliked Trump have faded. So, Trump's first task is not to remind them.

Harris will try to goad Trump into leveling insults and personal attacks. And she will try to bait him into defending his actions on Jan. 6, 2021. He can't take the bait. Many swing voters are considering voting for him despite his conduct that day, because they believe Biden and Harris are a disaster and remember that their lives were better under Trump. For these voters,

hearing Trump defend Jan. 6 is like fingernails on a chalkboard. If he is talking about Jan. 6, he is losing. When Harris brings it up, he should pivot and remind voters that on Jan. 6, inflation was low, the border was secure, and the world was at peace. And he should point out that the real danger to our democracy is allowing Democrats to gain power, get rid of the filibuster, pack the Supreme Court, make D.C. a state and ram through their radical agenda with a simple majority.

3. Make Harris the incumbent and tie her to Biden. Harris has decided on an audacious election strategy: She is running as the insurgent while treating Trump as the incumbent. Even her campaign slogan is "a new way forward." A new way forward? She's the vice president! But that strategy is working: A new Post-ABC-Ipsos poll found that 6 in 10 voters say Harris had only some or very little influence on the administration's economic and border policies.

Trump needs to remind voters that she has been in office for the last four years. One way to do that: Don't call her "Comrade Kamala." Instead, use the nickname she is running away from: "Madam Vice President." Not only would this come across as respectful (which would appeal to reluctant swing voters), but it would also remind them that she is, in fact, the vice president who cast the deciding vote on a spending bill that gave us the worst inflation in four decades, and who helped unleash the worst border crisis in American history. And if she wants to chart a "new way forward," make her explain: What was wrong with the old way? Which Biden policies does she disagree with?

4. Make Harris own her record. Harris is not only running from Biden's record; she is also running from her own. The flip-flops are coming so fast and furious it's hard to keep up: She was for a federal ban on fracking, now she's against it. She was for Medicare-for-all, now she's not. She was for the Green New Deal, now she won't talk about it. She was for decriminalizing illegal border crossings, now she's against it. She was against a border wall, now she's for one. Yet she claims, "My values have not changed."

The way to call her out on these flip-flops is to force her to explain why she changed her positions. What is so great about a border wall? What is so bad about the Green New Deal? What do you now like about fracking? She can't answer those questions because she is abandoning her 2019 platform positions and Senate record out of political expediency, not conviction. Expose that fact.

With one disciplined debate performance, Trump helped knock Biden out of the race. On Tuesday night, he has a chance to do the same to Harris.

Follow Marc A. Thiessen @marcthiessen on X.



Marc Thiessen

It's not Netanyahu's fault

President Biden says Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is not doing enough to win the release of the remaining hostages held in Gaza by the terrorist group Hamas.

As the saying goes "with friends like these, who needs enemies?"

In his first statement since the recovery of six hostages murdered by Hamas, including American-Israeli Hersh Goldberg-Polin, Netanyahu refused all entreaties by the U.S. administration and other governments and protesters in Israel and the U.S. to agree to a ceasefire as a way to gain the release of the other hostages. What critics forget is that Hamas has refused all ceasefire offers, largely I suspect, because it knows the world will keep pressuring Israel to "do more" and not the terrorists to do less.

Too many seem to have forgotten, or ignored, the real culprits. It was Hamas that kidnapped and murdered innocent Israelis and took hostages last October. It is Hamas that has a covenant which calls for the creation of an Islamic state in all of Palestine and the obliteration of Israel. How do you negotiate with an enemy who believes their god has given direct orders to eliminate the Jewish state by any means necessary?

The answer should be obvious,



Cal Thomas

but it isn't to many who have the false view that what Israel does or does not do matters to her enemies. Pressuring Israel has also been the incorrect approach over several U.S. administrations and Labor governments in Israel. Hamas and other terror groups get land, ceasefires, prisoner exchanges and financial help, but give nothing in return.

A Wall Street Journal editorial puts the blame where it belongs: "(the hostages) were killed in Rafah, where Biden and Harris delayed Israel's entry with threats and by withholding weapons."

Before World War II, German Chancellor Adolf Hitler offered a phony peace deal that included his keeping most of Czechoslovakia. British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain returned to London from meeting Hitler in Munich and claimed to have made a "peace in our time" agreement with the German dictator. We know how that turned out.

There's a great line in the movie "Batman Begins" Liam Neeson as Henri Ducard says: "Crime cannot be tolerated. Criminals thrive on the indulgence of society's understanding." This could also apply to those who would use terror to achieve their ends and to American presidents and secretaries of state who have wrongly tried accommodation and negotiation, rather than pursu-

ing victory over evil.

This admonition to ancient Israel from the Old Testament should be applied to the current situation and to future ones: "You must purge the evil from among you." (Deuteronomy 17:7)

Not to do so allows evil to grow. If a ceasefire were to be agreed to before Hamas is destroyed, it would live to fight another day. The same applies to Hezbollah which now occupies Lebanon. Not pursuing victory would be like a surgeon only removing half of a malignant tumor. When it comes to the blame game, remember that Gazans elected Hamas.

Hamas and all other groups that seek Israel's destruction must themselves be destroyed. Misinformed U.S. college students who chant "from the river to the sea" without knowing which river and which sea and nothing about the history of the region, are enabling antisemites and others who seek the same goals as the terrorists. Only when the terrorists realize they have no hope and no help from America might they be persuaded that their goal is unachievable and then might possibly make a peace deal with Israel.

Until then, Netanyahu is right to fight on and President Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken are wrong to pressure him into making a deal that is not in the interest of Israel or America.

tcaeditors@tribpub.com

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

What's happening at the Wells County Public Library

The Wells County Public Library takes its mission to "provide the community with access, knowledge and growth" very seriously and offers a variety of events each week for kids, teens, and adults. Registration is preferred at most events. To sign up, go to www.wellscollibrary.org, click on the Library Event Calendar, navigate to the date of the event, and view more to get to the registration screen. Alternatively, call 260-824-1612 (Bluffton) or 260-622-4691 (Ossian) to register.

One Book One County

One Book One County is a community read program for Wells County held in September and October every year. The program is designed to create a countywide discussion by encouraging all residents to read the same book. This year's title is "Frog and Toad Together" by Arnold Lobel.

Brown Bag Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, September 9 at 1:30 p.m.

Adults. Pick up a copy of the book-of-the-month at the library before the discussion each month. The book for discussion is "The Bookshop of Yesterdays" by Amy Meyerson. Registration appreciated.

Bingo with Jason

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, September 9 from 3:00 to 4:30 p.m.

Adults. Enjoy a lively game of Bingo for a chance to win a candy bar with everyone's favorite librarian named Jason! Registration required.

Crafty Kids At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Monday, September 9: 3:30-5:30 p.m.

School-age kids. Drop-in for a different

craft each month. No registration needed.

Teen Gaming Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Monday, September 9 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Enjoy a variety of different games each month, including video games, trading card games, and board games. No registration needed.

Computer and iPad Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, September 10 from 1 to 3 p.m.

Adults. Start with Computer Club and then go or stay for iPad Club. Each month has a different tech focus and there is plenty of time for questions. All skill levels are welcome. Registration appreciated your first visit.

Friendship Bracelet Bar

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, September 10 from 2 to 7 p.m.

All ages. Celebrate the themes of friendship in our One Book One County Title, "Frog and Toad Together" by making a friendship bracelet. No registration needed.

Cook, Talk, Taste

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, September 10 from 6 to 7 p.m.

Adults. Join the tastiest club at the library. This month the group will enjoy delicious recipes from the featured hosts. Registration appreciated.

Teen Book Club

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, September 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Grades 6-12. Discuss the book "The False Prince" by Jennifer A. Nielsen and enjoy the game of "Deception" and a trivia quiz with prizes. Registration required.

Book Discussion: "My Life in France"

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, September 12 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Adults. Discuss the book "My Life in France" by Julia Child. Registration required.

Street Fair Hours

During Street Fair week the library will be operating under special hours so staff can work on inventory and due to an in-service. The Main Library (Bluffton) will close at 5 p.m. on Monday, September 16 and then be closed from September 17-21. The Ossian Branch will be closed on September 18 and 19.

Golden Gamers

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Tuesday, September 24 from 3 to 5 p.m.

Adults. Adults. Are you bored? Do you need some social interaction? Come and enjoy two hours of socializing, games, and snacks. Registration appreciated.

LEGO Drop-in At Ossian

At the Ossian Branch Library: Tuesday, September 24 from 4 to 7 p.m.

