The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Major damage



A tree smashed the northwest corner of the home of Rhonda Link when it fell during storms early Saturday morning. Jay County Emergency Management Agency reported that as of Sunday it had assessed varying degrees of damage to 60 residences and businesses in Portland in addition to nine rural properties.

Falling trees landed on homes, smashed vehicles during severe wind storm early Saturday morning

By RAY COONEY

Commercial Review

Trees on homes and Power lines down.

Outdoor strewn all over.

A storm that blew through Jay County early Saturday left a assessed damage of varyswath of damage in its wake, with the most severe reported this Portland as well as nine in the morning, so we didmorning on the east side rural properties. of Portland.

"It's probab Portland Street Departsuperintendent Tom Leonhard, whose crews were working to clear fallen trees that were blocking streets.

"East end's the worst," he added. "Race and Wal- Davisson while another

nut on the east end are came down and landed on the worst.'

There was also damage to properties in the northwest and southeast areas furniture of the county. Jay County Emergency Management Agency reported that as of noon Sunday, it had ing degrees to 60 residences and businesses in

since I've been here," said residents could place tree of a sudden I heard a debris near the curb for bunch of glass shattering, pickup beginning Mon-

At 403 E. Arch St., one tree fell and hit the northeast corner of the home ed on the 709 W. Race St. of Ryan and Kristen home of Rhonda Link.

their vehicles and garage on the south side of the property.

"It started storming, but we were all in bed, said Kristen Davisson, the sound of chain saws roaring behind her as others worked to clear the massive fallen tree. "And it was between 3 and 3:30 n't hear no sirens or any-Portland Mayor John thing. ... You heard the and then a big thump that shook the house.

"It was a nightmare." Another tree had land-

See **Damage** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

This truck parked on North Street, just east of Meridian Street, was one of a slew of vehicles that were damaged or destroyed by fallen trees in Saturday morning's storm.

Bomb at rally leaves 40 dead

Explosion occurred at **Pakistan** political event

By ZIA KHAN

Tribune News Service

ISLAMABAD — A bomb went off at the rally of an Islamic political party in north-western Pakistan on Sunday, killing at least 40 people and wounding many more, officials said.

The bomb exploded inside the packed venue of a rally organized by the Jamiat Ulama e Islam party in the restive region of Bajaur, an area once controlled by the Pakistani Taliban, a separate group from their Afghan counterparts.

"Around 150 injured people were taken to the hospital," local doctor Faisal Khan said, adding that the death toll had risen to at least 40.

Many injured people were in critical condition and were being airlifted to hospitals in the city of Peshawar, rescue department spokesman Bilal Faizi told dpa.

"We fear the death toll will increase," he added.

Ahead of national elections in Pakistan set for later this year, activists of the party had been gathering inside a walled compound for a workers' convention taking place near the Afghan border.

The president of the party, Maulana Fazalur Rehman, leads a governing alliance of several small parties and has survived at least three attacks by the Taliban in the past. He is considered a supporter of Taliban in neighboring rule Afghanistan.

Party spokesman Hafiz Hamdullah said a local leader was among the dead while two national MPs were wounded in the bombing that he condemned as "savage."

988 is seeing increased usage

By IAN MUNRO The Virginian-Pilot

Tribune News Service The new national number for

mental health emergencies 988 — has been contacted five million times across the country since it was introduced a year ago July 9, according to national

Virginia has been expanding its ability to take these calls, according to the Virginia Department of Behavioral Health and Developmental Serv-

Between May 2022 and May of this year, the department's five regional hubs fielded about 75,000 more calls than in previous years, said Bill Howard, director of crisis operations.

The department started working with call centers to divert mental health crisis calls in 2021. In Virginia, the call centers are where the "tapestry" of local, state and federal mental health services comes together, Howard said.

he said. For example, the 988 line helps with response for the Marcus Alert legislation enacted after a high school teacher was shot to death in Richmond during a mental health crisis in 2018. Virginia localities are trying to prepare such mental health crisis programs by July 2026. Virginia Beach was the first to have a pilot program in Hampton

Responses from call centers range across four levels from lowest risk to highest:

In January 2021, state call centers received 1,886 calls, 52% with an average answer time of 35 seconds. By May 2023, they fielded 5,671 calls with an average answer time of 20 seconds, according to data provided by the department.

"We view this as the entry point to the crisis system with someone to talk to, someone to respond and a place to go,'



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fourth at Drums

Members of the Jay County High School Marching Patriots drumline perform Saturday night during the Drums at Winchester competition. JCHS scored 74.038 points to finish in fourth place behind defending Indiana State Fair champion Kokomo (79.725), Anderson (75.025) and Richmond (74.95). The Marching Patriots will hold their ice cream social from 6:30 to 8 p.m. tonight with their state fair preview show scheduled for 8:30 p.m.

Deaths

Weather

Jay County had a high of 84 degrees Sunday. The low was

Tonight's low will be around 60.

Skies will be partly cloudy Wednesday with a high in the lower 80s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will partner to host a free food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday at Jay

County Fairgrounds. Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Jay School Board meeting.

Thursday — Preview of the Indiana State Fair Band Day Contest.



John Bihn, 76, Fort Recov-Details on page 2.

Obituaries

John Bihn

June 2, 1947-July 28, 2023 John J. Bihn, 76, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away on Friday, July 28, 2023, at his home.

He was born on June 2, 1947, in Celina, Ohio, to the late John H. and Cleopha (Fullenkamp)

In addition to his parents, John was also preceded in death by his wife, Marlene (Siefring) Bihn, whom he married on Nov. 26, 1966, and who passed away on Feb. 23, 2007; his siblings, Leonard, Thomas, Edward and Susan Bihn; his brother-in-law, Dale Link; and his sister-in-law, Patricia Siefring.

John is survived by his children, Susan (Larry) Homan of Fort Recovery, Christopher ginie) Vasseur of France; his

(Amy) Bihn of Fort Recovery, Lori (Andrew) Bruggeman of St. Henry, Ohio, Tina (Dan) Dirksen of Portland, Lynette (Doug) Hughes of Rockford, Ohio,



dren; and 19 great grandchil-

dren. John is also survived by

his "adopted" son, Gildas (Vir-



Bihn

of Ansonia, Ohio, Jerry (Becky) Bihn of Fort Recovery and Ralph (Kathy) Bihn of Minster, Ohio; his sister-in-law, Jackie Bihn of Vandalia, Ohio; his In-Laws, Eugene Siefring of New Weston, Ohio, Barbara Link of Portland, Ruth (Louis) Grisez of New Weston, and Cindy (Mark) Knapke of Fort Recovery; countless nieces and nephews; and five godchildren. John was a skilled tool and die

siblings, Linda (Don) Boeckman

maker, but he was so much more. He was an inventor, patent holder and farmer, and was the owner/operator of Teamwork Tooling. He has been called a wiseguy and storyteller. He was a devout Catholic and a member of Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church in Fort

Recovery. Most of all, he was caring, loving and loyal. He loved playing Santa Claus, and it was not uncommon for children to look, point or even come and sit on his lap and tell him their Christmas wishes. He treasured his visits with family and friends and enjoyed all the cards he received.

A Mass of Christian Burial will take place at 10:30 a.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 2, 2023, at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery, with Fathers Alexander Witt and Michael Kapolka concelebrating. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

Guests may visit with John's family on Tuesday, Aug. 1, 2023, from 2 to 7 p.m. and again on Wednesday, from 9 to 10 a.m. at

Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery.

