

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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Chiro for kids

Local intern specializes in pediatric treatment

By LOUISE RONALD
The Commercial Review

Life can be tough for babies. Gassiness, constipation and colic can affect even the healthiest infants, leading to anything from fussiness to inconsolable wails.

Taylor Boerger, clinical intern at Clear Choice Chiropractic in Portland, says it's a matter of nerves.

The nerves that stimulate the pulsations that push waste through the colon are not fully developed at birth, she explained. Light massages can stimulate those nerves and relieve the baby's misery.

Boerger is nearing completion of her eight-month internship at Clear Choice. She is scheduled to receive her Doctor of Chiropractic degree from Logan University in August, making her officially "Dr. Taylor," as she introduces herself.

She demonstrated her techniques recently during a regular twice-weekly session with a 2-month-old with digestive issues. The baby girl was born prematurely, making her nervous system even less developed than a full-term baby's. At the beginning of the session, the baby looked uncomfortable. Within almost seconds, she was obviously happy and relaxed.

Boerger doesn't treat only digestive issues. The same baby resists lying on her right side. Part of the session focused on easing her into that position so that both sides of her body will have an equal chance to develop.

At Logan, Boerger has specialized in pediatric chiropractic care. She first became interested while in junior high school in Fort Loramie, Ohio, where she developed sports-related foot issues. Her father suggested she go to a chiropractor.

"For my foot, Dad? Really?" she remembers saying. "But I went and I had a lot of success with it."



The Commercial Review/Louise Ronald

Taylor Boerger, clinical intern at Clear Choice Chiropractic in Portland, starts treatment with a fussy 2-month-old baby. The Fort Loramie, Ohio, native, stumbled upon the option of providing chiropractic treatment to children and infants on the website of a chiropractor in Dublin, Ohio.

The more she went, the more interested she became.

Even so, it wasn't until her senior year at Ohio State University that Boerger learned of a way to combine that interest with her desire to work with children. She found the website of a Dublin, Ohio, chiropractor who worked with all ages,

including infants. The site was filled with pictures of treatments.

"I hadn't really seen it done before," she said.

Boerger quickly arranged to shadow the doctor for two hours one afternoon. Instead, she stayed all evening.

That night, she told her

mother, "This is what I'm supposed to do."

Like the Dublin doctor, Boerger treats patients of all ages at Clear Choice. The other doctors there work with children also. But she is a specialist, and pediatric chiropractic care is her passion.

See Kids page 2

New Trump probe details released

Info shows government relied on surveillance footage

By ZOE TILLMAN and PATRICIA HURTADO

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Newly unsealed details from the Justice Department's investigation into Donald Trump's alleged mishandling of classified information shed light on how investigators made their case in court last year for a warrant to search the former president's Mar-a-Lago home, including the extent of surveillance footage they said showed boxes being moved.

The government on Wednesday released a new version of an affidavit that an FBI agent submitted in August 2022 asking a Florida federal magistrate judge to approve the warrant. Redacted copies of the affidavit were released after the search, but following Trump's June indictment and a request by media outlets to unseal more information, the Justice Department agreed additional sections of the affidavit could be made public.

Trump is charged with illegally retaining national defense information and of trying to obstruct the government's efforts to retrieve the classified documents. He has pleaded not guilty. His co-defendant and longtime personal aide Walt Nauta is also charged with obstruction.

The latest version of the affidavit includes more details on what the government knew a year ago about the layout of Mar-a-Lago, where boxes of government records that Trump had taken with him from the White House were being stored.

See Probe page 2

Prigozhin back in Russia

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

The chief of the Wagner private army that staged an aborted rebellion against the Kremlin's military leadership last month is back in Russia, according to Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

Yevgeny Prigozhin "is in St. Petersburg," Lukashenko told reporters in Minsk on Thursday, according to the state-owned Belta news agency. The mercenary leader may also have gone to Moscow, the president said.

Lukashenko said last week that Prigozhin was in Belarus days after he agreed to turn his mercenaries away from a march on Moscow June 24 that had spiraled into the greatest threat to President Vladimir Putin's nearly quarter-century rule in

Russia. The Wagner founder hasn't made a public appearance since the revolt ended.

The Kremlin isn't following Prigozhin's movements and has no wish to do so, Putin's spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters Thursday, the Interfax news service reported.

Under a deal brokered by Lukashenko, Putin agreed to allow Prigozhin to go to Belarus as well as any Wagner fighters who wanted to join him, and to drop a criminal investigation

against them for armed mutiny. The apparent ease with which Prigozhin is able to travel in and out of Russia raises questions about the terms of the agreement with Putin.

While Russia's Federal Security Service said it had closed the case in line with the deal, Putin last week disclosed that the state paid some \$3.25 billion in the past year to Wagner and Prigozhin's catering company that supplied food to the military.

See Russia page 2

Wagner leader had been in Belarus following aborted rebellion



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Patriotic overalls

Jason Crouch drives a vehicle pulling a train behind him while donning some patriotic garb Monday for the Jay County 4th of July parade in downtown Portland.

Deaths

Seth Jones, 19, South Bend
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 88 degrees Wednesday. The low was 68.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 60s with a 30% chance of rain. Expect partly cloudy skies Saturday with a chance of rain and a high in the upper 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

Correction

There was an error in the grandstand schedule in the Jay County Fair special section in Wednesday's edition of The Commercial Review.

The demolition derby on Saturday, July 15, will begin at 3 p.m.

At the fair

Today

5 p.m. — Rides open

6 p.m. — Jansen Matthew John concert in the Farmer's Building

7:30 p.m. — Husband calling contest in the Farmer's Building

8:30 p.m. — Heartland concert in the Farmer's Building



Probe ...

Continued from page 1
It also includes details of the movement of those boxes around the time Trump received a grand jury subpoena for classified material in his possession.
Certain sections of the affidavit remain sealed; the Justice Department has said in its court papers that those parts of the document need to remain blacked out to protect grand jury secrecy “and to protect investigative sources and methods.”
One of the newly released portions shows how the government relied on surveillance footage from Mar-a-Lago to allege that Nauta moved dozens of boxes out of a

storage room area in May and June 2022. Prosecutors have accused Trump and Nauta of conspiring to move boxes to avoid complying with the grand jury subpoena.
According to the affidavit, the FBI reviewed a hard drive with video footage from four cameras in the basement hallway of Mar-a-Lago. The footage began on April 23, 2022, and ended on June 24, 2022, according to the FBI. The cameras appear to have been motion-activated, as opposed to constantly recording.
One of the cameras, identified as “South Tunnel Liquor,” provided a view of the entrance and exit of an anteroom leading to a storage

room where the government said Trump stored boxes of documents; however the doorway to the anteroom isn't visible in the camera's view, as a refrigerator blocks the view. The FBI agent noted the anteroom led to four doors; the storage room door is painted gold.
The latest affidavit indicates the FBI told the judge in applying for the warrant that it had established that classified material was being kept in other areas of Mar-a-Lago besides the basement storage room, but that it was “very likely” that Trump's attorney hadn't searched other locations.
In addition to approving the release of the new version of the

affidavit, U.S. Magistrate Judge Bruce Reinhart on Wednesday also directed the disclosure of a June order related to a government motion to unseal information in order to share it with Trump's defense team in his criminal case.
The media outlets that petitioned Reinhart following Trump's indictment—a group that includes Bloomberg News—had also asked the judge to release the government's motion related to sharing sealed evidence with Trump. Reinhart agreed with the Justice Department to keep that secret since it “identifies investigative steps that have not yet been made public.”