Grade K-6. Create LEGO masterpieces using the library's blocks during this drop-in event. No registration needed.

Theater Thursday

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Thursday, September 26 at 10 a.m.

Adults. Join us for a movie, popcorn, and snacks. This month's movie is "Ordinary Angels" (PG). Sponsored by the Bluffton Parks & Recreation and the Friends of the Library. No registration needed.

Teen Cookies & Tea

At the Main Library (Bluffton): Friday,



September 27: 3:30-4:30 p.m.

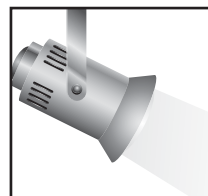
Grades 6-12. In the spirit of Frog & Toad, enjoy cookies and tea! Teens can decorate up to 6 cookies while sipping some tea and listening to chill, lo-fi music. Other crafts and activities will be available as well. This program is for those looking forward to the coziness of fall! Drop-in event, so stop in at any point during the hour. Registration is not required.

Library Hours

At the main library in Bluffton — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

At the Ossian branch library — Monday through Thursday, 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.; Friday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Saturday, 9 a.m. to noon.


Access the library online at www.wellscollibrary.org for digital books, magazines, online databases, event info, and more.



Norwell ICE Spotlight award Olivia Pula

Norwell High School senior Olivia Pula has been selected to receive the ICE Student Spotlight award. Olivia is employed by Norwell Community Schools as the front receptionist for the Central Office in Ossian. Her supervisors are Norwell Community Schools superintendents Anna Murphy and Mike Springer. She is the daughter of Shane and Valerie Harnish of Bluffton and Joe Pula of Milford, Indiana.

As the front receptionist, Olivia is the first person people see when they enter Central Office. She greets patrons and directs them to the person they wish to see. Olivia answers the phones with professionalism and maturity. She has also taken on projects ranging from making copies to excel spreadsheets. She has



Olivia Pula

been a wonderful addition to an outstanding staff at Central Office. Olivia's future career plans involve attending flight school to become a stewardess. She will start with a small airline when she turns 18 and then move on to larger companies when she is 21. Her ultimate goal is to climb to airlines at International levels.

Interpretive programs at Ouabache State Park

Interpretive Naturalist: Lydia Ade

Astronomy Weekend Events

Thursday, Sept. 12

Noon: Lunch & Learn, meet at the Lodge and learn all about "Pond Life" from Jeff Ormiston, retired naturalist from Fox Island. Bring own lunch with dessert provided by Corner Depot Catering.

Friday, Sept. 13: 4:30 p.m.: Phenology Friday, meeting at the Park Office to study the seasons and how things change as we look for birds, mammals, plants and more. Bring binoculars and hiking boots if desired.

Look for the evening roving interpreter in the campground and find out about weekend events.

9 p.m.: Lunar Observation Night meeting at the tennis court parking lot to celebrate International Observe the Moon Night. The Fort Wayne Astronomical Society will be joining with their telescopes.

Saturday, Sept. 14

4:30 p.m.: Bison Feeding at the bison enclosure

6:30 p.m.: Moon Phases Craft, meeting at the Campview Shelter to learn about the different phases of the moon and make a craft to take home.

9 p.m.: Full Moon Hike beginning from the Fire Tower for a 1-mile hike around Kunkel Lake under the light of the Full Moon. Bring flashlight, bug spray and good walking shoes.

Sunday, Sept. 15

1 p.m.: Fire Tower

Climb, meeting at the Fire Tower and learn about the history of one of two towers located north of Indianapolis.

The park is located at 4830 E SR 201, Bluffton, IN 46714, 260-724-0926

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.

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Fall events at Muncie's Emens Auditorium

Programs coming to Ball State University's Emens Auditorium this fall will be the following:

- The Princess Bride: An inconceivable evening with Cary Elwes: Sept. 14
- David Crowder: Sept. 20
- Malevo: Sept. 23
- Book of Morman: Sept. 24
- Hadestown: Oct. 22

Homecoming Air Jam: Oct. 24

Jazz Concert (Byron Stripling & Carmen Bradford): Oct. 26

CirqueMusicaHoliday Wonderland: Dec. 8

Dear Evan Hansen: Dec. 13

Oak Ridge Boys (Christmas Farewell Tour): Dec. 21

2025: Warabe: Feb. 19

Minozil Brass: Feb. 27

Dance: March 21-23

Come From Away: March 24

University Singers 61st Spectacular: April 4-5

R.E.S.P.E.C.T.: April 9

Emens Box Office 765-285-1539 open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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Tego

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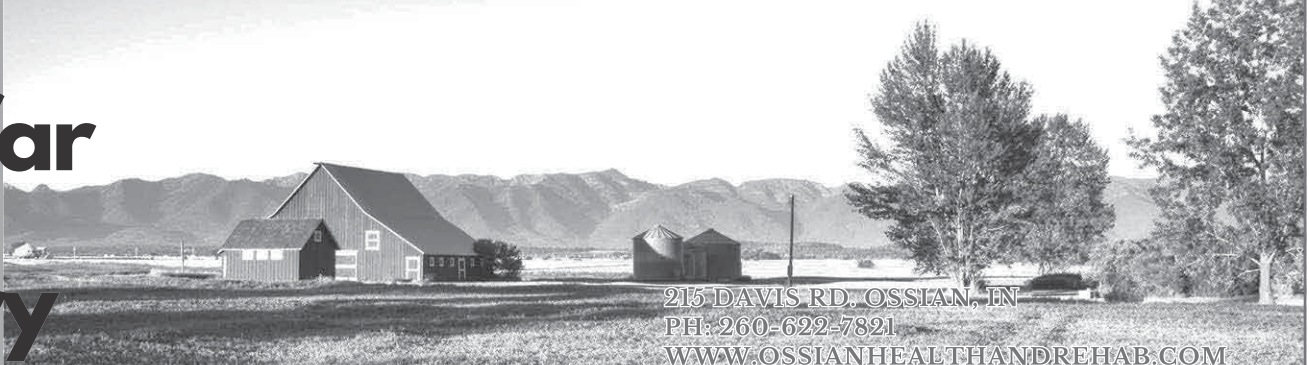
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Georgia school shooting highlights fears on classroom cellphone bans

By ANDREW DeMILLO
Associated Press

Huddling for safety in classrooms as gunfire rang out, students at Apalachee High School texted or called their parents to let them know what was happening and send what they thought could be their final messages.

The Georgia school shooting that left four dead and nine injured last week was every parent's worst nightmare, and one that highlights potential downsides to efforts among states, school districts and federal lawmakers to ban or restrict access to cellphones in classrooms.

The moves to restrict phone use in schools have been driven by concerns about the impact screentime has on children's mental health and complaints from teachers that cellphones have become a constant distraction in the classroom. But those opposed to the bans say they cut off a lifeline parents have to make sure their children are safe during school shootings or other emergencies.

"The fact of the matter is parents and families cannot rely on schools to effectively communicate with us in times of emergency, and this has happened time and again," said Keri Rodrigues, president of the National Parents Union, an education advocacy group. "There's a whole host of reasons why parents are deeply concerned about whether or not they're going to get timely information about whether or not their kids are safe."

Nationally, 77% of U.S. schools say they prohibit cellphones at school for non-academic use, according to the National Center for Education Statistics. But that number is misleading. It does not mean students are following those bans or all those schools are enforcing them.

The restrictions have been trumpeted by both Republican and Democratic governors who rarely agree on other issues.

In Arkansas, GOP Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders launched a program for school districts to apply for grants to purchase pouches for students to keep their phones in during the school day. In California, Democratic Gov. Gavin Newsom has urged school districts to restrict cellphone use and is weighing whether to sign legislation that would require schools to enact restrictions.

"I'd hate to see another school shooting be the reason that we bring TVs into the classroom and then disrupt our children's education," Newsom said Friday. "Because, in essence, that's what a cellphone is equivalent to — bringing a TV into the classroom and disrupting the ability to get quality academic time."

But for many students caught in the Apalachee shooting, having access to their phones was the only way they could communicate with loved ones during moments they feared could be their last.

"I love you. I love you so much. Ma I love you," Junior Julie Sandoval texted her

mother. "I'm sorry I'm not the best daughter. I love you."

But advocates of school phone restrictions warn that allowing access to phones during shootings or other emergencies could put students in even more danger.

"What's even more important to me is their safety," said Kim Whitman, co-founder of the Phone-Free Schools Movement, a group that advocates for schools to adopt policies keeping cellphones off and away from students. "If my child was on the phone with me and they missed guidance from the teacher because they were distracted by their phone and they weren't safe, that's a worse scenario in my mind."

