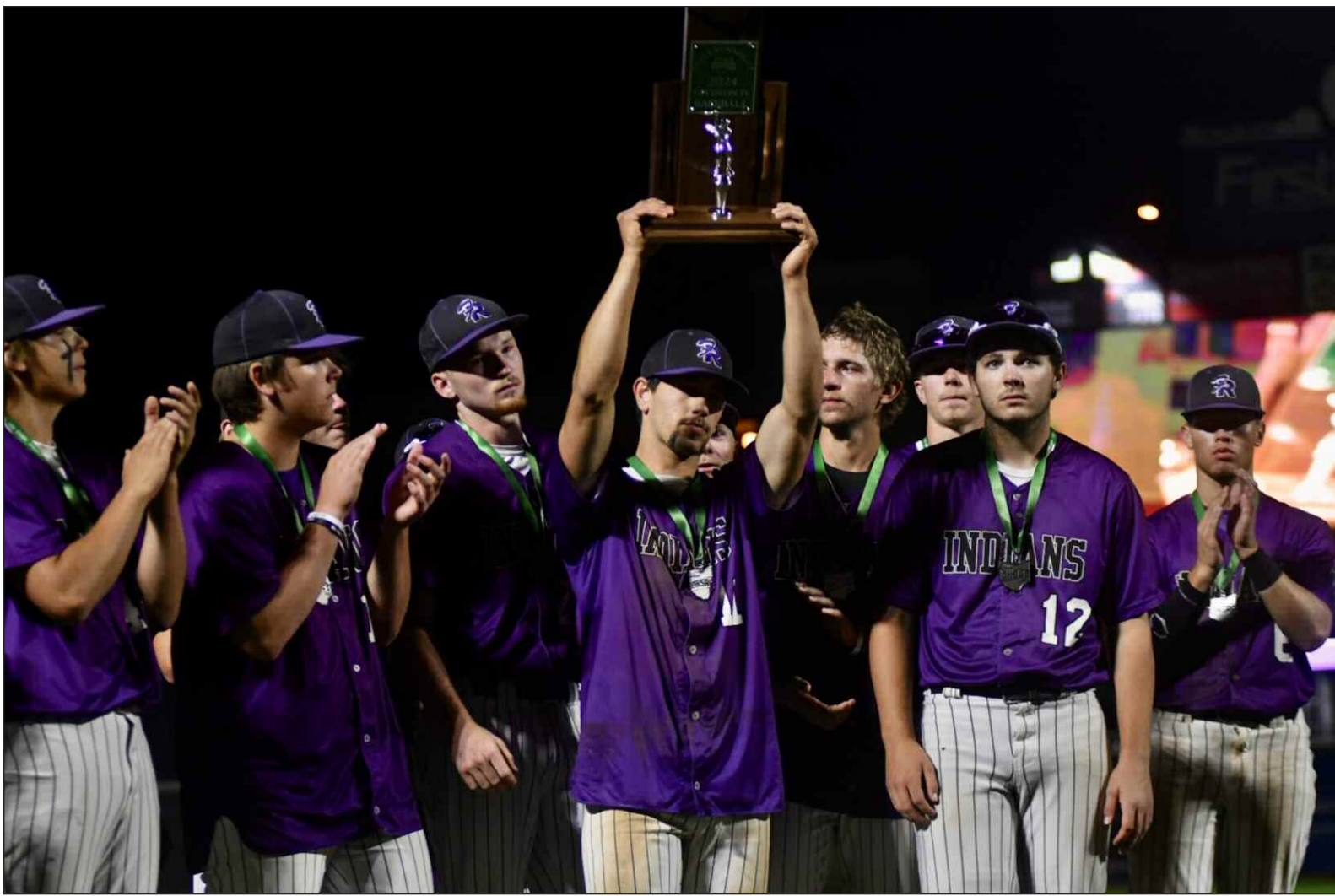


# The Commercial Review



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## State experience

The Fort Recovery High School baseball team, which was sub-.500 heading into the tournament, advanced all the way to play for the Division IV state championship Sunday evening at Canal Park in Akron. Pictured above, FRHS center fielder Troy Homan solemnly holds up the second-place trophy following the Indians' 3-2 loss to No. 1 Hiland in the state title game. At right, FRHS fans, from left, Ryan Lamm, Nick Bruns, Chuck Heitkamp, Nick "Tiny" Dilworth and Jerrett Tobin cheer on the Indians in the state semifinal game against Hillsdale on Saturday. For more on the Indians' weekend in Akron, see pages 7, 8 and 10.