Obituaries

Seth Michael Jones, South Bend, a former Pennville resident, Oct. 11, 2003-July 2, 2023.
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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Saturday 7/8	Sunday 7/9	Monday 7/10	Tuesday 7/11	Wednesday 7/12
78/62	79/61	82/63	83/63	80/64
There's a 60% chance of thunderstorms Saturday under mostly cloudy skies.	Sunday has a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, partly sunny.	Another small chance of showers throughout the day. Mostly sunny.	Continuing the trend, Tuesday has a chance of rain under mostly sunny skies.	Wednesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with the possibility of rain.

Lotteries

Powerball 17-24-48-62-68 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$590 million	Daily Four: 8-8-4-2 Quick Draw: 2-3-9-17-25-30-31-36-37-38-43-44-49-50-59-68-73-74-75-79 Cash 5: 3-10-21-29-38 Estimated jackpot: \$290,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$427 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 9-1-0 Pick 4: 3-2-7-3 Pick 5: 3-8-2-4-6 Evening Pick 3: 2-2-0 Pick 4: 7-9-5-0 Pick 5: 1-4-8-4-2 Rolling Cash: 9-25-30-32-36 Estimated jackpot: \$151,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 8-1-1 Daily Four: 5-0-9-4 Quick Draw: 4-10-14-15-16-17-23-26-41-42-44-50-55-59-62-66-68-70-74-76 Evening Daily Three: 9-5-3	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....5.63 Oct. corn4.83 Wheat6.21	Wheat 6.21 July wheat6.21
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.71 Aug. corn5.36 Oct. corn4.87	Central States Montpelier Corn.....5.43 Late July corn5.31 Beans14.47 Late July beans.....14.42 Wheat6.23
The Andersons Richland Township Corn5.46 Aug. corn4.77 Beans14.44 Aug. beans.....13.04	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....5.24 Aug. corn5.19 Beans14.21 Aug. beans.....14.01 Wheat6.09

Today in history

In 1898, President William McKinley signed a U.S. Congress joint resolution annexing Hawaii. The islands became a territory in 1900 and a state in 1959.
In 1928, the first pre-iced bread went on sale in Chillicothe, Missouri.
In 1972, demolition of Sutton Elementary School in Dunkirk began. The east end of the building had been constructed in 1874, with the west section added in 1911. The school had been closed since the previous December when a chimney fell during high winds, resulting in injuries to a few students and damage to the building.
In 1990, the first concert featuring the “Three Tenors” was held at Baths of Caracalla in Rome.
In 2016, Portland Board of Works approved a contract with Choice One Engineering to complete a street assessment. It was one of the steps needed for the city to be considered for grant funding from Indiana Department of Transportation.
In 2019, the U.S. women's soccer team defeated The Netherlands to win its fourth World Cup.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, courthouse auditorium, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. 6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.
Tuesday 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.	

Kids ...

Continued from page 1
“I think all newborns should be adjusted within that first month that they're born because the birth process is super traumatic for their bodies,” she said.
“The connection from brain to body and body to brain is all through the nervous system. What chiropractic does is, it helps you manipulate any restrictions that might be

in the spine or in the body to make sure that those messages are getting from Point A to Point B without any hiccoughs,” she added. “I think it's really fascinating that we're able to make these big changes just by these light manipulations and mobilizations of the spine.”
For infants, the most common problems she treats are acid reflux, constipation and gassiness.

She likes to see toddlers to make sure the spaces between their cranial plates allow room for the brain to grow. She provides treatment for growing pains and headaches for older children and adolescents. (She also treats expectant mothers, most often for lower back pain.)
If her treatments aren't working or if a child has an issue her training does-

n't address, she will refer families to a pediatrician or pediatric dentist to explore other options.
“I know enough to send them where they need to go,” she said.
Boerger plans to stay with Clear Choice for at least another year, if not longer.
“It is the most rewarding job I think I could have ever imagined,” she said. “I love what I do for sure.”

Maternal mortality rate increased

By **KELCIE MOSELEY-MORRIS** and **WHITNEY DOWNARD**
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
A study from the University of Washington released Monday shows maternal mortality rates more than doubled in some states between 1999 and 2019, with sharp increases for some racial and ethnic groups.

Researchers touted it as the first study to provide such maternal mortality calculations for every state. Previous reports have not included rates for states with fewer than 20 maternal deaths, which is nearly half of all states, the report shows.
In Indiana, the maternal mortality rate more than doubled for both white women and Hispanic women. Indiana led the nation in maternal mortality rate increases for white women, with deaths increasing by more than 150%, and Hispanic women, with deaths increasing by more than 105%.
Though the rate for those two ethnic groups soared, Indiana still fares poorly in deaths across all populations. For Black Hoosiers, death rates are double that of white women, despite Black Hoosiers making up a significantly smaller percentage of the overall population.
The study assembled information about people who died while pregnant or up to one year afterward. Causes often include hemorrhage, heart conditions, infections and high blood pressure, all of which can develop even months post-delivery, because of the ways the body changes and reacts to carrying and birthing a baby.
Researchers compiled data on deaths and live births from the National Vital Statistics System and used a special modeling method to estimate maternal deaths over the 20-year timespan and calculate a maternal death risk for each racial and eth-

nic group by state, which takes into account population increases over that time.
The authors said there is incomplete data around causes of death that were unable to be analyzed for this study, and a checkbox indicating the person was recently pregnant was added at different times in various states over the course of a decade.
Despite those factors, Roth said even after every state included the checkbox on death certificates, the trends continued to go up. Roth said there is early data indicating the number of deaths increased even more throughout the pandemic.
“It's very clear from our results that this is what's actually happening,” Roth said.
Pregnant Hispanic people or those who'd recently given birth in Indiana, Minnesota, Georgia, Tennessee and Illinois died more than twice as often in 2019 than two decades before.
Roth said the modeling process allowed researchers to create accurate and complete results even from small amounts of data while protecting individual privacy.
“One of the challenges looking at maternal mortality within states is that it is still a relatively rare event for a woman to die during or following pregnancy,” Roth told States Newsroom. “(The model) makes use of all that information to (calculate) a risk of maternal death occurring.”
Dr. Allison Bryant, a high-risk obstetrician-gynecologist for Mass General Brigham in Massachusetts, is chair of the state's maternal mortality review committee and acted as a content expert for the study.
Bryant said the data confirms much of what was already known about trends, but it is even more important now that 15 states have near-total bans on abortion. People who become pregnant unintentional-

ly and can't get an abortion may become more likely to overdose or die by suicide, particularly those with existing addiction or mental health issues.
Additionally, she said more pregnancies may be carried to term that aren't healthy and could cause death rates to rise.
The Indiana Supreme Court upheld Indiana's abortion ban on Friday, determining that the state Constitution protected the right to an abortion in cases where the mother's health or life were at risk. But health care professionals in other states have said exceptions don't go far enough or don't allow for nuance in medical decisions.
Additionally, only hospitals can perform the procedure under the state ban, though hospitals performed less than 2% of all abortions in 2021.
Populations with high maternal mortality related to cardiovascular conditions also tend to happen in areas with high rates of cardiovascular disease in general, according to Roth.
“We think in many ways, a maternal death is a canary in a coalmine, it's a signal not only that there was a terrible tragedy, and we need to develop interventions, but also that we need to make sure that we are looking at the health of that population where the woman was living and understand why vascular risks are much more common there,” Roth said. “In many ways, this is not a problem of inventing new solutions, but rather making sure that the good, well-tested solutions that we know work actually get used.”
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Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Russia ...