Whitman said she understands the concerns about keeping parents informed and that's why a key part for any phone-free school is being proactive in communicating about emergencies.

Balancing safety and parents' concerns guided a cellphone ban at Grand Island Senior High, the largest high school in Nebraska, which rolled out a new policy in January that requires students to keep phones out of sight and in their bags or pockets, silenced or off during school hours.

"One of the essential questions that parents asked us was, 'What if Sally or Johnny doesn't have their phone if, God forbid, an active shooting happens or there is some sort of crisis in the building?'" said Jeff Gilbertson, the school's then-principal who now runs leadership training at the state Board of Education.

But the school does lockdown training to remind students of the dangers that phones can cause during emergencies.

"We coach our kids to keep phones silenced. You don't want to be talking on the phone when we're in lockdown, because that would reveal your location to an active shooter," he said.

Students in other school shootings have used cellphones to alert authorities or their parents. During the 2022 school shooting in Uvalde, Texas, that killed 21 people, a fourth-grader begged for help in a series of 911 calls. Students at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, sent parents and posted chilling videos during the 2018 shooting that killed 17 people.

The Apalachee school shooting was a painful reminder for Brandi Scire of why she got a cellphone for her daughter, now a high school sophomore in Broward County, Florida. Both her children went to schools nearby Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School during that mass shooting.

Broward County schools now require students to keep their phones stored away and in airplane mode, but Scire has told her daughter to keep her phone on and with her.

"It's not about me texting my daughter during regular school or anything like that," Scire said. "It's a safety measure and I'm sorry, I cannot let that go."

Mother's warning to Georgia school about suspect raises questions about moments before shooting

ATLANTA (AP) — The mother of a student in class with the boy accused of killing four people in a Georgia high school shooting says information that school officials were warned that the boy was having a crisis shows the shooting could have been prevented.

"The school failed them, that they could have prevented these deaths and they didn't," Rebecca Sayarath said Sunday in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. "I truly, truly feel that way."

Sayarath's daughter, Lyela, told reporters on Wednesday, the day of the shooting at Apalachee High School in Winder, Georgia, that administrators appeared to be looking for Colt Gray, the 14-year-old who has been charged with four counts of murder, before the gunfire began.

Others, though, are declining to blame school or law enforcement officials.

"I'm not going to referee or second-guess what happened with the authorities the other night," U.S. Sen. Raphael Warnock, a Georgia Democrat, said on CNN's "State of the Union" on Sunday.

Officials say Gray shot and killed students Christian Angulo and Mason Schermerhorn, both 14, and teachers Richard Aspinwall, 39, and Cristina Irimie, 53. Eight other students and a teacher were injured — seven of them shot — and are expected to recover.

Annie Brown told The Washington Post that her sister, Colt Gray's mother, texted her saying she spoke with a school counselor and warned staff of an

"extreme emergency" before the killings. Brown said Marcee Gray urged them to "immediately" find her son to check on him.

Brown provided screen shots of the text exchange to the newspaper, which also reported that a call log from the family's shared phone plan showed a call was made to the school at 9:50 a.m. Warrants for Gray's arrest say the shooting started at 10:20 a.m.

Brown confirmed the reporting to The Associated Press on Saturday in text messages but declined to provide further comment.

Marcee Gray expressed remorse for the shootings Saturday to The Washington Post and The New York Post.

"I am so, so sorry and can not fathom the pain and suffering they are going through right now," Gray told The Washington Post in a text.

Charles Polhamus, the boy's grandfather, has told multiple news outlets that Marcee Gray got a text from her son on Wednesday saying he was sorry. Polhamus told CNN that Marcee Gray drove to Winder, more than 200 miles from Fitzgerald, immediately after the shooting.

The Washington Post also reported that texts show relatives contacted the school about the boy's mental health a week before the shooting, and that Brown told a relative he having "homicidal and suicidal thoughts." The newspaper reported that the teen's grandmother, Deborah Polhamus, met with a school counselor to request help.

Pentagon chief: Six-month temporary budget bill will have devastating effects on the military

WASHINGTON (AP) — Passage of a six-month temporary spending bill would have widespread and devastating effects on the Defense Department, Pentagon chief Lloyd Austin said in a letter to key members of Congress on Sunday.

Austin said that passing a continuing resolution that caps spending at 2024 levels, rather than taking action on the proposed 2025 budget will hurt thousands of defense programs, and damage military recruiting just as it is beginning to recover after the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Asking the department to compete with (China), let alone manage conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, while under a lengthy CR, ties our hands behind our back while expecting us to be agile and to accelerate progress," said Austin in the letter to leaders of the House and Senate appropriations committees.

Republican House Speaker Mike Johnson has teed up a vote this week on a bill that would keep the federal government funded for six more months. The measure aims to garner support from his more conservative GOP members by also requiring

states to obtain proof of citizenship, such as a birth certificate or passport, when registering a person to vote.

Congress needs to approve a stop-gap spending bill before the end of the budget year on Sept. 30 to avoid a government shutdown just a few weeks before voters go to the polls and elect the next president.

Austin said the stop-gap measure would cut defense spending by more than \$6 billion compared to the 2025 spending proposal. And it would take money from key new priorities while overfunding programs that no longer need it.

Under a continuing resolution, new projects or programs can't be started. Austin said that passing the temporary bill would stall more than \$4.3 billion in research and development projects and delay 135 new military housing and construction projects totaling nearly \$10 billion.

It also would slow progress on a number of key nuclear, ship-building, high-tech drone and other weapons programs. Many of those projects are in an array of congressional districts, and could also have an impact on local residents and jobs.

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Raiders win 4-Way volleyball invitational, moves to 7-6

The Southern Wells Raiders won its own 4-Way 1A Raider Invitational over the weekend at the Raider Dome.

The Raiders won the first game against Randolph Southern 2-0 (25-18, 25-15). The second over Hamilton 2-0 (25-18, 25-16). The final game over Tri-Central (25-8, 25-10).

Abbie Powell and Aly Green made the all-tournament team.

Stats for the weekend were: Powell with 31 kills, seven aces and 18 digs, Kaylea Coffel six aces and 15 digs, Kila Shelley seven kills and seven aces and Green with seven aces.

With the three victories, Southern Wells improves to a winning record of 7-6.

The Raiders will play next at South Adams to open up conference play at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10.



Southern Wells' volleyball team poses with the Raider 4-Way Invitational on Saturday. The team won all three of its matches. (Photo provided)

High School Calendar

MONDAY, SEPT. 9
BOYS TENNIS: Leo at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Norwell at South Adams, 4:30 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Bluffton at Northfield, 7 p.m.

TUESDAY, SEPT. 10
BOYS TENNIS: Bluffton at Wabash, 5 p.m.
GIRLS GOLF: Bluffton at Blackhawk, 4:30 p.m.; Columbia City at Norwell, 5 p.m.; Southern Wells at Northfield, 5 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: Norwell at Wayne, 5:30 p.m.
VOLLEYBALL: Jay County

at Bluffton, 7 p.m.; Dwenger at Norwell, 7:30 p.m.; Southern Wells at South Adams, 7:30 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 11
BOYS SOCCER: Norwell at New Haven, 6 p.m.

BOYS TENNIS: Carroll at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; DeKalb at Norwell, 5 p.m.

GIRLS GOLF: Eastbrook at Bluffton, 5 p.m.; Leo at Norwell, 5 p.m.

GIRLS SOCCER: New Haven at Norwell, 5:30 p.m.

VOLLEYBALL: Norwell at Northfield, 7:30 p.m.

Sports Roundup

Mann's four goals leads Knights over Legends

Norwell won the girls' soccer home match 7-0 against North Side on Saturday.

Grace Mann led the team with four goals. Emerson Meredith, Karrigan Melcher and Issie Isch had a goal each. Aubrey Meyer had two assists, while Melcher and Boomershine had an assist. The Knights improved to 4-3 on the season with the win.

Along with the defense, Norwell's goal-tenders pitched its first shutout of the season.

The match also was senior recognition day for seven Knights: Emerson Meredith, Karrigan Melcher, Ridley Sheets, Madison Mashuda, Issie Isch, Shae Brooks and Elise Boomershine.

Norwell will be at Wayne at 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 10.

Knights, Raiders compete at Marion XC invitational

Norwell and Southern Wells competed at the Marion Invitational for cross country on Saturday.