Memorial contributions may be given to either Padre Pio Foundation, 463 Main St., Cromwell, CT 06416, or the Cancer Association of Mercer County, P.O. Box 624, Celina, OH 45822 Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

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 datetime/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary serv-

CR almanac

	Wednesday 8/2	Thursday 8/3	Friday 8/4	Saturday 8/5	Sunday 8/6
	83/64	85/66	86/64	83/62	84/64
	Mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a chance of rain at night.	There's a slight chance of showers and thunder- storms on Thursday.		Mostly sunny with a small chance of showers and thunder- storms.	Another day of mostly sunny skies and the pos sibility o rain.

Lotteries

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$74 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$1.05 billion

Hoosier

Sunday Midday Daily Three: 0-8-9 Daily Four: 1-7-9-6 Evening Daily Three: 6-3-3 Daily Four: 3-2-8-1 Quick Draw: 1-4-8-9-12-16-19-22-28-31-33-39-41-5259-67-70-72-76-80 Cash 5: 23-24-26-32-36 Estimated jackpot:

Ohio

Sunday Midday Pick 3: 6-9-7 Pick 4: 1-2-2-7 Pick 5: 8-8-3-8-1 Evening Pick 3: 7-8-8 Pick 4: 8-1-9-3 Pick 5: 9-4-7-5-2 Rolling Cash 5: 11-16-17-22-24

Estimated jackpot: \$202,000

the city. 'I felt my house shake," said Lori

McIntosh of 603 E. High St., who in a Facebook post had said her neighborhood looked like a disaster zone. "Everything shook. It shook twice." Neighbors Ron and Karin Somers

Damage

Continued from page 1 There were multiple trees down along High Street on the east side of

then called to ask if she was OK, informing her that her house had damage to its roof and that a patio canopy had blown away along with outdoor furniture. (Her husband, Steve, a member of Portland Board of Works, was away camping for Swiss Days in Berne.) The roof damage resulted in water leaking into the house.

"It's just a lot of clean up," McIntosh said. "But we're fortunate because from what I've heard ... there's some people in town who got a lot worse. ... We're fortunate because everything that we had can be fixed.

She, Steve and their son Mark, a Berne resident, were already working on covering the hole in the roof before 9 a.m. Saturday.

A house owned by Terry and Michelle Storie at 933 E. High St. was surrounded by what was left of a tree that snapped off on the east side of the home, with part of it smashing a truck windshield. Multiple trees were uprooted east of Morton

Damage to vehicles, including one that was parked on the street in front

Tve never seen so many vehicles getting crushed by storms like this one.

—Bubba Swoveland, Portland Street Department

of the McIntosh home and several more just to the west, was a common sight in the city Saturday morning. Trees had also landed on vehicles on Pleasant Street, between High and Walnut streets, and on North Street. just east of Meridian Street.

"I've never seen so many vehicles getting crushed by storms like this one," said Bubba Swoveland of Portland Street Department.

The National Weather Service on Saturday morning reported that a line of thunderstorms had developed across Iowa late Friday and turned into a derecho — a widespread, longlived wind storm that can produce destruction similar to that of a tornado — as it moved across central Indiana. Widespread wind damage was reported, with wind gusts of more than 70 miles per hour. Tornadoes were confirmed in Cass County, Indiana, and Defiance County, Ohio.

The east side of Portland was without electricity. Multiple streets, including High Street between Hayes and Munson Streets, were blocked because of downed trees.

A "Rave Support Alert" went out Elkhart areas.

regarding a severe thunderstorm watch for the area until 5 a.m. had gone out shortly after midnight.

Some residents received an emergency alert from the National Weather Service on their cell phones regarding a tornado warning about 3:45 a.m. (At that point, some damage had already been done.) Others said they did not receive any sort of alert about the severe storm.

Swoveland said he got his first call at 3:10 a.m.

Residents were asked to stay at home Saturday morning in order to allow city crews time to clear the streets and Indiana Michigan Power to fix downed power lines. (County road 100 South was also closed between county roads 100 East and 300 East because of a downed line.) An update from Indiana Michigan Power at 10 a.m. Saturday indicated that 17,000 customers in its service had lost power, with about half having been restored. By the evening, all but about 1,500 had been restored with the bulk of those still without power in the South Bend and

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

POET Biorefining Portland				
Oct. corn	-			

Corn.....5.85 Aug. corn5.85 Oct./Nov. corn4.95

The Andersone

THE AHUEISONS				
Richland '	Township			
Corn				
Sept. corn	4.86			
Beans	13.95			

1589,

Clement, a Jacobin friar,

stabbed France's King

Henry II. He died the

next day after naming his

ally Henry of Navarre as

In 1819, writer Her-

man Melville was born in

New York City. He is best

known for the novel

In 1972, The Jay Coun-

ty 4-H auction set a

record as Penny Snyder's

grand champion hog sold

for \$1.47 per pound,

breaking the previous

In 1993, Natalie Banta

won the Miss Jay County

Fair Queen Pageant at

Jay County Fairgrounds.

ty High School Marching

In

his successor.

"Moby Dick."

record of \$1.05.

Today in history

Sept. beans12.86 Wheat 6.25

Central States

Montnelier

Montpone	
Corn	5.53
Late Aug. corn .	5.16
Beans	
Late Aug. beans	13.76
Wheat	6.20

Heartland St. Anthony

Jacques Patriots finished second

Central (79).

tiered

Corn5.30
Oct. corn4.70
Beans13.86
Oct. beans13.81
Wheat6.07

in the Music In Motion

band contest at Ander-

son. They scored 75.3 points to trail Franklin

In 2013, the Portland Rockets fell 11-10 in 12

innings to Louisville Star

Drywall in the opening

round of the National

Amateur Baseball Feder-

ation regional tourna-

ment in Louisville, Ken-

Council approved a two-

increase at a total of

33.6%. The increase was

set to be split, with about

half going into effect Jan.

1, 2023, and the remain-

—The CR

In 2022, Portland City

sewer

Felony arrests

arrested Wednesday for Jail. child solicitation.

Arch St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 4 felony.

She's being held on a \$10,000 bond in Jay County

A Portland woman was arrested Saturday for drunk driving.

Peggy J. Roush, 52, 1237

She's being held on a \$3,000 bond in

Unlawful possession

Two Indiana residents were arrested Friday for unlawful possession of a syringe.

Bradley A. Gonzalez, 40, 2108 E. Indiana Ave., Muncie, is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime. He's being held in Jay County Jail on a \$3,000 bond.

April L. Smith, 40, 5726 S. 200 West, Portland, is also charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime. She's being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Child solicitation

Paige N. Curtis, 25, 509 E.

Jail.

Drunk driving

N. U.S. 27, is charged in Jay Superior Court with operating a vehicle while intoxicated and operating a vehicle with a blood alcohol level of 0.15% or more, both Level 6 felonies.

Wednesday

Friday Steveson, Mark: II a.m., Highland Cemetery, Great Falls, Montana.

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

Capsule Reports

Drove into ditch A Bryant man's vehicle

went into a ditch along county road 650 North about 9:14 p.m. Wednes-

Michael B. Conrad, 39, told police he was driving north on the road just east of Indiana 1 when something came loose in Chrysler 2005Sebring, causing him to drive into a ditch and hit a fence.

His vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

SERVICES

Bihn, John: 10:30 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.