Continued from page 1
“I hope that no one stole anything,” Putin said. “We will of course look into all this.”
What Is Russia's Wagner Group and Why Was It Accused of Mutiny?
Lukashenko said Wagner mercenaries may be allowed to deploy in Belarus as long as they help to defend the state.
“The main condition is: if we need to engage this unit to defend the state, it will be engaged immediately,” Lukashenko said.
Even as Lukashenko said Prigozhin's

forces haven't moved to Belarus yet, the Belarusian Hajum monitoring group said it had received information that some 200 Wagner fighters were taking part in firearms drills at a training ground in the Vitebsk region about 60 kilometers (37 miles) from the border with Russia. The information hasn't been fully verified, the group said.
Lukashenko, who depends on Putin for economic and political support, allowed Russia to invade Ukraine from Belarus and has consistently backed the Kremlin leader's war on the neighboring country.

SERVICES

Friday
Rigby, Mary: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by
PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS
120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com

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Have you checked to see if your child is up to date on immunizations for the 2023/2024 school year?



All children entering Kindergarten, 6TH Grade, and 12TH Grade need to be up to date on their immunizations. *Please call the*

Jay Co. Health Dept

at 260-726-7863

to see if your child is up to date or to schedule an appointment. We will be offering school shots at the Fair on Tuesday & Thursday from 5 pm-7:30 pm in the Bubp Building.

CPR Band performs in village Sunday

The CPR Band hits the stage Sunday in Fort Recovery.

Fort Recovery Friends of the Arts' show this weekend will feature the band from Celina, Ohio, that "colors music outside the box," according to a press release from the organization. Its arrangement of genres span from classic rock, Motown, country and yesteryear. Band members also have experience in gospel and jazz.

The show begins at 7 p.m. at the Hein Amphitheater in Van Trees Park.

Planetarium shows

Muncie's planetarium has another round of free programs

Taking Note

coming up. Charles W. Brown Planetarium at Ball State University will host the following shows this month:

•Dawn of the Space Age: A historic reconstruction of man's first steps into space at 6:30 p.m. today and July 14

•Earth, Moon, and Sun: Learn the basics of fusion and solar energy, as well as why the sun

rises and sets, at 3:30 p.m. Saturday and July 15

•To Space and Back: Journey from the far reaches of our known universe to explore Earth, hearing the story of human ingenuity and engineering at 5 p.m. Saturday and July 15

•Eclipse: The Sun Revealed: Learn about solar and lunar eclipses in preparation for the April 2024 total solar eclipse at 6:30 p.m. Saturday and July 15

Dean's list

Local residents were named to their colleges' dean's list recently. Chloey Grisez of Fort Recovery made the list at Ohio Uni-

versity in Athens, Ohio. Janel Bruns, Lauren Bruns, Brandon Keller, Derek Lochtefeld, Valerie Muhlenkamp and Hope Wendel, all of Fort Recovery, were named to the University of Findlay's list.

Effort launches

Indiana Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch on Monday announced the launch of Indiana Destination Development Corporation's Military Monuments and Museums IN Indiana initiative.

The new state program is an effort to draw attention to Indiana's military history. It includes the website visitindiana.com/military, which

includes information about the state's military history and various locations where it is showcased across the state.

"The Military Monuments and Museums IN Indiana initiative is a comprehensive program that encompasses war memorials, historical markers, museums and other distinctive locations that showcase the rich military history of the great state of Indiana," said Crouch in a press release. "This initiative is creating a network of information and immersive opportunities that unites all regions of Indiana."

The site features an entry for Portland's Museum of the Soldier.

Weekend visits spent at soccer games

By JANN BLACKSTONE

Tribune News Service

Q. I live about 200 miles from my kids. They live with their mother, and I see them the third weekend of each month and during school breaks. The weekend visits are very stressful. I come into town, but they always have things planned, like a baseball or soccer game, and their mother is the coach, so she's always there. That means I have one day a month — Sunday — to be with my kids by myself on my time. It's not enough time to do anything. I'm thinking when I

Ex-Etiquette



come into town, they should be able to spend the time with me, not be stuck going to a soccer game. Their mother says, "After the game." What's good ex-etiquette?

A. Ah, the "my time" dilemma. Let me clarify: It's not "your time." It's your

kids' time. Their lives do not stop because you come into town. You assimilate into their lives, not they into yours.

So, if they have games or a special project on your scheduled week, join the party, and be excited to be part of your children's lives. If you want to plan something special for a weekend, try negotiating for a different time when they are not playing. Or you can always move closer to your children so you can actually be part of their lives instead of just visiting.

I often hear complaints

like yours from parents who do not live close to their kids. Some say the other parent manipulated the situation and moved to keep the kids away from them. At times that is true, and if that has happened, shame on their mother. But more often, a parent thinks now that the relationship is over, "I'm outta here," only to find that it's not so easy to remain visible in their kids' lives from 200 miles away.

Another complaint I often hear is that the long-distance parent cannot be a parent when they are in town. ("The kids ask their

mother for permission whenever I want to take them somewhere on my weekend! I can't be their parent!")

Aggravating, but let's look at it from another point of view.

In your case, mom is the primary parent. This is not always the case, but it is with your parenting plan. They are used to asking her for permission. Ideally, if you give her a heads-up with your plans, she would be able to support you in front of the children.

As it is now, if the kids come home saying, "Dad is

taking us camping at the beach!" her response could very well be, "Wait a minute! What?" said in an irritated tone. That confuses the kids and undermines your authority.

Prior to coming into town, if you notify mom about plans, she can then support them. ("I know! He wanted to surprise you!")

However, don't get into a war about game weekends. Then you are making your kids choose between two things — and two parents — they love. Plan it in good faith so the kids can get the best of both worlds. That's good ex-etiquette.

Lack of intimacy threatens their 22-year marriage

DEAR ABBY: I'm 55 and have been married to my husband for 22 years. He was diagnosed with an autoimmune disease 12 years ago. He's mobile but on oxygen and has lost most of his stamina. At this point, everything in our life (friends, family and social life) revolves around his disease. He responds to any invitation we receive with, "We will see" which turns into a "no" or "I'd rather not," on the day of the event. I am free to attend on my own. Many of my friends have never met my

Dear Abby



husband, and some joke that I'm not really married.

I can live with this situation except for the lack of intimacy and sex. Sex was never a central part of our relationship, but the

nearly complete lack of intimacy over the last 10 years has been frustrating. If I try to discuss "my needs," he gets defensive and says, "File for divorce then!"

Since the last blow-up a couple months ago, I have tried to ignore my needs, but that isn't working. I am becoming judgmental and critical, and I know that living this way will make me increasingly resent him. My struggle is the thought of leaving someone I swore "for better or worse" with, for the selfishness of "my needs."

Any advice? — NEEDEY IN ALASKA

DEAR NEEDEY: Raise the subject again with your husband. When he says, "Well, divorce me then!" ask him if he really means what he is saying because there may be another option. There are no hard-and-fast rules for the situation in which you find yourself, and some couples deal with it discreetly. Ask yourself what you would do if the situation were reversed. Would

you want your husband to find an outlet for his sexual urges outside the marriage? If your honest answer is yes, and because you can no longer tolerate the status quo, your husband deserves to know.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Today

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place

at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will meet at noon Friday, July 7, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for

all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland.