Both teams ran in different divisions — Norwell's girls were in the Schlemmer Elite Varsity race and the boys in the boys Purple Varsity race. Southern Wells' boys and girls were in the Gold Varsity race.

The Knight boys finished in fifth place with a team score of 146, while the girls placed ninth with 250 points.

The Raider boys finished in 14th place with a team score of 336 and the girls finished 11th with 246.

Results

Boys results

Norwell individuals (Purple race): Gage Reinhard finished second with a time of 16:46.9, Gavin Threewits sixth (17:15.8), Kayden Robbins 31st (18:22.7), Caiden Petrie 59th (19:16.5), Zathan Westfall 60th (19:16.8), James Springer 66th (19:31.0), Elijah Jacob 71st (19:40.1), Parker McCartney 80th (20:04.1), Chase Behning 107th (24:05.), 108th (Wyatt Lukins 24:05.9) and Parker Behning 113th (27:37.0).

Team scores: 1. West Noble (76 team points), 2. New Palestine (77), 3. Bishop Dwenger (87), 4. Richmond (134), 5. Norwell (146), 6. Snider (155), 7. Delta (155), 8. Muncie Central (199), 9. DeKalb (225), 10. South Side (235), 11. Wayne (279), 12.

Mississinewa (305).

Southern Wells individuals (Gold race): Kelton Barr finished 33rd with a time of 18:02.3, Jarin Frauhiger 60th (18:44.4), Peyton Ellis 95th (19:36.6), Miles Garrett 99th (19:41.20), Daniel Isasi Escudero 116th (20:08.4), Kane Jenkins 118th (20:10.9) and Braden Yencer 148th (21:10.6).

Team scores: 1. DeMotte Christian (52 team points), 2. Oak Hill (133), 3. Northwestern (167), 4. Adams Central (194), 5. Clinton Central (228), 6. Monroe Central (237), 7. Eastbrook (239), 8. Clinton Prairie (279), 9. Heritage (282), 10. Westview (306), 11. Tri (314), T12. Woodlan (316), T12. Madison-Grant (316), 14. Southern Wells (336), 15. Wisdom Builders (343), 16. Wes-Del (347), 17. Muncie Burriss (350), 18. Tipton (371), 19. Bishop Luers (461), 20. Canterbury (465), 21. Blue River Valley (472), 22. Antwerp (505), 23. Frankton (540), 24. New Castle (581). Incomplete: Southwood, Lakeland Christian, Liberty Christian and Churubusco.

Girls results

Norwell individuals (Schlemmer Elite race): Mia Kurtz 42nd with a time of 20:12.0, Ashley Tucker 51st (20:22.30), Macy Oatess 62nd (20:50.20), Reagan Wilson 65th (20:55.40), Ashley Waldman 70th (21:00.0), Brooklyn Meyer 78th (21:15.70), Mya Oatess 106th (22:26.0) and Addison Meyer 118th (23:03.10).

Team scores: 1. Homestead (51 team points), 2. Concordia Lutheran (54), 3. Franklin Central (95), 4. Westfield (116), 5. Pendleton Heights (157), 6. Carroll FW (208), 7. Warsaw (226), 8. Bishop Dwenger (231), 9. Norwell (250), 10. Westview (255), 11. Adams Central (301), 12. Leo (326), 13. Elkhart (375), 14. Mt. Vernon (390), 15. Monroe Central (401), 16. Northwestern (444). Incomplete: Bishop Chatard.

Southern Wells individuals (Gold race): Marianne Pease 20th with a time of 22:08.0, Sarah McFarren 56th (23:59.8), Keely Miller 79th (25:42.5), Kameron Hawkins 89th (26:48.9), Gracie Reeves 95th (27:18.7), Chanie Mounsey 105th (28:46.5) and Shaylinn Geesaman 106th (29:02.9).

Team scores: 1. Eastbrook (84 team points), 2. Oak Hill (93), 3. New Castle (119), 4. Wapahani (120), 5. Churubusco (136), 6. Woodlan (155), 7. Canterbury (155), 8. Antwerp (168), 9. Frankton (191), 10. Wisdom Builders (230), 11. Southern Wells (246), 12. Muncie Burriss. Incomplete:



Norwell's Grace Mann (left) tries to slide in and swipe the ball away from a North Side attacker Saturday morning at Norwell. Mann led the team with four goals, and the Knights took down the Legends 7-0. (Photo by Ryan Walker)

Southwood, Tri, Lapel, Clinton Central, Bishop Luers, Heritage, Blue River Valley, Madison-Grant, Wes-Del and Clinton Prairie.

Norwell and Southern Wells will be at the Wildcat Classic at Indiana Wesleyan University at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.

Tiger boys place fourth, girls 15th at Manchester XC invite

Bluffton competed in the Manchester Invitational for cross country on Saturday.

The boys' team finished fourth overall with a team score of 175, while the girls finished 15th with 369.

Individual results

Boys

Levi Johns finished 10th with a time of

16:40.1, Jude Baumgartner 11th (16:44.7), Aidan Graves 29th (17:41.2), Jackson Rockwell 61st (18:35.5), Ryan Schlagenhaut 72nd (18:45.2), Griffin Linderwell 85th (19:03.1), Manning Nash 87th (19:09.5), Owen Lesh 91st (19:12.9), Brett Kuhlenbeck 143rd (20:36.5), Clayton Brubaker (junior varsity race 19:18.1), Andy Baumgartner (JV 20:00.0) and Azimjon Bahronov (JV 21:33.0).

Girls

Cori Kunkel 29th with a time of 20:34.2, Abigail Ramseyer 48th (21:27.7), Briana Ortiz 108th (23:28.1), Reagan Harris 109th (23:30.0), Dakota Lee (24:41.6), Kierstynn Reed 148th (24:41.6), Juaneliz Rivera Torres 150th (24:49.6), Amarah Robles 163rd (26:19.1) and Namine Van Hyfte (junior

(Continued on Page A2)

Thank You! All for your Votes!



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Sports Roundup

(Continued from Page A1)

varsity race, 28:48.5).

Team scores

Boys

1. Wabash (49 team points), 2. Columbia City (96), 3. Wawasee (119), 4. Bluffton (175), 5. Lakewood Park Christian (182), 6. South Bend Adams (225), 7. Fairfield (226), 8. East Noble (226), 9. Manchester (232), 10. Northrop (248), 11. Plymouth (273), 12. Maconaquah (294), 13. Culver Academies (302), 14. Huntington North (346), 15. Garrett (382), 16. Eastside (387), 17. Northfield (476), 18. Tippecanoe Valley (493), 19. Peru (586), 20. Career Academy South Bend (583), 21. Appleseeds (615) and 22nd Blackhawk Christian (636).

Girls

1. Valparaiso (45 team points), 2. Columbia City (95), 3. Northrop (131), 4. Huntington North (172), 5. East Noble (180), 6. Maconaquah (196), 7. Chesterson (215),

8. Fairfield (224), 9. Plymouth (225), 10. South Bend Adams (277), 11. Wawasee (286), 12. North Side (320), 13. Manchester (258), 14. Culver Academies (369), 15. Bluffton (369), 16. Penn (370), 17. Garrett (421), 18. Wabash (441) and 19. Lakewood Park Christian (582).

Bluffton will be at the Wildcat Invitational at Indiana Wesleyan University at 9 a.m. Saturday, Sept. 14.

Knights fall to Lions in JV football

Norwell fell at home in junior varsity football to Leo 8-6.

The lone Knights' touchdown was quarterback E.J. Morgan's 66-yard touchdown throw to Cooper Bunn.

On defense, Ben Peterson had an interception, and Gavin Bechtold had a sack and recovered two fumbles.

Northern Illinois stuns No. 5 Notre Dame with game-winning field goal in the final minute

By CURT RALLO
Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. (AP) — Kanon Woodhill hit a 35-yard field goal with 31 seconds to play, Cade Haberman blocked a 62-yard try as time expired and Northern Illinois stunned No. 5 Notre Dame 16-14 on Saturday.

Haberman blocked the 62-yard attempt by Notre Dame's Mitch Jeter, allowing the jubilant Huskies to claim their first nonconference victory against a ranked opponent since a 19-16 upset of No. 21 Alabama in 2003. It was also the Huskies' first victory over a top 10 opponent.

Northern Illinois head coach Thomas Hammock was emotional after the dramatic victory.

"We didn't need luck," Hammock said. "That was our theme. I didn't think we needed luck. We just need to play our best. It wasn't the cleanest for us, but we played hard for four quarters and stayed together. They worked together, they believed, and they made enough plays to win a game."