Citizen's calendar

In 1998, the Jay Counder to follow on April 1.

Today

4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corpora-Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council

land. Town Council, town St.

chambers, fire station,

120 N. Court St., Port-

hall, 105 N. Washington

7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Cen-

Thursday

 Portland 4 p.m. – Board of Works, mayor's office, city 7 p.m. — Pennville hall, 321 N. Meridian

Bryant Area Community Center Chicken Dinner

October 8th 4:00 - 7:00pm

Fried Chicken, Mashed Potatoes & Gravy Chicken & Noodles, Corn, Dessert (Dine in Only) Dinners will be \$12.00

Dine In/Drive thru/ Carry Out





NEWSPAPERS

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The News and Sun

Dunkirk, Indiana

The News-Gazette Winchester, Indiana **The News Times** Hartford City, Indiana

309 West Main Street Portland, IN 47371

260-726-8141

Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Couldn't ask for a better Saturday

By DIANA DOLECKI

Special to The Commercial Review It began with a simple message from a friend. Jenny — her last name used to be Dattoli, now it's Rawlings — said she would be in the area Saturday and wanted to know if we wanted to get together to catch

My hubby and I discussed it, and we agreed to meet them in a small town north of here.

It turned out the town, Berne, was having their annual Swiss Days festival. There was a good turnout as people were everywhere. Jen said that she and her hubby wanted to enter the easier to toss than the





stein toss held on the public library lawn. Rocks of different weights and shapes substituted were steins. They had different size rocks for different categories. The four categories were boys, girls, men and women. There was talk of adding a seniors category next year.

Steins might have been

rocks. I think both of them Jen's hubby, Rich, went in thing we decided against chairs were in distinct came in dead last in their division. That was not the important part. The important part was that they tried. They didn't stand around and watch. They got in there and did their best. I was proud of both of

While they were waiting for the results, I noticed a lemonade truck across the street. It was as welcoming as an oasis in the desert. It was very hot outside and the icy lemonade was deli-

We rejoined the crowd of people until we spotted some benches in the shade. We quickly claimed them. search of a tenderloin. He quickly found one and brought it back to share with his wife.

There was a break in the conversation. We agreed to wrap up our visit before we melted. We parted with hugs and orders for all of us to drive safely. I am not usually a fan of air conditioning but it sure felt good after walking around in the direct sun for a few hours.

We discussed whether to stop at home or go to Muncie. There was a free concert that we wanted to go down to see. We also wanted to stop for supper. Once we weighed every-

stopping at home.

We decided to eat at a sitdown restaurant before heading to the show. For some reason we had two or three waiters. The food was good, as usual. Hubby ended up with three big glasses of iced tea. Each of the waiters checked on us frequently without being pests.

We got to the venue in plenty of time to choose our spots. The concert was held outside. Most people brought folding chairs. Once again, I was surprised that despite people being allowed to put their chairs anywhere they chose, the

rows. I don't know why this surprised me because it happens every time.

Lovesick Moan opened for Tommy Castro and the Painkillers. (Don't you love band names?) Both bands played good music. One of the things I like best about these concerts is that the

music isn't so loud that it

hurts.

The sun had set before it was time to head home. It had been a long but pleasant day. We got to see an old friend and meet her hubby before enjoying a delicious supper and ending the day with music. I couldn't ask for anything more.

Woman's friendships need rekindling

DEAR ABBY: I'm a woman in my late 40s, and since coming out of the isolation of the pandemic (the lockdown was strict where we live), I've had a hard time rekindling the friendships I valued before — with my two best girlfriends, in particular. We used to have the type of relationship in which we were very open. We told each other died and had to be hospitalized

The last two years were really hard on me. I faced a series crowded. A few months later, of serious health issues, as did my older child had a mental my youngest kid, who almost health crisis that we now spend

Dear Abby



everything and had a lot of fun. in another city because the care centers here were over-

a lot of time working through. to take on managing anyone to know, and enjoy them as Those challenges completely changed the way our house runs. They dominate my dayto-day life. The thing is, talking about all that feels too heavy. I don't want to be the friend who always brings down the room. On the other hand, when my friends find out everything that has been going on that I didn't tell them about, they're going to be angry that I've been hiding things from them, and it's going to damage our friendship. I don't have the capacity

mofthesoldier.com.

ANNA'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 infor-

FAST OPTIMISTS — Will

meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast

PING PONG — Will be

EUCHRE — Will be

played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125

Hoover St., Dunkirk.
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

CENTER — Free pregnan-

cy 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 Fri-

day. For more information

or to schedule an appoint-

ment, call (260) 726-8636.

(260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY

played from 9 a.m. to noon

each Monday at Jay Com-

at Richards Restaurant.

BREAK-

mation, call (260) 766-2006.

Sunday

Monday

PORTLAND

munity Center.

else's feelings, while at the same time I wish I had more people to go out and have fun with. How can I be a good friend without sharing all the challenges? — NOT SHARING IN THE EAST

DEAR NOT SHARING: Now that the lockdowns are over and, for most people, life is returning to near-normal, get together face-toface for a truth session with those friends. Tell them as much as you think they need

often as you can. If they can't lighten your load, widen your circle to include some women who can.

Do not feel you must manage their feelings or disclose all of your son's emotional difficulties. Make sure to devote some time listening to the challenges THEY may have faced over the last couple of years. True friends try to make the people they care about feel better, not

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Restaurant. All women are for a meal. For more inforanitem, email time. news@thecr.com.

Tuesday

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is wel-

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Buildacross from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

NARCOTICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.

Wednesday

ING BREAKFAST CLUB— each Wednesday at Redkey Will meet at 8 a.m. in the United Methodist Church, east room of Richards 122 W. Main St. Come early

3

9

8

7

4

3

Sudoku

Community Calendar as invited to attend. Includes mation, call Pastor Randy space is available. To sub-activities and devotional Davis at (765) 369-2085.

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPA-RATES SUPPORT GROUP For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur more information, call & Gloria Muselman Well-Amanda Price at (765) 283- ness Pavilion in Berne. For information, Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-

> AL-ANON **FAMILY** GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland.

For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE - A faithbased recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will WEDNESDAY MORN- meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m.

Thursday

CELEBRATE RECOV-ERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

PORTLAND CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A upport group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORI-CAL 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 Swiss Village in Berne. For

MOUS — 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. ROAD RIDERS FOR

JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113. S. Main St., Dunkirk. MUSEUM OF THE SOL-

DIER — Is open from noon

to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of

the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. WHAT MATTERS MOST The website is museu-Whether you are home or away, protect what matters most from A BETTER LIFE - BRIunexpected power

outages with a Generac

Home Standby Generator. \$0 MONEY DOWN + LOW MONTHLY PAYMENT OPTIONS

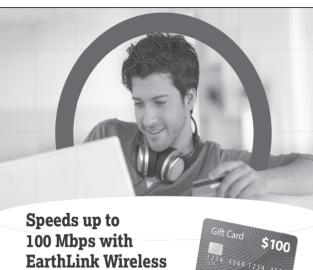
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n GPN's a la carte menu of publicati The Commercial Review – **\$312** The News-Gazette – **\$290** The News Times - \$240 The News and Sun - \$240

Ads must run in August
Rate does not apply to special sections

Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com



Level: Beginner **Saturday's Solution**

2

8

5

9

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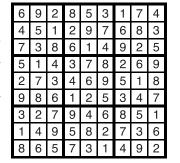
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The objective is to fill a nine-by nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-bythree boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.