New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

Prepare for power outages today

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Teen plans to fight for the future

By SHIV MEHROTRA-VARMA

The Fresno Bee
Tribune News Service

My heart races as I stroll briskly past the U.S. Capitol, sweat dripping down my back. The unforgiving heat does nothing to stem the surges of nervous adrenaline running through my veins.

The grandeur of the place stirs me, yet its ostentation pales in comparison to the weight of the mission I carry: advocating for urgent climate action.

As a 16-year-old from Fresno, I grew interested in learning about environmental issues when I witnessed the beauty of our national parks being threatened and local communities destroyed by a series of wildfires that ravaged central California in recent years. I never imagined my evolving passion for the environment would send me to the epicenter of American political power — D.C. — in a bid to voice my concerns

Shiv Mehrotra-Varma



about the impending climate catastrophe.

My fully funded trip was courtesy of Citizen's Climate Lobby's; I'm the co-leader of the Fresno Youth Action Team. We're an international organization, with a shared vision to address the climate crisis through meaningful action. Our lobbying efforts specifically focused on clean energy permitting reform, aimed at accelerating the process of building infrastructure for renewable energy sources, and the EICDA, which is designed to place a fee on carbon emissions while generating revenue to be

returned to households as a dividend.

My journey to the Capitol, accompanied by fellow CCL members, was dedicated to urging the passage of nonpartisan pro-climate bills. This nonpartisanship is what I admire most about CCL. People can have their own opinions; that's one of the most crucial aspects of democracy. But my fellow lobbyists and I understood that to tackle a problem as momentous as climate change, we all need to come together as a united front.

The importance of this front was underscored during the CCL conference, in the days of preparation leading up to Lobby Day. I encountered some of the most diligent and determined people I've ever met there. Among them were representatives from Ghana, who taught me that environmental degradation is not just a regional or national crisis, and CCL higher-ups from diverse

backgrounds, who taught me that anyone can make an impact.

I had the privilege of meeting with four congressmen and their staffers on lobby day. The meetings were not without their challenges.

While many congressional offices were warm and welcoming, several openly scoffed at the thought of supporting our main requests.

I stuttered at first, but with each meeting — even the most demoralizing ones — I grew more confident in utilizing the skills I'd learned as a debater in high school and during the conference. Each skeptical glance and dismissive comment served as a stark reminder of the uphill battle we were fighting.

And each interaction taught me something valuable. The congressmen, even those who disagreed, showed me the complexity of the decision-making process. Each voice had its own

priorities, its own concerns. I learned the importance of understanding their perspective, not just promoting my own. As the youngest in the room, I wasn't just representing myself or CCL — I was representing a generation, one that will inherit the consequences of decisions made today.

I finished the trip off with a bang by facing a fear that may even be shared by some congressional members: public speaking. Cracking (dumb) jokes in front of a thousand other CCL members while recounting my experiences was daunting, and perhaps a bit embarrassing, but I am so grateful for the warm reception my comments received.

Today, I'm not just a 16-year-old from Fresno, but a climate advocate and youth leader committed to inspiring my generation to act for a more sustainable future.

And I plan to fight for this cause for the rest of my life.

Founders knew value of free press

The Virginian-Pilot

Tribune News Service

In addition to being the revolutionaries who demanded independence from Great Britain and the visionaries who drafted the Constitution, many of America's Founding Fathers were journalists. Some owned and published newspapers, others wrote for them, but all understood the value of a free press to a fledgling democratic republic.

That's worth a bit of reflection following Independence Day. While the First Amendment protects the rights of journalists from government interference, hostility to the media runs counter to the nation's founding principles and if unchecked will make for a less-informed public and government run amok.

Five years ago this week, a man walked into the newsroom of The Capital in Annapolis, Maryland, and opened fire, killing five members of the newspaper staff and injuring two others. It remains the deadliest act of violence against American journalists.

While the gunman acted alone and was responsible for his actions, the shooting came amid growing hostility toward the press, including from political leaders who opportunistically used the press as a foil. One cannot forget attendees at campaign rallies for Donald Trump threatening reporters, egged on by the candidate.

That continued during his time in the White House and has not ebbed with his departure. His acolytes are all too eager to attack the media, whether warranted or not, and embrace conspiracy theories and falsehoods rather than detailed, factual and straightforward reporting.

That's not to say the media should be spared criticism or that journalists don't make mistakes. We shouldn't, and we do. But by and large, the work being done by American reporters is honest in intention and fair in approach. When mistakes are made, they are promptly and prominently corrected.

That's especially true at the local level, far away from the chattering heads on national cable news every night. Community newspapers and smaller-scale media organizations work tirelessly to produce valuable, relevant and local journalism that informs

Guest Editorial

the public, holds government to account and holds a mirror to the areas they serve.

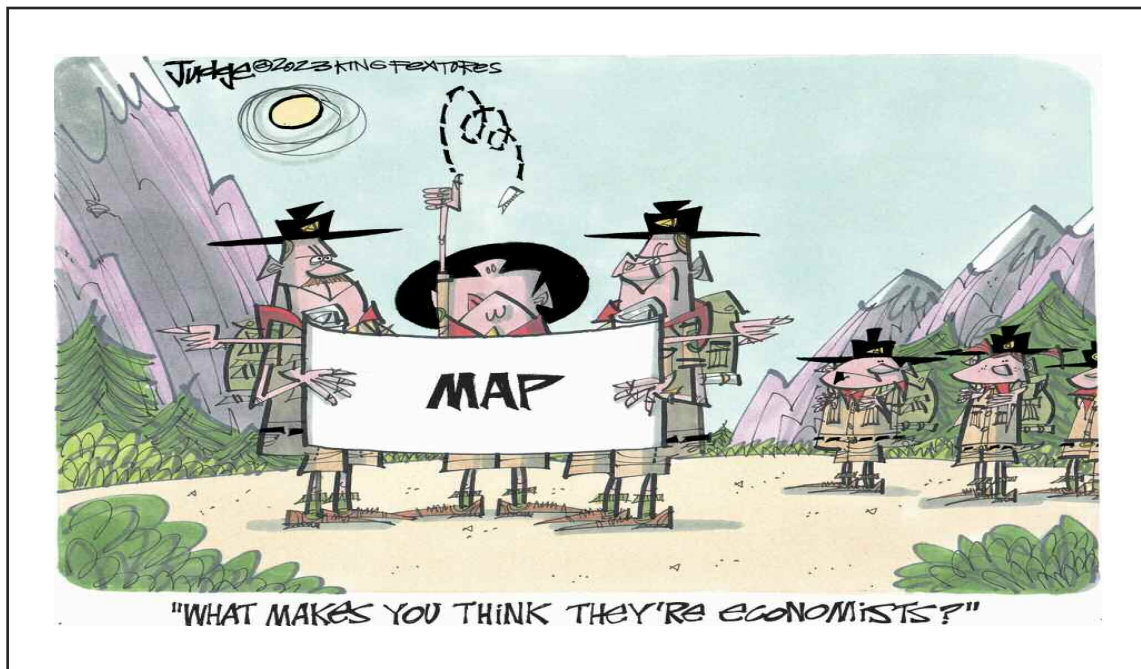
What happens in the absence of these news outlets? "In communities without a credible source of local news, voter participation declines, corruption in both government and business increases, and local residents end up paying more in taxes and at check-out," Northwestern's Medill School of Journalism, Media, Integrated Marketing Communications grimly writes in its 2022 "The State of Local News" report.

Yet, in spite of those consequences, the attacks on the press continue: laws that make it harder to obtain public records or attend public meetings, officials who feel entitled to conceal information from reporters and the public, law enforcement and courts which arrest and try journalists, here in America, for doing their jobs.