"This is a program-changing type win, no different than when we beat Alabama a while ago."

Hammond said his Huskies measured up to Notre Dame.

"I think we were bigger than what they thought," Hammock said. "We're not a normal MAC team, in my opinion. We're big on the offensive and defensive lines and we're physical. I didn't look at it as a mismatch in that capacity."

Notre Dame coach Marcus Freeman said the loss was disappointing, especially on the heels of an impressive road win over then-No. 20 Texas A&M.

"You know, it's our job as coaches to make sure these guys are ready to go. You go from the highest of highs to the lowest of lows in a tale of two weeks, but we've got to own this thing," Freeman said. "As coaches and players, we've got to own it, and we've got to fix it."

Notre Dame (1-1) looked like it was in position to get some separation from Northern Illinois (2-0) as it clung to a 14-13 lead

in the fourth quarter. The Fighting Irish gained possession after a punt with 7:49 left and drove from their 25 to the Northern Illinois 49.

Fighting Irish quarterback Riley Leonard launched a pass deep up the middle intended for Kris Mitchell, but Amariyun Knighten made the interception and returned it 33 yards to the 50-yard line with 5:55 to play.

"It was a completely bad read," Leonard said of the interception. "That single high safety was attached to the inside post. I thought he wouldn't attach again. Bad eyes, bad feet, bad ball. That resulted in a pick. Can't happen. Completely my fault."

The Huskies worked the clock and drove to the Notre Dame 19, setting the stage for Woodill's field goal. A key play on the drive was converting a fourth-and-two with a three-yard run by quarterback Ethan Hampton to the Notre Dame 28.

The first-down conversion from Hampton, who was 10 of 19 for 198 yards and a touchdown, set up the winning field goal from Woodill, his third made kick of the day.

Notre Dame struck first as Leonard side-stepped the defense for an 11-yard touchdown run with 8:28 left in the first quarter.

It only took five plays for Northern Illinois to answer as Antario Brown broke loose between two defensive backs for an 83-yard touchdown reception on a pass from Hampton.

A pair of field goals by Woodill from 42 and 21 yards gave the Huskies a 13-7 half-time lead. Notre Dame had the chance to make it 13-10 before half, but Haberman blocked a 48-yard try from Jeter.

Woodill missed a 53-yard field goal attempt on the first possession of the second half, and Notre Dame took advantage.

Jeremiyah Love broke loose for a 34-yard touchdown run, hurdling a defender on the way to the end zone. Mitch Jeter's extra point gave Notre Dame a 14-13 lead with 8:34 left in the third quarter.

Leonard finished 20 of 32 for 163 yards and two interceptions.



Anthony Richardson shows off strong arm but lacks consistency in the Colts' loss to the Texans

By MICHAEL MAROT

AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS

(AP) — Quarterback Anthony Richardson showed everyone Sunday what the Indianapolis Colts learned while drafting him — he possesses one of the NFL's strongest arms.

The former Florida star also found out how much he needs to improve.

While Richardson threw two touchdown passes of more than 50 yards and powered through Houston's defense on a late 3-yard TD run in the opening game of his second pro season, it wasn't enough to stop the Colts' Week 1 winless streak.

"I want to be better as a player, so I'm always criticizing myself," Richardson said following the 29-27 loss. "We were highly confident we could come in here and win, especially at home. We've got more games ahead of us and we've got more chances to come out with a victory."

The Richardson roller coaster provided plenty of fodder for fans and critics alike.

He looked spectacular on his third throw of the game, a 60-yard laser to Alec Pierce in stride despite slipping on Lucas Oil Stadium's turf as he wound up. He looked equally impressive on a 54-yard dart to Ashton Dulin in the second half and the 57-yarder to Pierce, which set up his first scoring run of the season and got the Colts within two with 2:14 remaining.

Aside from those three throws, though, he went 6 of 16 with 41 yards and one costly red zone interception. He also missed two additional potential scoring throws to wide-open receivers.

While he ran six times for 56 yards including that determined fourth down scoring run and occasionally slid, he also was sacked twice, sometimes missed his receivers badly and hit his head hard on the turf in the first quarter when Mario Edwards Jr. slammed him to the ground in the first quarter.



ter, knocking Richardson's helmet off.

It's a play that may rekindle the debate over Richardson doing a better job of protecting himself after missing 13 games and finishing only one of four starts because of various injuries.

Richardson started — and finished this one to match last season's total — and he wasn't complaining about the hit.

"I love physical football," he said. "That's part of playing physical. Some people are saying it should be a flag. I don't know."

What he does know is that Sunday's performance wasn't good enough.

Yes, Richardson, finally, ended Indy's streak of seven consecutive seasons with a different opening day starter at quarterback, he failed to snap the league's longest active Week 1 winless drought. It's now 11 straight going back to 2013.

And if the Colts hope to end a three-year playoff drought, Richardson needs to be on the field for more than 43 plays and 20 total minutes and 2021 league rushing champion Jonathan Taylor needs to be more involved.

All of it would help the defense stay fresh, something that didn't happen Sunday, and it's not just on Richardson to get the job done.

"You can put that on me," coach Shane Steichen said when asked about Taylor's workload. "Like I could have called more runs. I think we had 19 passes, I don't remember how many carries we had, but we'll look at those things and get that thing cleaned up, learning from tough, close games like this."

If the Colts do get it fixed, and Richardson steadies his performance, the Texans know how much more difficult their path to defending the AFC South title could be.

"We made plays when we had to, but not good enough, right?" coach DeMeco Ryans said. "Got to eliminate the big plays. That's when you give up big points, that equals points."

Ewers throws for 3 TDs as No. 3 Texas pounds No. 10 Michigan

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

ANN ARBOR, Mich. (AP) — Quinn Ewers has led Texas to road wins in two of the toughest places to play in college football in consecutive seasons.

Ewers threw for 246 yards and three touchdowns, helping No. 3 Texas rout No. 10 Michigan 31-12 on Saturday a year after the QB and the Longhorns won at Alabama.

"I just enjoy big moments," he said.

Texas became the first school to beat Michigan and Alabama on the road in consecutive seasons since Notre Dame pulled off the feat in 1979 and 1980 with different quarterbacks, according to Sportradar.

The Longhorns (2-0) moved the ball at will through the air and on the ground against the defending national champions, whose turnover-prone offense failed to throw or run the ball effectively.

The Wolverines (1-1) had three streaks snapped in the first regular-season matchup of the traditional college football powerhouses.

Michigan had won a Big Ten-record 29 consecutive regular-season games, 23 straight home games and a national-best 16 games in a row since losing to TCU in the 2022 College Football Playoff.

While the stretches of success are over, defensive end Josiah Stewart said the Wolverines have not lost their opportunity to repeat as national champions thanks to the expanded 12-team playoff.

Davis Warren was 22 of 33 for 204 yards, to go along with a touchdown when the game was out of reach and two interceptions. Preseason All-America tight end Colston Loveland had eight receptions for 70 yards and an unforced fumble for the overmatched Wolverines.

News-Banner Scoreboard

FOOTBALL

NFL

AMERICAN CONFERENCE East

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Buffalo	1	0	0	1.000	34	28
Miami	1	0	0	1.000	20	17
New England	1	0	0	1.000	16	10
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	.000	0	0

South

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	1	0	0	1.000	29	27
Indianapolis	0	1	0	.000	27	29
Jacksonville	0	1	0	.000	17	20
Tennessee	0	1	0	.000	17	24

North

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Pittsburgh	1	0	0	1.000	18	10
Baltimore	0	1	0	.000	20	27
Cincinnati	0	1	0	.000	10	16
Cleveland	0	1	0	.000	17	33

West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Kansas City	1	0	0	1.000	27	20
L.A. Chargers	0	1	0	.000	22	10
Denver	0	1	0	.000	20	26
Las Vegas	0	1	0	.000	10	22

NATIONAL CONFERENCE East

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Dallas	1	0	0	1.000	33	17
Philadelphia	1	0	0	1.000	34	29
N.Y. Giants	0	1	0	.000	6	28
Washington	0	1	0	.000	20	37

South

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New Orleans	1	0	0	1.000	47	10
Tampa Bay	1	0	0	1.000	37	20
Atlanta	0	1	0	.000	10	18
Carolina	0	1	0	.000	10	47

North

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Chicago	1	0	0	1.000	24	17
Minnesota	1	0	0	1.000	28	6
Detroit	1	0	0	1.000	26	20
Green Bay	0	1	0	.000	29	34

West

Team	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Seattle	1	0	0	1.000	26	20
L.A. Rams	0	1	0	.000	20	26
San Fran	0	0	0	.000	0	0
Arizona	0	1	0	.000	28	34

Thursday's Games

Kansas City 27, Baltimore 20

Friday's Games

Philadelphia 34, Green Bay 29, Sao Paulo, BRA

Sunday's Games

Buffalo 34, Arizona 28

Chicago 24, Tennessee 17

Houston 29, Indianapolis 27

Miami 20, Jacksonville 17

Minnesota 28, N.Y. Giants 6

New England 16, Cincinnati 10

New Orleans 47, Carolina 10

Pittsburgh 18, Atlanta 10

L.A. Chargers 22, Las Vegas 10

Seattle 26, Denver 20

Dallas 33, Cleveland 17

Tampa Bay 37, Washington 20

Detroit 26, L.A. Rams 20 (OT)

N.Y. Jets at San Francisco, 8:15 p.m.