Make education part of the battle

The Seattle Times Tribune News Service

If there ever was a time to sound the alarm about a national epidemic that has killed millions of Americans, it was 20 years ago when the second wave of opioid deaths spiked. But since little has been done on a national basis to prevent deaths from fentanyl, local communities and schools must step up.

Many lawmakers like to to ddress the opioid crisis mo through sound bites that focus on law enforcement and treatment. Indeed, the FEND Off Fentanyl Act passed the U.S. Senate Thursday and will, among other things, finally declare the

Guest **Editorial**

tanyl a national emergency and allow the Treasury Department to utilize special measures combat fentanyl-related money laundering.

But U.S. Sen. Maria Cantwell, D-Washington, and mothers like Gen Pehlivanian and Carol Schweigert understand the need for an education component as well to prevent the illicit use of international trafficking of fen- opioids by those who have yet to

take the risk, and to prevent officials and those intimately and advocate for school districts deaths of those who are currently using.

King County, Washington, recorded 1,004 deaths by overdose in 2022, 712 from fentanyl. The county is on track to break that record this year, with 647 overdose deaths as of July 25. And Washington had the biggest increase in the nation — more than 21% — in fatal overdoses reported between February 2022 and February 2023.

Cantwell has been ringing the alarm for years, and has launched a listening tour across the state to educate herself and others of the dangers of fentanyl and to seek solutions from public health officials, elected

affected by the crisis. The latest tour stop was in Seattle last

Teens and young adults are two groups where education can surely help decrease the usage and deaths. Schweigert and Pehlivanian each lost their sons — both in their 20s — to fentanyl poisoning. In both deaths, the men took pills from acquaintances under the mistaken belief they were the painkiller Percocet. Both pills were laced with fentanyl.

"It needs to start much earlier than high school," Pehlivanian said of schools teaching about drug use. Both women have presented their stories at schools

to create more formal curricula centered on drug use.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration launched the "One Pill Can Kill" presentation in 2021 and works to build more relationships with school dis-

tricts each year. Testing has shown that, of the more than 58 million pills the DEA confiscates each year, 4 out of 10 fentanyl-laced fake pills often made to look like Oxy-Contin, Percocet or Xanax contain a potentially lethal dose.

There is much to be done to help save lives and grief when it comes to the opioid epidemic. Education provides a good chance at prevention.

Some districts will see losses

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

Parents are getting a big win as their kids go back to school this year: no more textbook fees. But as the details unfold, school districts around the state are preparing for a shortfall between what the state is going to give them and what the actual costs are.

Lawmakers, pushed by GOP Gov. Eric Holcomb, did the right thing and eliminated those pesky fees, which sometimes cost parents hundreds of dollars per child.

Indiana was one of only seven states to charge the fees even though the state constitution requires a free public education. But there questions about whether legislators set aside enough money to make up the costs.

Hamilton Heights School Corporation and Greenfield-Central's superintendents told Fox59 the money the schools will receive won't be enough to cover the full costs. And Community School Corporation of Southern Hancock County told the Daily Reporter it will have a shortfall of about \$800,000.

To start, this is about more than textbooks — it's about "curricular materi-

The Indiana Department Education defines that as "books; hardware that will be consumed, accessed, or used by a single student during a semester or school year; computer software; and digital content."

That includes one-to-one laptops or tablets given to students in some districts.

The general plan moving forward is this: schools in the coming weeks and months will send in their curricular costs to the Indiana Department of Education. Officials there will take the total and divide it by the number of students statewide. That will give an amount per student that will be multiplied by how many students each district has. Then, that amount will be given in one lump sum to individual school districts in December.

Lawmakers appropriated \$160 million for the initiative's inaugural year, based on an estimate of \$150 per student for the state's 1 million pupils.

But where did that \$150 number come from, and is it really enough?

State Budget Director Zac Jackson said the ana Statehouse since 1999. \$151.88 average was calculated using the Free and cle is an independent, non-Reduced Lunch reimbursement claims submitted to website is indianacapi-

Niki Kelly



tions for fiscal year 2022. Previously, the state would reimburse districts for curricular materials for just those students on free and reduced lunch: \$66.9 million in claims for a total of 440,491 students, averaging \$151.88 per student.

So that average was applied to all students to come up with the appropriation in the budget.

Jackson does acknowledge the average will likely be enough to cover some school districts' actual costs, but not all.

For instance, \$151 is clearly not enough to cover the cost of a laptop or tablet in one-to-one schools. And some high school students taking college-level dual credit courses will have more expensive textbooks.

"There probably are some growing pains with this," Jackson said.

The law specifically says schools can't charge parents for curricular materials anymore, so districts will have to cover the remaining cost through their tuition support appropriations. Jackson and others note the legislature funding increased schools in the most recent budget.

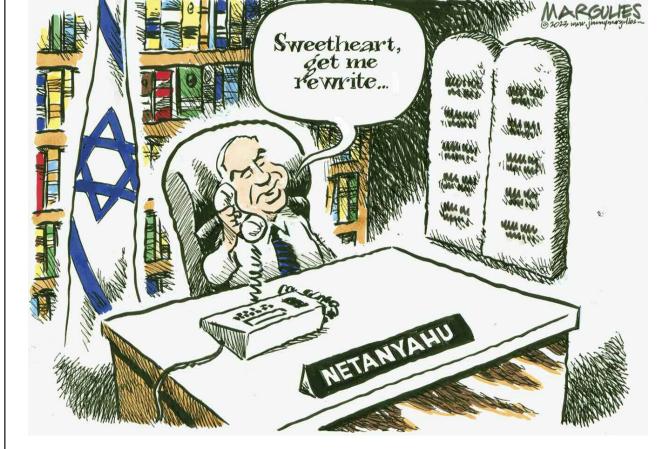
Various school officials have talked about being creative, including Business Director Mark Snyder at Southwest Allen County Schools. During a recent school board discussion, he said he anticipates a "significant loss in revenue. It doesn't mean we can't do something — it just means we're going to have to be creative."

A board member mentioned backlash the state might receive, but Snyder also reminded her that voters will be happy with annual savings of between \$150 and \$500.

Lawmakers made the right call in eliminating the fees. And I hope they do the same next year and supplement the funding if it is found that some districts are losing money that could otherwise go to teacher salaries and other necessary expenses.

Kelly has covered the Indi-

Indiana Capital Chroniprofit news organization. Its DOE by school corpora- talchronicle.com.



Support community news act

BV DEAN RIDINGS America's Newspapers

It's no secret that recent years have been tough on small businesses and on newspapers.

A bipartisan bill, the Community News & Small Business Support Act, that has been introduced in Congress would offer relief to both newspapers and local businesses.

For too many newspapers, help local newspapers and their digital can't come soon enough. Economic products to stay informed about their challenges have resulted in too many communities seeing their local newspapers being forced to lay off staff, cut back on publication days or worse yet — close. On average, two newspapers are closing each week. That hurts local businesses and residents in the long (and short) run. However, despite the challenges, what remains true is that local newspapers make a difference in their communi-

But, don't just take my word for it. Let's look at the numbers and why America's Newspapers has been pushing for the Community News & Small Business Support Act to be introduced.

A recent national study of 5,000 Americans over the age of 18 was conducted by the independent research firm Coda Ventures for America's Newspapers, and provides compelling evidence of the importance, relevance and vitality of today's newspapers in the American media landscape.