The founders, journalists themselves, knew that communities with newspapers thrived and prospered from being more informed. They recognized the value of journalism and the power of media to persuade the public. The Federalist Papers, arguing for ratification of the Constitution, are but one example and arguably the most important editorials published in American newspapers.

What would they think of politicians who baselessly attack the press in a cynical attempt to win a few more votes? What would they think of Americans who threaten and belittle journalists? Would they recognize a nation where the critical link between the public and its elected officials continues to weaken and where, in some communities, there is no coverage of civic affairs?

It's no stretch to believe they would be deeply concerned, if not outraged. And we can hope they would explore their peers in elected office and their fellow citizens to cease dangerous behavior that imperils journalists serving a critical role in our democracy.



Diversity unquestionably matters

By HARVEY YOUNG

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

The campaign against affirmative action has reduced the complicated process of college admissions to a simple and highly inaccurate sound bite: Black and brown students are being admitted over higher-achieving white and Asian American applicants. Ascribed a flawed essence, affirmative action has become easier to reject.

In recent years, there has been an increase in state-level ballot initiatives to prohibit the consideration of race in the college application review process. And, of course, there have been the legal challenges with judicial decisions more closely tracking with the shift in public opinion away from inclusion. On Thursday, the Supreme Court in a 6-3 decision held that Harvard University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's efforts to create a diverse class violates the 14th Amendment's equal protection clause. In short, a majority of the court determined that it was time for affirmative action to end.

Affirmative action, at its core, encourages steps (actions) to positively (affirmatively) enable a culture in which talented folks with great potential will not be denied educational or employment opportunities because of their race, religion, gender or national origin. It is corrective — by saying that past practices of exclusion are no longer tolerable or justifiable.

A long and unfortunate history of exclusion exists within the American educational system. Simply walk across certain university campuses during summer reunion season, and you will be able to ascertain by looking at attendees assembled by class year when that school began in earnest to admit women, nonwhite racial minorities and/or international students. This was something that I realized when I attended my first Yale reunion more than 20 years ago.

College admissions is a complex endeavor. It is sufficiently challenging when misinformed narratives — the idea that a person was rejected or accepted solely because of self-identified race or gender — gain traction.

Harvey Young



The reality is that a lot of people apply to college, and depending on the school, some or most or nearly all applicants will not receive an offer of admission.

To take an extreme example: Yale admitted only 2,275 out of 52,250 applicants this past school year. Although the demographics of the incoming class, beyond their geographic origin, have not yet been posted, history tells us that probably less than 7% or fewer than 150 these students will self-identify as Black or African American. To put this in perspective, the self-identified Black population of the United States is a bit less than 14%; 33% of the residents in New Haven, Connecticut, where Yale is located, identify as Black.

Clearly, the 150 Black students who will constitute the Class of 2027 are not the reason 50,000 people did not receive offers of admission. To assert otherwise is a convenient lie and poor math. Such a contention also willfully overlooks the qualifications and aptitude of the students, of all backgrounds, who received offers of admission.

There are many factors that inform an admission decision within a holistic review of an application. How would you compare an Olympic gold medalist with mostly A's and a straight-A student with distinguished service as a community volunteer? How would you evaluate the potential of an applicant who was elected student body president in high school and aims to be the first person in their family to attend college in comparison with a legacy applicant, whose family members have attended the college for generations always with great distinction?

The admissions review process is even more complex than these scenarios. Indeed, there are scores of variables. Geographic origin can be

one. Yale's incoming class includes students hailing from all 50 states in addition to four U.S. territories and more than 70 countries.

This geographic diversity is a reminder that one of the many benefits of a college education is the opportunity to be introduced to a diversity of ideas. And this exposure works only if there is a diversity of people. To bring together talented folks with great potential from various backgrounds and allow them to spend four years together is exceptional training to live and, perhaps, lead in an increasingly interconnected world.

The challenge, which prompts the various lawsuits, is a question of how to think about the value ascribed to self-identified race, gender, religion and national origin among these many other variables. For whatever reason, people seem more willing to understand that it is a good thing for a person from North Dakota to be roommates with someone from California, but they struggle to comprehend why it would be a good thing for two people with varying experiences as a result of their gender, ethnicity or national identities to be in conversation.

For much of the past 20 years, I have held leadership roles at selective universities. Although the undergraduate admissions process has always existed outside of my purview, I have witnessed firsthand the good that occurs when students with great potential who possess varying experiences and contrasting beliefs come together. They learn as much from one another as they do from their professors in the classroom.

Although the death knell of affirmative action has sounded, it is difficult to imagine universities and colleges closing their doors to the populations they deliberately excluded in the past. One of the lessons of recent efforts toward inclusion has been that excellence emerges not from a uniformity of look and thought but rather through a diversity of ideas and people.

.....
Young is dean of the College of Fine Arts at Boston University.

The Commercial Review



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More farmers selling direct

By JAMI MARTIN-TRAINOR

The Gazette (Cedar Rapids, Iowa)
Tribune News Service

Around 3,000 Iowa farms are now selling meat directly to consumers, up 50 percent from the number doing that in 2015.

Amana Farms Beef was one of those operations that made that shift during the pandemic and its concurrent supply chain problems.

"Some of those folks were being put on a waiting list for not just months, but years, to be able to get a slot to get an animal in and get it processed," said John McGrath, general manager of Amana Farms.

"Because we're a larger-sized producer, we were able to work with a medium-sized processor and they were able to get us in with just a couple of weeks' notice."

In the past, individuals have been able to order meat directly from farmers if they had a personal connection with the farmer. Opening up that opportunity to the public works much like that, McGrath said.

Selling points

McGrath said another reason for shifting the Amana Farms' business model was customers wanting more transparency about the food they eat.

"There has been more of a movement for folks desiring to know the people that are raising their food and want to know more about it," he said.

Chris Montross, from the family-owned Montross Cattle Farm in Williamsburg, said he switched to a direct-order model in the fall of 2021 to reach more customers during the pandemic.

Since then, Montross said, he's continued to emphasize the safety of his farm's meat.

Montross described his farm's meat as "perfectly safe" because the product the farm sells is raised in their own facilities and taken to a local processor, eliminating any risk associated with sourcing meat.

A growing industry

Direct-order meat sales in Iowa totaled just under \$30 million in 2020, according to U.S. Department of Agriculture statistics cited by Amanda Van Steenwyk, farm business development manager for the Iowa Farm Bureau.

In 2015, she said, just over 2,000 Iowa farms were selling direct to consumers. That number had increased to nearly 3,000 by 2020, when the pandemic set in.

One reason for the growth, she said, is the increased control farmers have over pricing the business model gives them.

"The idea of being a price-setter instead of a price-taker, for many operations, is appealing," Van Steenwyk said. "Farmers are entrepreneurs at heart — they see the opportunity, and they want to seize the opportunity."

While direct-order programs are more work than selling to distributors, the financial benefits and the control over profits balance out the additional costs of shipping and communication with customers, she said.

Reaching customers

Jennifer Hinrichs, the program manager for the direct-order meat at Amana Farms Beef, said the process has been full of learning what customers are looking for in the cuts and the bundling of meat.

Both McGrath and Montross said the public response to the direct-order meat programs have been wholly positive.

"We've been very well received," Montross said. "Getting it in people's hands is the hardest part for us."



Tribune News Service/Dreamstime

The Liberty Street Garden will give survivors of trafficking and exploitation a shot at a steady hourly job that provides organic fruits, vegetables and herbs to farmers markets and local restaurants in Dallas.