Thursday, Sept. 12

Buffalo at Miami, 8:15 p.m.

Sunday, Sept. 15

Cleveland at Jacksonville, 1 p.m.

Indianapolis at Green Bay, 1 p.m.

L.A. Chargers at Carolina, 1 p.m.

Las Vegas at Baltimore, 1 p.m.

N.Y. Giants at Washington, 1 p.m.

N.Y. Jets at Tennessee, 1 p.m.

New Orleans at Dallas, 1 p.m.

San Francisco at Minnesota, 1 p.m.

Seattle at New England, 1 p.m.

Tampa Bay at Detroit, 1 p.m.

L.A. Rams at Arizona, 4:05 p.m.

Cincinnati at Kansas City, 4:25 p.m.

Pittsburgh at Denver, 4:25 p.m.

Chicago at Houston, 8:20 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 16

Atlanta at Philadelphia, 8:15 p.m.

College

EAST

Boston College 56, Duquesne 0

Bryant 21, Franklin Pierce 17

CCSU 33, Fordham 3

Edinboro 23, Robert Morris 21

Georgetown 31, Marist 10

Howard 32, Mercyhurst 31

Lafayette 40, Monmouth (NJ) 35

Lehigh 49, Wagner 13

Michigan St. 27, Maryland 24

Navy 38, Temple 11

New Hampshire 21, Holy Cross 20

Penn St. 34, Bowling Green 27

Rutgers 49, Akron 17

Sacred Heart 10, St. Anselm 3

Stony Brook 37, Stonehill 10

Syracuse 31, Georgia Tech 28

Towson 14, Morgan St. 9

UConn 63, Merrimack 17

Villanova 28, Colgate 3

West Virginia 49, Albany (NY) 14

SOUTH

Alabama 42, South Florida 16

Alabama A&M 49, Kentucky St. 7

Alabama St. 24, Miles 3

Army 24, FAU 7

Bucknell 35, VMI 28

Butler 19, Murray St. 17

California 21, Auburn 14

Campbell 24, W. Carolina 16

Charleston Southern 24, Furman 20

Clemson 66, Appalachian St. 20

Coastal Carolina 40, William & Mary 21

Davidson 49, Catawba 14

ETSU 61, Virginia-Wise 0

East Carolina 20, Old Dominion 14

Elon 41, NC Central 19

FIU 52, Cent. Michigan 16

Florida 45, Samford 7

Georgia 52, Chattanooga 21

Anxiety after loss

Dear Annie: My husband passed away in April after suffering for many years from chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. I was his caregiver for over a year, along with hospice. It was very hard on me. Since he passed, I have been lost, depressed and have a lot of anxiety.

I don't have much of a support system because my family members have all passed away. I stay at home, grieving terribly. I have suffered from depression for many years. Now the depression and anxiety feel overwhelming. I have been unable to get my meds right, which is very difficult to say the least.

I want to get a job so I can get out of the house and have contact with people, but I stress terribly about looking for a job every time I even think about it. I have a lot of insecurities, and I have had trouble with the interview questions on those occasions when I reached out.

It just want to get back to a somewhat normal life. My husband was always there for me when I went through difficult times, and now he's not, of course. I never had anxiety like this, and it's getting worse. In the past, it was just nervousness. Any suggestions? — Grieving Widow

Dear Grieving Widow: I am so sorry for your loss. You have every right to feel sad and anxious. You just lost your partner and best friend. Speaking harshly to yourself about your insecurities is not going to help. Instead, praise yourself for what an amazing wife you were to your husband. Getting your medications right and having the right therapist to support you during this difficult transitional time of life is very important. Take each day one at a time.

Once you get the proper treatment for your anxiety and depression, you can join a grief support group, where you will start to feel better. In time, there is a good chance that you will

find a job that will help you "get back to a somewhat normal life." But we must learn to walk before we can run.

Dear Annie: Our grandson is getting married at a resort that only allows 40 guests. His wife has decided they need to invite friends instead of family. However, her family members are included.

We are his only living grandparents, so our feelings are hurt. We are not estranged from him; we see him occasionally.

We have not even received an announcement. My husband doesn't think we should even send a gift. I don't know how to handle this. — Hurt Grandmother

Dear Hurt Grandmother: The bride is practicing a double standard by keeping your grandson's family away. That is not a recipe for a happy life. You have every right to feel hurt. At the end of the day, it is her decision. Whether you send a gift is up to you. If you feel moved to and there is something you want your grandson to have on his wedding day, then, by all means, don't be petty, and send him the gift.

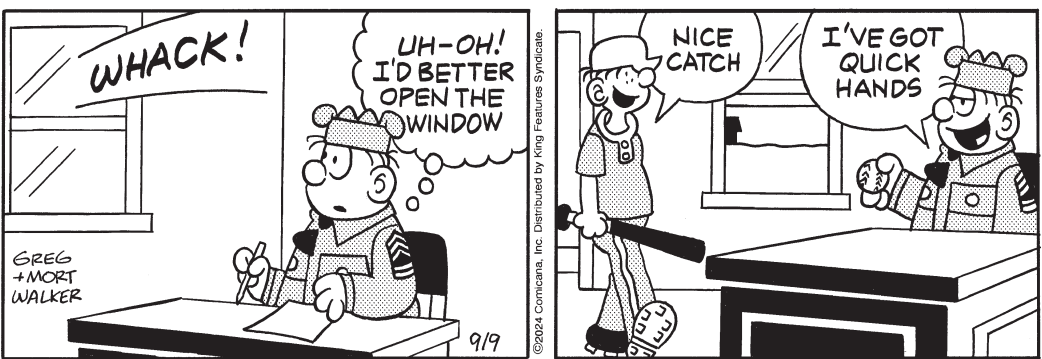
"How Can I Forgive My Cheating Partner?" is out now! Annie Lane's second anthology — featuring favorite columns on marriage, infidelity, communication and reconciliation — is available as a paperback and e-book. Visit <http://www.creatorspublishing.com> for more information. Send your questions for Annie Lane to dearannie@creators.com. © 2024 CREATORS.COM

Dear Annie

by Annie Lane



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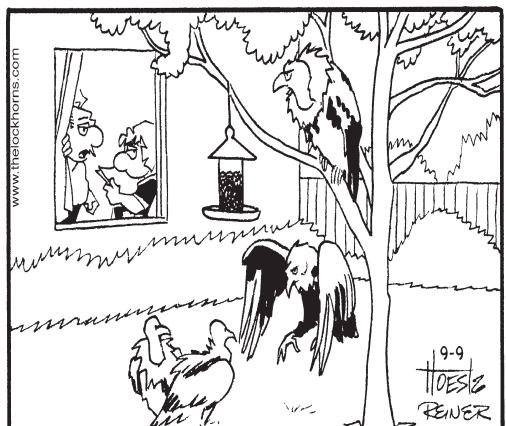
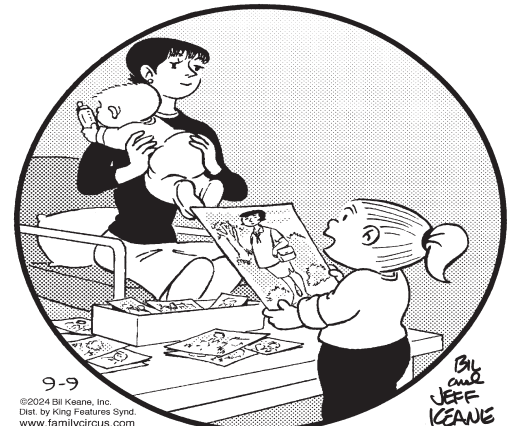
CRANKSHAFT



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane

The LOCKHORNS



My Answer

By Dr. Billy Graham



Life has seasons of joy and sorrow

Question: I'm distraught at every turn in life. I believe in God and have even served on the pastoral staff, but I've had to step away because I can't overcome my own total inability to deal with the twists and turns that seem to pile on more heaviness and despair. — I.D.