Readers told us that their local newspaper makes a difference. The study shows that 79% of Americans read/use local news "to stay informed" about their cities, counties and communities. They also said they rely on their local paper to feel connected to their community, to decide where they stand on local issues, to find places and things to do, to talk with people about things happening in the community, because they find it enjoyable/entertaining and to be a better citizen.

And, contrary to popular belief, readers across all age groups turn to which — in turn — helps communi- papers.org.

Dean **Ridings**



Readers also told us they need more local news from their community paper. As one survey respondent in California said, "Our paper keeps getting smaller. I would like to see more news items, what's happening in town, what's new in politics, etc. And they need to be quicker to respond to breaking news.

All of that takes a committed, local staff — something the legislation introduced by Congresswoman Claudia Tenney (R-New York) and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene (D-Washington) will help to make happen.

So, what would this legislation mean to your local community?

Local businesses with fewer than 50 employees would receive a fiveyear non-refundable tax credit of up to \$5,000 in the first year and up to \$2,500 in the subsequent four years based on their spending level with local newspapers and local media.

Our study showed that six out of 10 American adults use newspaper advertising to help them decide what brands, products and local services to buy. Newspaper readers also are almost twice as likely to purchase products from a number of important advertising categories than nonnewspaper readers, including: automobiles, trucks and SUVs; home furnishings; home improvement products and services; and home services like pest control, plumbing, heating,

With this legislation, we expect to see more businesses being able to afford to advertise to consumers,

For local newspapers, a five-year refundable tax credit would help them hire more journalists to bring you more news! It's a win-win for local communities. Newspapers would receive a tax credit to be used for the compensation of journalists. The credit would cover 50% of journalists' compensation in the first year and 30% of compensation (up to \$50,000) in the subsequent four years. This tax credit would only be available to local community papers with fewer than 750 employees and, if they don't invest in their newsroom, they don't get the credit.

And these tax credits are only available to local newspapers. National newspaper outlets are not eligible.

The importance of local newspapers and local business is the reason Reps. Tenney and DelBene introduced the legislation. We are most grateful for their support.

We need your support, as well, to encourage legislators to enact this legislation. Please contact the offices of your senators and representatives in the U.S. Congress and encourage them to add their support to this legislation.

These tax credits aren't permanent; they will sunset in five years. But, these critical five years will allow the newspaper industry the time needed to address the challenges that it is facing from Big Tech, which often uses newspapers' content without compensation, as well as other technological and market challenges.

Visit usa.gov/elected-officials for the contact information for your leg-

More local reporting means more access for hometown news that citizens like you rely on. And stronger newspapers mean stronger advertising vehicles for local businesses.

Ridings is the CEO of America's Newspapers, an organization serving more than 1,550 newspapers across the U.S. and Canada. Learn more at news-

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US PS 125820

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Business manager

RAY COONEY Editor and publisher

> **BRIAN DODD** Production manager

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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter." —**Thomas Jefferson**

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Helping the Rockets

Strohl Appliance Electronics of Portland recently donated \$1,000 to the Portland Rockets' project to construct new batting cages at Portland Memorial Park's Runkle-Miller Field.

NHTSA proposes cutting use by 50%

By RILEY BEGGIN The Detroit News Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The administration Biden plans to cut vehicle fuel consumption almost in half by 2035, according to new proposed Corporate Average Fuel Economy standards released Friday by the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The rules would once again increase fuel efficiency, pushing car companies to meet an estimated 58 mile per gallon average fuel economy by model year 2032. It would require automakers to improve fuel efficiency by model year 2026.

2% every year for cars and 4% per year for light trucks beginning in model year 2027.

The proposed standards also would increase fuel economy standards for heavy duty pickup trucks and work vans by 10% annually model years 2030 Combined, 2035. NHTSA estimates that the country's total fleet fuel consumption would be cut

by 48% by model year 2035. Comparatively, a 2022 rulemaking bumped up the existing standard to 49 miles per gallon fleetwide by model year 2026, with 8% efficiency increases in model years 2024 and 2025 and a 10% increase in

Walmart announces new initiative

Walmart and PepsiCo last week announced that they will collaborate to invest \$120 million to support U.S. and Canadian farmers in improving soil **roundup** health and water quality over a seven-year period.

The funding will go toward establishing and scaling financial, agronomic and social programs. The goal is to "enable and accelerate the adoption of regenerative agriculture practices" on more than 2 million acres in order to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

"This collaboration with PepsiCo is a great example of how we are prioritizing the expansion of regenerative agricultural practices among farmers across North America so that we can continue to make quality products affordable and accessible for customers," said Walmart senior vice president for sustainability Jane Ewing in a press release. "This collaboration aims to help elevate farmer livelihoods, engage them on how to more sustainably manage soil health, increase yields and create a model that others can mimic ..."

Ribbon cutting set

Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host a ribbon cutting at 1:15 p.m. Aug. 8 for MeridianMD.

The ribbon cutting will be part of an open house that will run from 1 to 3 p.m. at the new facility at 406 W. Votaw St., Portservices including routine medical care, physicals, vaccinations and treatment of chronic medical conditions.

Facility open

Indiana University Health has opened its new pharmacy hub and distribution center in Plainfield.

The 70,000-square-foot facility is targeted at reducing costs of pharmaceuticals to patients

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Business

by centralizing and standardiz-

ing its supply chain.
"We knew we were seeing soaring pharmaceutical costs, and we know there has been a shortage of pharmaceutical drugs," IU Health vice president and chief pharmacy officer told Inside Indiana Business. "And we knew it was a problem that wasn't going away anytime soon."

Investment increases

Renewable energy firm Invenergy recently closed a \$1.5 billion revolving credit facility to support its projects.

The financing is an increase over the company's existing \$600 million in working capital. follows The closing announcement in June that Blackstone Infrastructure Partners invested about \$1 billion for Invenergy's projects.

financing firmly advances our ability to execute on an industry-leading project portfolio at a time of historic growth for Invenergy," said Meghan Schultz, Invenergy executive vice president & chief financial officer, in a press release. "We thank our lender teams for their excellent for O'Reilly's promote from and Communications Profes- enhancements to our private land. Meridian MD will provide service, continued confidence, and shared commitment to building a more sustainable world."

Invenergy is developing Skycrest Solar in northwest Jay County

Initiative launches

Ardagh Glass Packaging -Africa South recently announced the money4glass initiative.

the company's supply chain for recycled glass. It provides incentives to recyclers to provide glass to the company in South Africa.

'This technology will enable us to identify traders, better understand the footprint of cullet recycling activity in the country and monitor the volumes of cullet traded in the different regions," said Thomas Shaw, supply chain executive for Ardgah. "Importantly, it will also allow us to make glass recycling financially viable across the width and breadth of the country through the application of targeted incentives and to ensure that payments and incentives can quickly and efficiently reach all recyclers, but particularly the informal recyclers who are at the start of the recycling process."

Ardagh operates glass manufacturing facilities in Winchester and Dunkirk.

CEO to retire

O'Reilly Automotive's board of directors has selected Brad Beckham to become its new CEO in early 2024.

Beckham is currently the company's co-president along with Brent Kirby. He will take over for Greg Johnson, who will retire as O'Reilly's CEO effective Jan. 31. (Kirby will be promoted to president.)

within philosophy and our dedication to long-term succession planning, and he has done an exemplary job preparing both Brad Beckham and Brent Kirby for their new roles," said O'Reilly board executive chairman Greg Henslee. "Brad shares Greg's passion for O'Reilly. He is a highly respected member of our executive team whose considerable experience and significant industry The effort has a goal of knowledge make him excep-

improving effectiveness within tionally qualified to succeed Orthopedics of Carmel recent-Greg as CEO.