Planting new life

Vegetable garden provides hope to trafficking victims

By JASON BEEFERMAN

The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

DALLAS — Any gardener knows that a successful garden requires patience, commitment and tender, delicate care.

Some Dallas residents are learning when they do just that, they can reap a whole lot more than what they've sowed.

A new garden in the Wilson Historic District gives survivors of trafficking and exploitation the chance to not only plant peppers, purple peas and zucchinis, but new lives of their own.

"For some of these ladies, this is the first job they've ever had," said Kim High, the garden's farm director. "Putting your hands in that dirt, it's just absolutely therapeutic. It's just like something touches you or something."

The Meadows Foundation, New Friends New Life and Bonton Farms broke ground on a

new 1-acre project labeled the Liberty Street Garden. The garden, funded through a Meadows Foundation grant, will give survivors of trafficking and exploitation a shot at a steady hourly job that provides organic fruits, vegetables and herbs to farmers markets and local restaurants in Dallas.

The garden will provide six members of the New Friends New Life women's program with a part-time gardening position. The women will work alongside High, a celebrated gardener in her own right, to grow fresh produce, and earn \$10 an hour. The apprenticeships are slated to last about 6 to 9 months, with room for promotion.

"Working at Liberty Street Garden allows (a survivor) to build her skills while earning an income in a space where she knows that she is accepted, valued and capable," said Bianca

Davis, the CEO of New Friends New Life. "And how serendipitous that this garden exists on a street named Liberty. You can't make that up."

The Meadows Foundation, a wide-ranging charity focused on improving life in Texas, helped create the project with New Friends New Life, a charity that helps to empower trafficked and sexually exploited teen girls, women and their children. Together, with the help of the South Dallas-based nonprofit Bonton Farms, the garden will help give the women "a tangible opportunity to soar above the limits of their past and achieve their dreams," Davis said.

Gay Donnell Williams, City Council member from District 13 and vice chair of the Domestic Violence and Human Trafficking Advisory Council, said New Friends New Life has played a vital role in supporting sur-

vivors of trafficking and prostitution in the Dallas area for decades.

"People being able to work out here and just going through the cathartic exercise of tending to life, I think it's going to be a big thing for them," she said. "This is so critical, helping these folks be compensated, be in a role that is understanding of the trauma they've lived through, and it can help them reach that next step on a path to stability."

Ollie, an apprentice at the Liberty Street Garden who asked to only be identified by first name, said she used to garden as a child with her grandmother, and working the garden brings back those special memories.

"It's a joy doing the garden with these ladies, working with the people I'm around," she said. "Everybody is getting along, no one is arguing, there's a peace of mind."

Russia: There's time to extend grain deal

dpa

Tribune News Service

MOSCOW — The Kremlin says there is still time to meet Russian demands and extend the agreement which allows the shipping of Ukrainian grain across the Black Sea.

"There is still time to implement the part of the agreements that affect our country," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said on Wednesday, according to the official Russian news agency TASS.

The part of the agreement concerning Russia has not yet been fulfilled. "And accordingly, at the

moment, unfortunately, there is no basis for extending this agreement," Peskov asserted.

Russia has not yet announced a decision on the future of the grain deal.

Peskov said Moscow would announce their decisions "in time."

Russia has rejected an EU proposal which called for a subsidiary of the state-owned Russian Agricultural Bank to be set up to handle financial transactions.

The grain agreement, which also matters in the fight against world hunger, expires on July 17.

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Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts. North leads the ten of spades, and dummy's jack wins the trick. How would you play the hand?

- WEST: A K 5 2, A K 7 6 5 4, A, K 4. EAST: A 1 6 3, Q 3, 9 7 6 5 3 2, A Q.

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Five Clubs, reached via this sequence:

- West: 1 A, 4 A. North: 1 A, Pass. East: 3 A, 5 A. South: Pass.

North leads the king of diamonds. How would you play the hand?

- WEST: A K 10, A K J, J 3, J 10 8 6 4 2. EAST: A 1 9 5, Q 7, A 4 2, A K 9 5 3.

To guard against both possibilities, cash the queen of hearts at trick two and then lead a spade toward your hand. If South ruffs, you have the rest of the tricks, so let's assume he either follows suit or discards a club.

You win the trick with the ace, return to dummy with a club and lead another spade. Again, you're confident of the outcome, regardless of what South does. If he discards, you win with the king and ruff your remaining spade in dummy to assure 12 tricks, while if he ruffs, you are also home free.

Observe that the suggested method of play is equally effective if North has four trumps.

2. Your potential losers are two spades and a diamond, since North might have the A-Q of spades in addition to the K-Q of diamonds. In order to overcome this possibility, your best bet is to arrange an endplay.

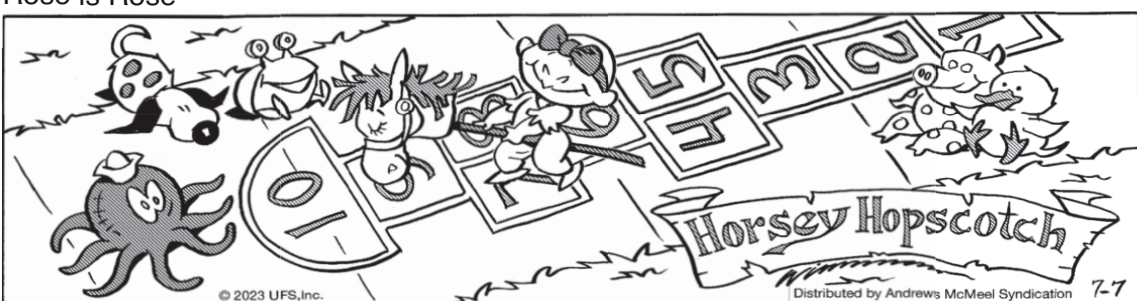
Accordingly, you win the king of diamonds with the ace and draw trump. You then play the A-K-J of hearts, discarding a diamond from dummy. Now you play the jack of diamonds, saddling North with the lead and forcing him to lead a spade or yield a ruff-and-discard. Either way, the contract is home.

Tomorrow: Looks can be deceiving. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc.

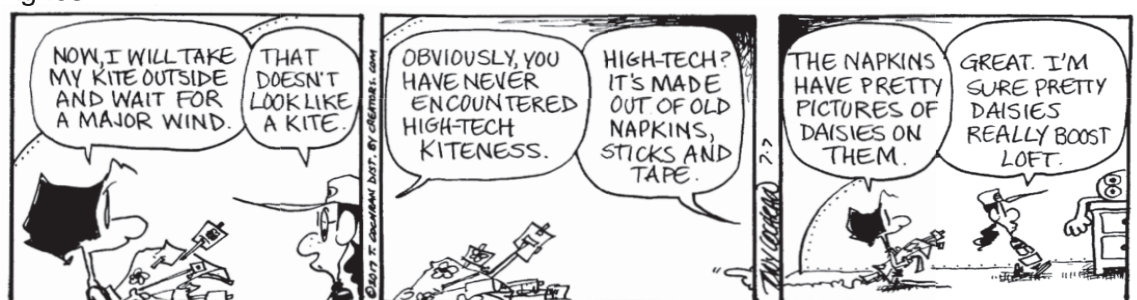
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Agnes