Answer: Paul tells us of the troubles, hardships, beatings, sleeplessness, and other sufferings which the servants of God were called upon to endure. As he thought about his responsibilities as a Christian missionary, he said, "I face daily the pressure of my concern for all the churches" (2 Corinthians 11:28, NIV).

How vividly Paul's concern for the churches

brings out the great pressure upon Christian service. Responsibilities of ministry can often be overwhelming. Humanly speaking, it can lead to loneliness, depression, and often discouragement. But in the midst is God's illimitable grace — peace that passes all understanding.

Life has seasons of joy and sorrow. Pressures at times can cause mental, physical, and spiritual weakness. But when God calls someone to service, He's there to guide and direct. We must ask ourselves if we're reading His Word, listening for His voice, and following His guidance. We are called to faithfulness, and God provides the strength at every turn.

We may never be called upon to suffer as Paul did. Nevertheless,

how triumphant we can be with an attitude like his: "We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed" (2 Corinthians 4:8-9, NIV).

God has never sent any difficulty into the life of His children without His accompanying offers of help in this life and reward in the life to come.

Whatever affliction comes in life, our Lord goes into the valley with us, leading us by the hand, even carrying us when it is necessary.

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

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09/09	M	A	D1	D2	5 PM	5:30	6 PM	6:30	7 PM	7:30	8 PM	8:30	9 PM	9:30	10 PM	10:30	11 PM	11:30	12 AM	12:30
WINM (12)	11	26	63		Washington Watch With Tony Perkins	News-at-6	News-at-6	Creflo Dollar	Joseph Prince	Turning Point	TCT Today	Joyce Meyer	Prop. Com	Life Today	Robert Jeffress	Jewish Jesus	Andrew Womack	Ask the Pastor		CrossTalk
CBS WANE (18)	2	2	15	15	News (N)	Inside Ed. (SP) (N)	News at 6 (N)	CBS News (N)	Wheel of Fortune (SP) (N)	Jeopardy! (SP) (N)	NCIS "Strange Invaders"	NCIS "Doogie's Day Afternoon"	NCIS "Sydney Extraction"	Nightcast (N)	(35) Late Show-Colbert	(35) After Mid. (N)				
Antenna WANE-2 (152)	106	20			Criminal Minds "Middle Man"	Criminal Minds "Reflection of Desire"	FBI "Brother's Keeper"	FBI "Fathers and Sons"	FBI "Short Squeeze"	FBI "Trigger Effect"	FBI "Straight Flush"	FBI "All That Glitters"								
ABC WPTA (21)	4	3	21	21	ABC21 News at 5 (N)	ABC21 (N)	ABC World News (N)	ABC21 (N)	Countdown (L) (N)	Football New York Jets at San Francisco 49ers Aaron Rodgers' return comes under bright Monday Night Football lights as his Jets visit the 49ers. (L) (N)	(15) ABC21 (N)	(50) Jimmy Kimmel Live! (N)	(50) Nightline							
NBC WPTA-2 (212)	7	8		14	Family Feud	25 Words or Less	News (N)	NBC News (N)	Family Feud	Ninja The national finals conclude in Las Vegas as the remaining ninjas compete in Stages 3 and 4.	The Wall "Richard and Latoya" (N)	News (N)	(35) Tonight Show (N)	(35) Seth Meyers (N)						
MNT WPTA-3 (213)	10	9	56	34	Bob Heart "Pilot"	Bob Hearts Abishola	Modern Family	News (N)	Last Man Standing	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	61st Street "Judgement Day" (SF) (N)	Friends	Friends	TMZ (N)	Dish Nat. (SP) (N)	True Crime News (N)	Chicago "Memory"		
CW WISE (38)	8	4	33	33	The Steve Wilkos Show	TMZ Live (N)	TMZ (N)	True Crime News (N)	All American "Un-Break My Heart" (N)	61st Street "Judgement Day" (SF) (N)	POV "Name Me Lavand" (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Antiques Roadshow	POV "Name Me Lavand" (N)	Amanpour and Company (N)	Antiques Roadshow			
PBS WFWA (39)	13	5	39	39	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 1"	PBS News Hour (N)	BBC News at Mitter	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 2"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 3"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 4"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 5"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 6"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 7"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 8"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 9"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 10"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 11"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 12"		
PBS WFP (48)	3				Call the Midwife	Context	The Day	PBS News Hour (N)	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 2"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 3"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 4"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 5"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 6"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 7"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 8"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 9"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 10"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 11"	Antiques Roadshow "Virginia Beach Hour 12"	
FOX WFFT (55)	6	6	55	55	WFFT Fox News at 5 (N)	WFFT Fox News at 6 (N)	Big Bang	Big Bang	Name That Tune (N)	The 1% Club (N)	FOX 55 News First at 10 (N)	Young Sheldon	Neighbor	Neighbor						

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16 Abel's brother
17 Billy Williams daughter
18 Nixon
20 iTunes downloads
23 Role in "Elvira"
24 Clarified butter
25 Church readers
28 Airport screening org.
29 Ours (out)
30 Ages and ages
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34 Grocery

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1 Moody
47 Big knife
48 Shipbuilding facility
49 Writer Silverstein
50 HBO rival
51 Deli loaves
10 Ovid's
11 Author Ferber
13 Tarzan's clan
19 "Phooey!"
21 Really really
22 Tide type
23 Ballet leaps
25 Disappointment
26 Caboose
27 Type island
29 Hawaiian
31 Ultimate
33 "Fine by me"
34 Joan of Arc, for one
36 Relaxed
37 British big shots
38 "Oops!"
39 Cleopatra's river
40 DVR brand
43 Fan's cry
44 Non-clerical
45 Before
46 QB's goals

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 9-9

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12			13					14		
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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

WELLS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE is currently seeking applicants for the position of Full Time Deputy Sheriff. Applicants must be a US Citizen, at least 21 years of age upon graduation from police academy, possess a high school diploma or equivalent as well as a valid Indiana Operators License. Applicant can't have any felony convictions. Applicants must pass all aspects of the hiring process including physical agility testing, written examination, background investigation, oral interview, polygraph and psychological evaluation. Selected applicant must be able to graduate from the Indiana Law Enforcement Academy. ILEA certified applicants do not have to attend the physical agility and written examination portion of the process. 20-year matrix salary range for a Deputy Sheriff (no rank) is \$56,600 - \$68,400. Years of service and experience will be honored for a starting salary up to five years in the pay matrix. Application can be found on our website at www.wellscountysheriff.com. Once application is completed, details on the testing date and location will be emailed to the applicant. The application must be completed by September 13th, 2024.

ENTRY LEVEL

NEED MORE EMPLOYEES? Place a 20 word, line classified ad for a month for \$52. Add a graphic or photo for an additional \$5. Contact the Bluffton News-Banner office, (260) 824-0224, 125 N. Johnson St., or www.news-banner.com and click on classifieds.