Accepting nominations

Indiana Chamber of Commerce is accepting nominations for the 2023 Jackson Lewis Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) Champion Award.

The award honors organizations that are making strides toward becoming more equitable workplaces. Nominees are evaluated on developing, promoting and executing diversity, equity and inclusion initiatives.

"Lifting up underrepresented groups and seeing them thrive in the modern economy benefits not only those individuals but makes Indiana a better place, which is why this is such an important thing to do," said chamber president and CEO Kevin Brinegar in a press release. "We want to see how Hoosier organizations across the state have used DEI to make a positive difference in their workplace – and beyond.'

Nominations for the award can be submitted online at indianachamber.com/deiaward. The deadline is Aug. 21.

Awards earned

marketing and Muncie branding firm Intersection recently earned six Hermes Creative Awards in addition to three honorable mentions from "Greg has been a champion the Association of Marketing sionals.

Intersection earned platinum awards for its work on the Ball Brothers Foundation annual report and the Agape "Beyond the Barn" campaign book. It also won four gold awards.

The awards recognize "outstanding creative work within the advertising and marketing industry."

Forte is first

Forté Sports Medicine and products."

ly became first in the state to use the Stryker Q Guidance System with Spine Guidance Software for navigation and guidance in surgery.

The system is designed to produce real-time, 3D models of a patient's spine to allow surgeons to perform with greater precision and efficiency. Dr. Stephen Ritter was the first to utilize the system at

'Spinal surgeries performed using Stryker's technology have the potential to be safer, faster and less invasive than other procedures," said Ritter in a press release. patients can recover more quickly with fewer complications and less prolonged pain, reducing the need for pain medication and shortening hospital stays. In my experience, patients are often up and walking within 24 hours of surgery.

Brand expanding

Dollar General announced that it is expanding is brand Clover Valley to include more than 100 new items.

The new offerings from Clover Valley will include sauces, condiments, entrees, sides and snacks. The brand currently offers about 600 items.

"We have made significant brands in 2023, and we know how important these value offerings are for our customers," said Emily Taylor, executive vice president and chief merchandising officer at Dollar General, in a press release. "We believe these products will further differentiate Dollar General in the marketplace as we look to provide our customers with tremendous value on quality



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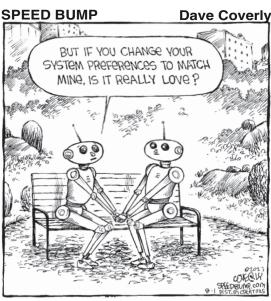
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane KEANE "Only four more pages 'til Christmas!'

Peanuts









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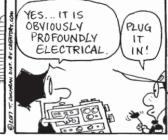






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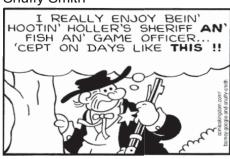
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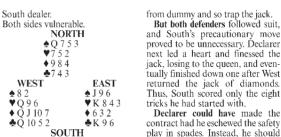
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By Steve Becker

A misguided safety play



Declarer could have made the contract had he eschewed the safety play in spades. Instead, he should have cashed the A-K of spades and then led the ten to dummy's queen.

retaining the four in his hand.

This would have allowed him to finesse the jack of hearts and later return to dummy by leading the spade four to the seven for a second heart finesse. When the second finesse succeeded, he would have had nine tricks.

expect to get the best results. General rules are certainly valuable in Declarer's spade plays would have been correct had the contract the play of many hands, but they can't serve nearly as well as indedepended solely on making four spade tricks rather than three. In the actual circumstances, however, a 3-2 spade division had to be Take this deal where South went astray. He won the diamond lead with the king and cashed the ace of assumed, since it was essential to lead hearts twice from dummy in spades. He then played a low spade to the queen to guard against the possibility that East might have order to score a second heart trick. There could be no advantage in trying to protect against a lie of the spades that would defeat the constarted with four to the jack. In that tract if it actually existed. case, South could lead another spade

> Tomorrow: More than meets the eye. ©2023 King Features Syndicate Inc

CRYPTOQUIP

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KYPAX PJNDO OYFFZ ZDKM

PZ ROHF. KFSPY. WOY PHS

XFE: KNHQWFY CNRFA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF AN UNCOUTH PERSON IS CLUTCHING SOME HUNKS OF PORK USING NO UTENSILS, IS HE HAM-HANDED? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals B

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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38 "Greetings!" Yesterday's answer 8-1

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Irsay says Colts won't trade Taylor

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

WESTFIELD The ongoing contract saga between Jonathan Taylor and the Indianapolis Colts reached a nadir Saturday with the 24-year-old running back requesting a trade after a meeting with team owner Jim Irsay, according to NFL Network's Ian Rapoport.

Within hours of the report, Irsay texted Sports Illustrated's Albert Breer to deny interest in trading

not trading "We're Jonathan ... end of discussion," Irsay wrote. "Not now and not in October!"

The owner and running back sat together on a bus adjacent to the practice fields just beyond the northern most end zone for the majority of the sold-out 90-minute training camp practice at Grand Park.

Irsav met with media after the sit down but offered no information on form list.

Colts owner isn't considering Taylor's trade request. Irsay is optimistic about future between JT and Richardson.

the details of the conversa-

"It was just a good conversation, and we're just hopeful and going forward, looking forward to a great season, hoping Jonathan's a big part of that," Irsay

Taylor has been in a stand-off with the team since he reported to training camp Tuesday and was immediately placed on the physically unable to per-

The running back had surgery to repair a high ankle sprain in January but was widely expected to be ready for the start of

Adding to the intrigue is a depressed market at the position around the NFL. The New York Giants agreed to a one-year deal reportedly worth \$11 million with Saquon Barkley earlier this week after he balked at signing the franchise tag tender. The Las Vegas Raiders remain at a you try to be as fair as you Moss, Deon Jackson, Jake standstill with 2022 leading possibly can be with the Funk and rookies Evan rusher Josh Jacobs after he was hit with the franchise

Taylor is scheduled to make \$4.304 million under the final year of his rookie deal this fall. He was hopeful of reaching a long-term agreement with Indianapolis, but Irsay told ESPN's Stephen Holder on Wednesday the team has made no official offer and wanted to wait until the end of the season to negotiate a possible extension.

Holder also reported the trade request was first broached by Taylor's camp Tuesday and was not declined outright.

"My responsibility is to represent every single player on the team," Irsay said. "I represent each player, and it's my responsibility to be fair and to make sure everyone's treated as fairly as they can be to get their piece of the cap, and I don't take that job lightly. It's a great responsibility, and

whole football team.

"So, again, I'm hopeful and it's my hope that we have an outstanding year, that Jonathan and Anthony Richardson have a chance to do great things along with the football team we have.

The unraveling between the player and the team happened at a lightning pace.

As recently as April, Richardson was after selected with the No. 4 overall pick in the NFL Draft, Irsay was talking excitedly about the "dynamic duo" his new quarterback could form with his record-setting running back.

By June, Taylor was saying he wanted to stay in Indianapolis while hinting he wasn't feeling the love in return.

It all came to a head Saturday with the official public acknowledgement of the trade request.