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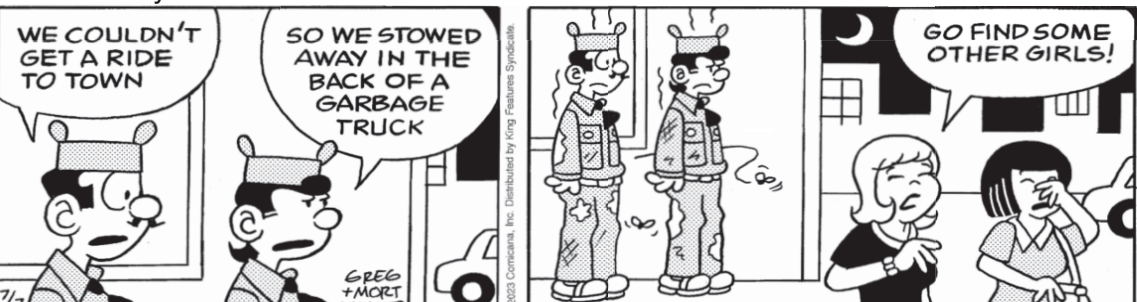
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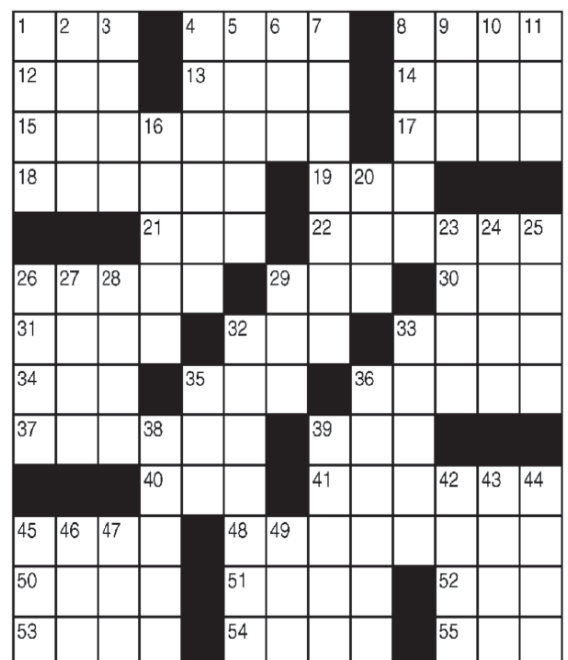
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 PC program, 4 Grand tale, 8 Deep cut, 12 Lucy of "Kill Bill", 13 Diner's card, 14 Former mates, 15 Flemish cartographer, 17 Sala-mander, 18 Narrow waterway, 19 "Aladdin" monkey, 21 Aviate, 22 Sneezer's need, 26 Minnesota's 10,000+, 29 "- hoo!", 30 UFO crew, 31 Decorates with frosting, 32 Sailor, 33 Radar dot, 34 Blunder, 35 Annoy, 36 Pilot portrayed by Tom Hanks. DOWN: 25 Catch sight of, 26 "Ray Donovan" star, 3 Kitten's sound, 4 Online messages, 5 Trivial, 6 Daughter of Cadmus, 7 Museum VIP, 8 Category, 9 Chopper, 10 Stitch, 11 DDE predecessor, 16 Bistros, 20 Life story, 23 Vend, 24 Gas co., for one, 33 Anatomical sac, 35 Hostel, 36 Nuanced, 38 Cries from sties, 39 Caravan stops, 42 Nevada neighbor, 43 Peregrinate, 44 Apothecary measure, 45 Small ammo, 46 Chic no more, 47 Away from SSW, 49 Clean air org.

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Djokovic becomes third to 350

PA Media/dpa
Tribune News Service

LONDON — Novak Djokovic reached yet another milestone as he continued his quest for an eighth Wimbledon title.

Victory for Djokovic over Australia's Jordan Thompson in the second round on Wednesday meant he became only the third player in history, along with Roger Federer and Serena Williams, to rack up 350 match wins at Grand Slams.

The 23-time major champion, bidding to equal Federer's record of eight titles on the London grass, was never at full throttle against world No. 70 Thompson.

He broke serve just twice but still registered a relatively rou-

Victory over Thompson pushes Serbian to milestone

time 6-3, 7-6 (4), 7-5 victory, extending his record Centre Court winning streak to 41 matches — his last defeat coming to Andy Murray in the 2013 final.

Djokovic, also chasing the calendar Grand Slam and bidding to become Wimbledon's oldest men's singles champion at 36, said: "Centre Court has been the most special court for our tennis history. I truly try to marvel and

enjoy every moment I spend on the court.

"It's a huge privilege at this stage of my career when I'm trying to push the young guns. We have a very special, romantic relationship, me and this court."

Djokovic will face either Tomas Martin Etcheverry or former Grand Slam winner Stan Wawrinka in round three.

Federer, who retired last year

and visited Wimbledon on Tuesday, has no doubt his mark is about to be equaled by Djokovic.

He told CNN: "I think he's the big, big favorite. Honestly, I think it's great for him. I had my moments.

"For me, having won my eighth or my fifth in a row or whatever it may be, that was my moment.

"So if somebody equals that or passes that, this is their thing, their moment."

Ninth seed Taylor Fritz finally won his first-round match, two days after it started.

Bad light, and then Tuesday's rain, meant the American and Germany's Yannick Hanfmann resumed on Wednesday at 3-2 in the fifth set, and Fritz took it 6-4, 2-6, 4-6, 7-5, 6-3.

Former world No. 3 Dominic Thiem was a set up on Greek fifth seed Stefanos Tsitsipas when the rain forced them off at lunchtime on Tuesday.

But in a late evening thriller on Court Two, Tsitsipas won a deciding match tie-break at 6-6 in the fifth set to set up a second-round meeting with Andy Murray.

American Frances Tiafoe, seeded 10th, was a straight-sets winner over Wu Yibing of China.

But while they are through to Round 2 and Djokovic is already safely in Round 3, spare a thought for Alexander Zverev, the 19th seed who has still yet to play his first-round match against Gijs Brouwer.



Photos provided

PJL awards

Portland Junior League distributed awards at the end of tournaments June 30. At left, from left, are Rookie softball sportsmanship award winner Kennedy Newell, Miss Softball Carsyn Guggenbiller and Rookie of the Year Kynlee Homan. On the right, from left, are Rookie baseball sportsmanship award winner Cage Reynolds, Mr. Baseball Koda Johnson and Rookie of the Year Kase VanSkyock.

Rookie ...

Continued from page 8
De La Cruz also explained his use of the empty plastic sensor on his bat, saying "it's something that we use in spring training."
"It's just a sensor that we use, but it's just the plastic that cov-

ers the bat. There's nothing else besides that," he said. "I started using it back in 2021. It just felt more comfortable using that, and from there on out I asked for more of those plastic shells."
However, not all parties were

pleased with De La Cruz's gesture following his home run.

"I am not trying to penalize this kid. I'm not. I love the way he plays the game," Martinez said. "I didn't like his antics after he hit the home run. We can do

without that. He's only got two weeks in the big leagues, but he's going to be a good player."

De La Cruz, who made his MLB debut on June 6, has helped spur the Reds to a 21-6 record since joining the team, landing

them in first place in the National League Central. The Dominican Republic native is hitting .318 with four home runs, eight doubles, 14 RBI, an .892 OPS and 11 stolen bases in 26 games for the Reds.