Lottery Numbers

Saturday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 02-09-40-44-45
Cash4Life — 02-12-19-25-56, Cash Ball: 03
Lotto Plus — 02-05-11-17-18-19
Quick Draw Midday — 01-03-07-13-17-19-22-28-29-30-41-44-49-51-55-61-65-71-75-79, BE: 71
Daily Three-Midday — 05-00-07, SB: 03
Daily Three-Evening — 05-00-07, SB: 06
Daily Four-Midday — 02-05-00-08, SB: 03
Daily Four-Evening — 08-00-04-08, SB: 06
Quick Draw Evening — 15-25-28-31-33-34-38-43-44-46-47-48-55-56-58-61-70-72-75-79, BE: 15
Hoosier Lotto — 04-08-30-37-39-43
POWERBALL
14-34-37-55-63; Powerball: 20; Power Play: 2X
Sunday's Drawings HOOSIER LOTTERY
Cash 5 — 04-08-09-12-44
Cash4Life — 04-28-31-49-60, Cash Ball: 02
Quick Draw Midday — 01-02-04-07-09-32-35-44-46-48-56-60-65-67-68-69-71-76-79-80, BE: 71
Daily Three-Midday — 00-01-07, SB: 06
Daily Three-Evening — 09-06-01, SB: 01
Daily Four-Midday — 07-06-06-09, SB: 06
Daily Four-Evening — 06-03-08-00, SB: 01
Quick Draw Evening — 02-06-12-13-14-16-23-27-32-38-45-46-48-49-56-57-63-64-77, BE: 49
Hoosier Lotto — Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$21.2 million
MEGA MILLIONS
Estimated jackpot (for Tuesday): \$800 million
POWERBALL
Estimated jackpot (for Wednesday): \$121 million

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

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

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Public Sale Calendar

BIDDING NOW OPEN & STARTS CLOSING SEPTEMBER 9 - 6 p.m. EST - Susan Pollock estate, owner. Two bedroom, 1 full bath, 1,264 sq. feet, basement, 8'x12' utility shed, Root Township, Section 34, Adams County, Indiana, North Adams Community Schools. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

SEPTEMBER 10 - 10 a.m. EST - (Live and Online) - Norman & Norwin Bauermeister. 815 Adams Street, Decatur, IN. Bauermeister Brothers retirement farm equipment auction! Tractors, tillage & grain handling equipment, skid loader, JD 5320, JD 6300, JD 4240, JD 7820 FWA, JD 980 23' field cult., 24' UM dual wheel single rolling basket w/harrow, 1965 Dodge D600 & 1974 Chevy C60 grain truck, J&M 425 hopper wagon, 8'x52' Mayrath swing auger, 3 point attachments & much more! For questions on equipment please call Butch, 260-246-3656. Check-out and pick up Sept. 10, 3-5 p.m. Sept. 11, 10 a.m.-2 p.m., 7845 N 650 E, Ossian, IN. *Krueckeberg Auction & Realty LLC*, 260-724-7402, kjauction.com.

BIDDING ENDS SEPTEMBER 14 - Online Only Personal Property - Gregory Brandt living trust, seller. Horizon 210 Four Winn speed boat, 2007 Yamaha jet ski, pontoon boat with trailer, life jackets, towables, Detro dump trailer, Crown forklift, Cyclone leaf vacuum system, tools, Craftsman riding lawn mower, furniture, bikes, household & much more! Sale manager Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, *Steffen Group Real Estate & Auctions*, 260-426-0633, steffengrp.com.

BIDDING ENDS SEPTEMBER 15 - (Online Only Auction) - Private Collector, seller. Outstanding collection of 2,000-plus comic books, large assortment of 8-Tracks, cassettes, CD's & DVD's, Star Wars figures, DJ lighting, vintage books, dolls, large Nativity set, toys, collectibles. Previews: 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.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

SEPTEMBER 15-22 - 2 p.m. - (Online Only) - Estate of Jeffrey W. Brown, seller. Collectible vehicles, (3) 1967 Dodge Darts, 1971 Dodge Challenger, 1967 Cornet R/T, 1988 Ford Ranger, Runt Buggy, Chop Top Baja Beetle, 1991 JD 670 diesel tractor, Allis Chalmers tractor, John Deere 640 tractor, pull type mower, riding lawn mowers, Mopar parts, automotive parts, name brand shop & power tools, air operated tools, automotive shop supplies, chain saws, assorted hardware, lawn & garden, aluminum fishing boat, log splitter, antique furniture, collectibles, Hot Wheels, beer signs, more. Preview Sept. 12 & 19 from 3-6 p.m., 7271 N 300 W-90, Marzane. Sale managers Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

SEPTEMBER 17 - 2-6 p.m. ET - Online - Greenbush, Inc., farm. Property location: 1231 N 740 E, Marion. 242.9 +/- acres, classified forest, barns, quality farmland, timber, Van Buren Twp., Grant Co. Tract 1: 80 +/- acres, barns. Tract 2: 55.5 +/- A. Tract 3: 18.3 +/- A. Tract 4: 7.1 +/- A, potential building site, 42'x56' barn, 30'x31' barn. Tract 5: 63 +/- A, 55.28 +/- classified forest. Tract 6: 19 +/- A, 18.7 +/- classified forest. Timber value appraisal available. Rick Johnloz, 260-827-8181, Emma Barr, 260-494-0992, Jason Johnloz, 260-273-9177, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, 800-424-2324, halderman.com.

SEPTEMBER 22-SEPTEMBER 29 - 2 p.m. - (Online Only) Personal Property Auction - The Estate of Elizabeth Ann (Carter) Aeschliman, seller. 2004 Lexus 4-door sedan, exceptionally clean modern furniture, patio furniture, collectibles, home interior decor items, various holiday decorations, household, lawn & garden, tools, much more. Preview: Sept. 19, 3 p.m. to 6 p.m. and Sept. 26 from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., 406 Goldenrod Ct., Bluffton, IN. Sale manager Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

SEPTEMBER 23-SEPTEMBER 30 - (Online Only) - Various consignors, seller. Firearms consisting of Springfield, Hopkins & Allen, Colt, Browning, Stevens, Glock, Winchester. Open House Sept. 28 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 215 E Market St, Bluffton, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

SEPTEMBER 24 - 2 p.m. - 6 p.m. ET - Online - Don A. Heckber, farm. Property location: 11648 N SR 1 Ossian, IN. 31.63 +/- total acres, agriculture prime farmland, 31.5 +/- tillable, 0.13 +/- non-tillable, Topography: Level, Zoning: Agricultural, School District: Norwell Community Schools. Rick Johnloz, 260 827 8181, rckj@halderman.com, Jason Johnloz, jasonj@halderman.com, 260-273-9177, *Halderman Real Estate & Farm Management*, halderman.com, 800-424-2324.

SEPTEMBER 24 - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown. Two story country home situated on 2.41 +/- acre lot with 2 outbuildings totaling 866 SF, Wells County. This 1,876 SF home features 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 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. Marzane, IN. Sale managers Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

SEPTEMBER 24-OCTOBER 1 - (Online Only) - Grover, seller. Tractor, mower, tools, woodworking, primitives. Open House Sept. 28 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m., 8726 S 600 W-90, Warren, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, www.steffengrp.com, 260-824-3006.

SEPTEMBER 25 - 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. - Online Only - The Estate of Jeffrey Brown. 9.27 +/- acre prime building site in Union Twp., Northern Wells County. Property features open land, wooded acreage, 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., 1200 N (Scott Street) and Marzane Rd. - TBD, Zanesville, IN. Sale managers Brandon Steffen, 260-710-5684, Pat Carter, 260-273-8294, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, steffengrp.com.

SEPTEMBER 29-OCTOBER 6 - (Online Only) - The Estate of Wayne E. Penrod, seller. Artifacts, tools, furniture, household. Open house Oct. 6 from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m., 69 W 1st St., Poneto, IN. Sale manager, Isaac Stoller, *The Steffen Group Inc.*, 260-824-3006, www.steffengrp.com.

OCTOBER 2 - 6 p.m. - Ruby Johnson, Brant Johnson, owner. Auction location: Lighted Gardens Reception Hall, 10794 N. State Road 1, Ossian. Property location: 14631 Smith Rd., Yoder. 48 +/- acres offered in 4 tracts and combinations. Productive tillable land, excellent road frontage and access along Smith Rd., 2,400+ sq. ft. sprawling brick ranch home on full basement with 20x30 outbuilding, Allen County. Inspection Sept. 9 & 16, 5-7 p.m. Auction manager Jared Sipe, 260-750-1553, *Schrader Real Estate and Auction of Fort Wayne*, SchraderFortWayne.com, 866-340-0445.

NOVEMBER 14 - 6 p.m. - Becher Family Farms LLC, sellers. Auction location: Adams Co. 4H Expo Hall, 160 W. Washington St., Monroe, IN. Four tracts, Washington Township, Adams County. Tract 1: 82.88 acres, County Rd. 200 West, Sec 18. Tract 2: 80.2 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 8. Tract 3: 35.05 acres, County Rd. 450 North, Sec 9. Tract 4: 39.97 acres, County Rd. 400 North, Sec 9. *Heartland Auction & Realty, Inc.*, heartlandauctionreality.com, 260-724-3499.

Public Notice

Public Notice
The Harrison Township Trustees Office will be holding a Harrison Township Advisory Board meeting on Monday, Sept. 23, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Harrison Township Trustees Office in the Annex Building located at 223 West Washington Street. The agenda includes 1. Second reading and adoption of the township budget 2. fire protection 3. Township assistance 4. Inter-local agreement with City of Bluffton for Park.
Kyle Hunt, Harrison Twp. Trustee

SUDOKU ANSWER

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