The Colts have Zack mindset."

Hull and Zavier Scott on the depth chart behind Taylor.

But none have come close to the production Taylor has displayed during his

three NFL seasons.

He set single-season franchise records with 1,811 rushing yards and 18 rushing touchdowns in 2021 and has 3,841 yards and 33 touchdowns while averaging 5.1 yards per carry for his career.

Speaking before the trade request was reported, firstyear Colts head coach Shane Steichen said he had no timetable for Taylor to come off the PUP list and is moving forward with the players on the field in the meantime.

"I mean, that's my obligation as the head coach is to coach the football team," Steichen said. "I've got a lot of guys that I've gotta coach and get ready to go, and so that's how I've gotta deal with that and that's my

ACC seeks calm and a new beginning

By ANDREW CARTER

The News & Observer Tribune News Service

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — On the way to Charlotte early last week, and to the ACC's annual preseason football kickoff, all was quiet off of John D. Swofford Lane. The street, only about 250 feet long, extends a little ways off the Grandover Parkway, which itself runs parallel to I-85 for a short stretch a little ways southwest of Greensboro.

The ACC's headquarters had been there for decades, next to a golf course on the Grandover Resort, until just recently. Until the moving trucks came and the offices began to empty and the conference decided to leave Greensboro behind, along with the little road named after the man who served as its commissioner for 24 years.

The flags were still there, one for North Carolina and the ACC on either side of the American flag, but there wasn't anybody around to see them. A big Penske moving truck sat backed up near the front door. A dumpster sat next to that, there to collect anything the conference wasn't taking with it.

It felt a little apocalyptic, place that was once among the epicenters of American college sports, turning into something like a ghostly office park. A place where the ACC celebrated and engineered many a triumph,

that space, in late 1996, it was the wealthiest league in college athletics, the envy of its peers. ACC basketball, back then, was the most valuable college athletics television property in the coun-

And how things change.

The conference's football media days began Tuesday with the league's desire to celebrate new beginnings. The beginning of a new college football season, for one, in which at least a few schools — Clemson, Florida State, maybe even North Carolina — will enter August with championship aspirations. The beginning, too, of a new era for the ACC, which will complete its move to Charlotte in a few weeks, though the relocation is already pretty much official.

The ACC has been desperate for a while now to change the narrative, and to alter the dominant perception that has surrounded the conference for a little more than a year: that it's only a matter of time before the league begins its demise; that regardless of what happens on the field or the court, the conference is more or less doomed in the long term, due to the everthe ACC and the Big Ten and SEC. And so Jim Phillips, Swof-

ford's successor, hit all the usual

When the conference moved into ing state-of-the-league address moil of college athletics. Tuesearlier this week: the nine national championships ACC members won last academic year: the continued emphasis on branding and expanding the league's television presence; the pride in academics and the league's argument, as Phillips put it, that "there are no better collection of schools, and our student-athlete experience and support beyond athletics and academics is second to none.

"The bottom line is our conference is strong," Phillips said in his next breath, "and I'm extremely bullish about our future together."

The move to Charlotte was part of that. The ACC has not yet finished that move staffers are already working in Charlotte; others will arrive in the weeks to come — and yet Phillips already lauded the business opportunities now available to the league that might not have been before (a debatable contention, it should be noted). Phillips spoke of "the positive energy" brewing between the city and conference, the "multiple league meetings in Uptown" Charlotte, which provided the chance to meet with local busiwidening revenue gap between ness leaders and professional sports teams.

All good things. And yet it was only a matter of time before the ACC continued its haphazard now ready for its abandonment. talking points during his open- swirl through the greater tur-

day, for once, felt a little normal. A little boring, almost, in that the primary conversation of the day focused on football, which is how the ACC would prefer it. For once, at this event, there weren't the endless questions about the league's future; about this realignment move, or that one; about revenue gaps and the grant of rights.

The calm lasted all of about a dav.

By Thursday, Colorado's move from the Pac-12 to the Big 12 was official — making it three summers in a row that an ACC Kickoff went on amid the backdrop of major-conference realignment. In 2021, it was Texas and Oklahoma announcing their intention to join the SEC, while last year the news of the Big Ten's impending addition of USC and UCLA dominated the summer. And now. Colorado.

By Thursday night, amid a report from a Florida Statefocused website that suggested the university's efforts to leave the ACC were intensifying, Phillips again found himself in defense mode, which is becoming the usual for him. The league's kickoff event had been over only a few hours and many of the reporters who attended it were still making their way home when Phillips responded to the Florida State speculation by telling ESPN the ACC was

"absolutely" open to expansion. Not a new revelation, necessarilv. but one meant to calm the turbulence, and express a willingness to act.

The problem, though, is that short of adding Notre Dame as a full-time member — not happening, and certainly not anytime soon — there's not a whole lot the ACC can do to change the narrative and provide an image of strength. This is the conference's new reality, a discomforting one of responding to whatever college athletics shoe drops next while waiting for someone to challenge the grant of rights.

Maybe Florida State, with its three-game losing streak against Wake Forest in football; with its .500 conference record since the start of the 2015 season, becomes that challenger. Maybe it's a group of schools, acting as one. Maybe it's nobody, until many years from now when the financial blow from leaving the league might feel more palatable for those considering it. The only thing that's clear for

now in a time of uncertainty for college athletics is that this is just the ACC's world now. One of seeking new beginnings while finding the same old narratives and questions inescapable. One of celebrating a new home in Charlotte while the old one sits empty about 90 miles northeast, a quiet reminder of a time of stability now long gone.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

TodayJay County — Girls golf at Bellmont –

Wednesday - Girls golf at South Jav County -Adams - 9 a.m.

TV sports Today

3 a.m. — Women's World Cup: Netherlands vs. Vietnam (FS1) 3 a.m. — Women's World Cup: United States vs. Portugal (FOX) 7 a.m. — Women's World Cup: Eng-

7 a.m. — Women's World Cup: Denmark vs. Haiti (FS1) 8 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at

Chicago Cubs (Bally Ohio)

Wednesday

3 a.m. — Women's World Cup: Sweden vs. Argentina (FOX) 3 a.m. — Women's World Cup: Italy vs. South Africa (FS1)

6 a.m. — Women's World Cup: Brazil vs. Jamaica (FS1)

vs. Panama (FOX) 8 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (Bally Indiana)

6 a.m. — Women's World Cup: France

10 p.m. — WNBA: Dallas Wings at Seattle Storm (CBSSN)

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 ran-

dom drawing. To apply, visit on.IN.gov/reserved-hunt. The deadline is Aug. 6.

Flag football registration open

Registration for Jay Community Center's Boomer Fall Flag Football is now

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 \$30 for those who sign up by July 31. For more information, visit jaycc.org.

Soccer sign-ups available now Registration for Jay Community Cen-

ter's Boomer Fall Soccer league is now

The league is for children ages 3

450 South, Portland. Registration is \$60 for those who sign up by July 31. For more information, visit jaycc.org.

through 14. Games will be played on Sat-

urdays from Aug. 26 through Oct. 7 at Jay County Recreation Complex, 5363 W.

JC season tickets

Season tickets are available for the 2023-24 Jay County high school season.

Tickets may be purchased during the school's office hours from 7:30 a.m. to 3

Patriots Passes and Senior Patriot Passes that provide admission to all high school and junior high events will be

available. They cost \$105 and \$60 respectively.