Sports on tap

TV sports

Today
6 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)
6 p.m. — USGA golf: U.S. Women's Open (USA)
7 p.m. — NBA Summer League basketball: Portland Trail Blazers vs. Houston Rockets (ESPN)
9 p.m. — NBA Summer League basketball: Charlotte Hornets at San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)
11 p.m. — NBA Summer League basketball: Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Lakers (ESPN)

Saturday
8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)
1 p.m. — Auto racing: Pro Motocross

Championship (NBC)
2 p.m. — WNBA basketball: Seattle Storm at New York Liberty (ESPN)
7:15 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Seattle Mariners at Houston Astros (FOX)
8 p.m. — NBA Summer League basketball: Indiana Pacers vs. Washington Wizards (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — Mixed martial arts: UFC 290 — Yair Rodriguez vs. Alexander Volkov (ESPN)

Local notes

Hunt applications open
The Indiana Department of Natural Resources is accepting applications for reserved hunts.

Applications can be made for dove, deer, squirrel, teal and goose hunts. Hunters will be selected through a random drawing.
To apply, visit on.IN.gov/reserved-hunt.

5K circuit continues July 22
The next race in the Jay County 5K Circuit is scheduled for July 22. The Bonus 5K is scheduled for 8 a.m. July 22. The race will be at the IU Health Jay trail.
Registration is \$20.
The circuit features eight races running from April through August. Awards are presented in nine divisions.
For more information, visit runjay-county.com.

Chamber outing scheduled

Jay County Chamber of Commerce will hold its golf outing July 21. The event will begin with registration at 9 a.m. followed by a shotgun start at 10 a.m.
Registration is \$250 per team and is open now by emailing tabby@jaycountychamber.com or visiting the chamber office at 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. The event is limited to 20 teams and the deadline is July 10.
For more information, call (260) 726-4481.

Swiss Days race set
Registration is open for the 50th annual Swiss Days Race.

The event is scheduled for July 29 with a 5K at 8:15 a.m. and a 1-mile race for children 11 and younger at 9:15 a.m. Awards will be presented to the top 10 in each age group and there will be refreshments for all participants.
To register, search for "Swiss Days Race" at rungsingup.com.

Flag football registration open
Registration for Jay Community Center's Boomer Fall Flag Football is now open.
The league is for children ages 3 through 12. Games will be played on Saturdays from Aug. 26 through Oct. 7 at Jay County Recreation Complex, 5363 W. 450 South, Portland.
Registration is \$60 for those who sign up by July 31. For more information, visit jaycc.org.

sign up by July 31. For more information, visit jaycc.org.

Soccer sign-ups available now
Registration for Jay Community Center's Boomer Fall Soccer league is now open.

The league is for children ages 3 through 14. Games will be played on Saturdays from Aug. 26 through Oct. 7 at Jay County Recreation Complex, 5363 W. 450 South, Portland.
Registration is \$60 for those who sign up by July 31. For more information, visit jaycc.org.

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, July 15, 2023
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 106 S West St., Eaton, IN
ANTIQUES — COLLECTIBLES — PRIMITIVES
Mercury, Sears, Radio Jet, Greyhound and others children's wagons, Aladdin and collectible hand painted lamps, Fredrick Cooper lamp, gold, silver and costume jewelry, full line of Jackie O jewelry, large collection of sports cards to include: Mark McGwire rookie card, Lawrence Taylor and Bo Jackson, Michael Jordan, and 100s more, Pokemon cards to include Snorlax 1999 first series in America, Garbage Pail kids cards, GI Joe figures and vehicles, signed sports pictures and memorabilia, and others.
FURNITURE — TOOLS — MISC.
Square dining room

90 SALE CALENDAR

table with 6 chairs and matching hutch, show and display cases, roll top secretary, Longaberger baskets, Craftsman 10 inch radial arm saw, shop and hand tools, lawn and garden tools of all kinds.
OWNERS: Larry Wells
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229
Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587
Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, July 8, 2023
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 3430 W ST RTE 67 Portland, IN
ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-HOUSEHOLD
Large carousel horse on pedestal, complete Lionel train set,

90 SALE CALENDAR

Kerosene lamps, drop leaf table, wicker chairs and sofa, wrought iron tripod, Howard Miller grandfather clock with glass sides, lighted curio cabinet, leather rocker recliner, small roll top desk, jewelry boxes, end tables, globe on stand, Oak 5 piece queen size bedroom suite, 2 piece queen bedroom suite, Maytag washer and dryer, Amana washer and dryer, Kirby sweeper, lawn and garden tools, Confederate State quarter collection
NOTE: Large Auction Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
OWNERS: Donna Lee Estate
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE
AC31800004
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110 HELP WANTED

you, please apply online at cpcommunities.com/portl and or apply in house at 745 Patriot Drive, Portland, IN 47371. We look forward to hearing from you
JAY COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY - Applications are now being accepted for the part-time position of Library Student Page. Job requires both strong customer service skills and attention to detail. Job description and application are available to pick up at the library. High school and college students are encouraged to apply. Applications accepted until the position is filled.
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Sports

Indians win in opener

FORT RECOVERY — The Indians made it to the district tournament, giving them the opportunity to play on their home field.

The Fort Recovery ACME baseball team isn't squandering the opportunity to play at The LeFevre Family Baseball and Softball Complex as a three-run first inning powered a 5-2 win over the Minster ACME baseball team in the opening round of the ACME District 4 tournament on Wednesday.

The win earned the Indians a game in the winner's bracket against Versailles while Minster matched up with Coldwater.

Fort Recovery didn't waste time putting runs on the board. Reece Wendel led off with a single before being cut down trying to swipe second base. Back-to-back walks to Caden Grizes and Gavin Faller along with an Alex Gaerke single loaded the bases with only one out.

Mason Diller delivered the hit that cracked the board for the Indians. A double to center field scored both Grisez and Faller.

Reece Evers hit a ground ball to score the third and final run of the first inning to push the lead to three.

That's all the Indians would need to win the game as Grisez held the Wildcats to only two runs in a winning effort on the mound. Despite giving up five hits, both runs were unearned.

In the first inning, Connor Schmiesing — who scored the run — reached base on an error by Alex Dues at shortstop and Brandon Lickteig drove the second run in the second when Colson Post committed an error at second base.

Fort Recovery's final two runs came in the third inning. Evers reached base on an error that allowed a run to score before Riggs Tobe hit a single to center field to score Evers.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Sliding safely

Avery Lykins of the Redkey All-Stars starts her slide on the way to scoring a run Monday evening during the Redkey Firecracker tournament at Redkey Morgan Park. Redkey knocked off Yorktown in the game, 2-1.

Reds rookie continues to crush

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Cincinnati Reds rookie phenom Elly De La Cruz has a knack for shining in big moments.

The 21-year-old shortstop launched a 455-foot home run in the fifth inning of Wednesday's 9-2 win over the host Washington Nationals. That home run not only gave the Reds a 5-1 lead, but also came after De La Cruz's

bat was checked for its legality by umpires earlier in the game.

In the second inning, Nationals manager Dave Martinez asked umpires to check De La Cruz's bat, which had an empty plastic sensor cover on the knob. Umpires ultimately forced De La Cruz to remove the empty sensor cover, and he struck out swinging during his at-bat.

Umpires conferred with Major League Baseball's league office in New York about the legality of the plastic sensor cover, and they informed the umpires that De La Cruz was allowed to re-apply it on his bat.

After De La Cruz's home run in the fifth inning, he turned and gestured toward the Reds'

dugout by pointing to the empty plastic sensor on the knob of his bat.

"Just to tell everybody that the knob is not the reason why I am doing a good job," De La Cruz said of his gesture after his home run. "It's because of all the work I'm putting out there."

See Rookie Page 7

FAIR WEEK

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