Also available are super tickets. High school adult super tickets cost \$80, junior high super tickets come out to \$60 and senior super tickets are \$45.

A pre-paid sports pass that is good for 12 regular season events may be purchased for \$50 as well.

Boys basketball and football season passes will cost \$50 and \$25 respec-

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

90 SALE CLENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, August 5, 2023 TIME 10:00 A.M.

LOCATED: 9660 W 300 S Dunkirk, IN Open House Sunday, July 23rd from 1-3 pm or for private showing contact the auctioneers. REAL ESTATE

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engine,

1968 Chevy 10 pickup 327 engine, 1953 Ford F250 pickup truck, Ford 860 tractor (parts), Husqvarna 27 horse MZ 61 zero turn mower, 10 ft wheel disc, and much

90 SALE CLENDAR

more. **GUNS** Ruger Super Blackhawk 6 shot revolver, Smith and Wesson 357 mag 6 shot revolver with holster, Daisy Red Rider BB gun with box. ANTIQUES-HOUSE-HOLD

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Check AuctionZip for

more photos.

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90 SALE CLENDAR

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Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw Street, Portland

Thursday Afternoon AUGUST 3, 2023 5:30 P.M.. HOUSEHOLD GOODS-**OLD & COLLECTORS**

ITEMS -TOOLS Kenmore washer & amp; dryer; Ridgeway grandfather clock; leather loveseat; (2) Kirby sweepers; with attachments; Boyds Bear collection; bike; Beam

decanters: Ezra Brooks decanters; large lot of jewelry; Craftsman socket/ratchet set; 12 x 12 canopy; electric motor; motorcycle helmets; and many other

items not listed. MICHAEL AND SHARON FOWLER Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Pulling through

Dave Armstrong of Wilmington, Ohio drives his super stock diesel tractor during the third session of the National Tractor Pullers Association competition at Ambassador Park in Fort Recovery on Saturday evening.

Rockets fall to Jackers

Rockets started to turn the ship around.

After a nine game skid, they picked up a pair of wins in pool play of the National Amature Baseball Federation tournament.

The momentum shift wasn't enough to keep the Rockets going.

The Portland Rockets' season came to an end on Saturday as they fell to the Fort Wayne Jackers 8-4 in the opening round of bracket play for the NABF tournament.

Both teams got on the scoreboard early with a first-inning run. Isaac Bair of the Jackers and Joel Kennedy both hit singles to drive in a run.

Fort Wayne continued to chip away through the next three innings, scoring a run each to develop a lead. The Jackers had RBI-singles from Evan Vansumeren and Spencer McGee during the run. The final run came from a steal of home plate in the fourth inning by Tristen Sprunger.

The only run Portland was able to score during the three innings came on a single by catcher Gavin Gleason that got through the left half of the infield to allow Kennedy to score.

The Rockets were able to fight their way back from the two-run deficit by chipping away in the sixth and the seventh.

In the sixth inning, a pair of back-to-back doubles from Blake Caldwell and Ayden Lichtenstiger plated

the seventh following a single and a stolen base by Dakota Durick.

Trouble on the mound bit the Rockets in the eighth, losing the lead and giving up three runs in the inning.

Nick Bailey was able to secure the first out by inducing a groundout from Sprunger. The next batter reached base on an error by Garrison Brege at short-

Bailey walked the next two batters, forcing a run across home plate in the process. Bair then hit a sacrifice fly to left field to score another run before the Rockets made a change on the mound.

Peyton Smith hit the next batter to load the bases before another walk scored a third run in the inning.

Smith struck out the next batter to end the inning, but the damage was done, giving the Jackers a three-run lead. Vansumeren hit another

RBI-single to add an insurance run for the Jackers in the ninth, leading to the final score of 8-4.

Bailey suffered the loss after giving up three unearned runs.

Mclaughlin Conner earned the victory for the Jackers, throwing 2 1/3 innings without giving up a run. Fort Wayne's pitchers combined to strike the Rockets out 10 times in the ballgame.

The Jackers would go on to win the regional, earning them a spot in the World Series in Battle Creek. The Livonia Fire-Kennedy then tied the birds were the runners-up.

Richardson takes first-team reps

By GEORGE BREMER

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson) Tribune News Service

WESTFIELD — There's never been any question about Anthony Richardson's physical talent.

The Indianapolis Colts quarterback is one of the most gifted athletes ever to step under center.

But the difference maker between the rookie starting Week 1 against the Jacksonville Jaguars and waiting longer for his official NFL debut likely will come down to intangibles.

Richardson's grasp on the playbook and command of the offense in the huddle and at the line of scrimmage will play nearly as big a role in his progression as his day-to-day performance.

The early returns have been encouraging.

"From where he was in OTAs to where he was today, calling plays in the huddle, the enthusiasm, the command of that huddle I thought was incredible," center Ryan Kelly said after Friday's training camp practice at Grand Park. "So to see him make those strides has been really awesome, and I'm looking forward to (continuing to work with him)."

Richardson took all of the first-team reps during the second session of training camp after veteran Gardner Minshew got all of the work with the first team Wednesday.

He responded with the play of camp so far — a 60-yard bomb to wide receiver Alec Pierce for a touchdown during 7-on-7 drills.

The rolling to his left, then effortlessly threw back long score that brought right now. the crowd of 750 fans

inside the events center to a roar.

It also served as a reminder to the wide around him. receivers never to give up any rep.

When you've got a guy like Anthony that can get out of the pocket and make those plays, big plays, come-off-scramble plays, that's something we talk about in the meeting rooms," Colts head coach Shane Steichen said. "We work it in practice in little groups. And then when it comes up create that big, explosive play to Alec was good to

sunshine and rainbows for the rookie.

in the flat that was knocked down and likely should have been intercepted. And he handed off to Zack Moss on one RPO before turning the corner and seeing nothing but green grass ahead.

Richardson's body language said it all in that moment. He knew it was a missed opportunity for a big play.

But that's what training camp is for.

The 21-year-old is simply focusing on improving with each snap, and he admits the battle right now is far more mental than physical.

"I feel like it's mental for everybody but especially for me," Richardson said. "Just diving into the playbook day by day, just studying it every single day. I feel like we got most of the playbook installed already. But (it's) just repetition, going over it quarterback every day. Definitely 100% extended the play by mental for me right now."

There's an abundance of information being against his body for a thrown the rookie's way

Every experience is a have been trying to do."

new experience, and he's soaking in data from everyone and everything

He's constantly asking questions of his coaches and teammates, trying to find out why a certain play worked in practice and how the defense might approach it the next time.

It's a coach's dream to have a player with immense talent and an equal hunger to improve.

The challenge is to make sure there's not too like it came up today, to much on the rookie's plate at any

moment. "It's a classic thing with The practice wasn't all a young player," offensive unshine and rainbows or the rookie.

He forced a short throw are—you go from college to the NFL and you have a decent amount to learn just about how things work. How is training camp working? What's happening with defense? What's going on? You're always excited as a coach to coach those guys, right? That's what we do. We want to give those guys a lot. We want to give those guys ways to get better.

"And we have really tried to make an emphasis of, we're going to set him up for success, give him every chance to learn and study and improve, but you have to be a little cognizant of — what is his workload? What is his physical workload? What is he doing in the weight room? What's the rest of his situation look like so you don't overwhelm a young guy with every single note you've ever learned in your coaching career. Sometimes there are young guys and you've got to teach the core of something and then build off of that. That's sort of what we



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