## Blankley is back to lead facility

*Delaney removed after about six months*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A familiar face is returning to Jay County Country Living's leadership.

Jay County Commissioners approved a recommendation from the facility's advisory board of directors to bring back Melissa Blankley as director on an as-needed basis during their meeting Monday, effective immediately.

They also agreed Monday, absent commissioner Brian McGalliard, to remove Kristie Delaney from the position. Delaney has served in the role since Blankley's departure in December.

Jay County Country Living advisory board president Cindy Bracy explained that Blankley is willing to return as interim director while the board looks for another qualified candidate. She noted plans for Jay County Personnel Committee to meet at 1 p.m. Monday to discuss the director's job description.

"(They'll look at) some revisions and updates to that position that will require a lot more skills and education," she said, mentioning hopes to bump it back to a full-time role and adjust the pay accordingly.

The director's position has been a part-time job for at least one year. It was originally switched to part-time at the request of Blankley, who served in the role from the beginning of 2022 to Dec. 22, 2023.

See Back page 2

## Energy discounts coming

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Struggling with your energy bills?

Two forthcoming initiatives worth \$182 million could offer Hoosier households up to \$14,000 each in discounts for home energy efficiency upgrades.

The federally funded pair of programs could benefit thousands: single-family and multi-family inhabitants, owners and renters alike.

But first, planners want input — via listening sessions and online comments — on how to

design and implement the programs to better serve Indiana residents.

"We really believe these program funds are going to have a significant impact for a lot of Hoosiers, and we want to make sure that we make the process as efficient, as simple and as easy as we can to deliver those funds," Indiana Office of Energy Development Director Ryan Hadley said.

Congress created the programs through the Inflation Reduction Act, enacted in 2022. The U.S. Department of Energy spent a year developing guidelines for states to use.

Since then, Indiana has obtained administrative funding and awarded a \$1.4 million contract to consultant Egis Group to put the program together — including stakeholder engagement.

"We would really appreciate any insight folks can have," Hadley said.

Hoosiers could begin applying for discounts late this year, depending on when Indiana gets federal approval.

The first initiative, called the Home Efficiency Rebate Program deals with whole-home upgrades and retrofits.

See Energy page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Chanting Chante

Chante Reddest, a Lakota tribe member from Rapid City, South Dakota, performs with others Sunday during the National Center for Great Lakes Native American Culture's Gathering of Great Lakes Nations Pow Wow at the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association Grounds in Portland.

## Slate set for Iranian election

By GOLNAR MOTEVALLI and ARSALAN SHAHLA

Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Iran's snap presidential election will be dominated by establishment hardliners, with only one reformist among the six candidates approved to compete in a vote to succeed the country's late president, Ebrahim Raisi.

Candidates include parliament's speaker and former IRGC officer Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, ex-nuclear negotiator Saeed Jalili, Mayor of Tehran Alireza Zakani, surgeon and former lawmaker Amir-Hossein Ghazizadeh Hashemi, former minister of justice and interior minister Mostafa Pourmohammadi, and reformist legislator Masoud

Pezeshkian, according to a statement broadcast on Iranian state TV.

The Guardian Council, a powerful authority that oversees elections, approved the six-man list from 80 individuals who had registered to run in the June 28 election, which was triggered by the death of Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash last month.

See Slate page 2

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 79 degrees Sunday. The low was 55.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the mid 50s. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a

high in the mid 80s. The low Wednesday night will be in the mid 60s. There is a 40% chance of rain Thursday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

The Upper Wabash River Basin Commission will meet at 8 a.m. Wednesday at the Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., Bluffton.

### Coming up

**Wednesday** — Coverage of this week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

**Thursday** — Results from the Portland Rockets game against the Muncie Chiefs.

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Jay County Council meeting.





# Back ...

Continued from page 1

She had been working for the department on an as-needed basis for nearly seven months — her formal resignation came in June 2023 — prior to leaving, and she trained Delaney, then a part-time housekeeper, to take over her responsibilities for the facility.

Administration at Jay County Country Living has been adjusted since then. In February, commissioners approved an ordinance creating a Jay County Country Living advisory board

of directors. It is intended to “assist the commissioners in the oversight and administration of Jay Country Living,” according to the ordinance.

The board’s duties among others include: recommending adopting rules, policies and regulations to commissioners; reviewing the facility’s finances each meeting and helping the director prepare the annual budget; supervising maintenance, operation and services as well as residents’ health, safety, welfare and comfort; recom-

mending repairs, maintenance or improvements to commissioners; and inspecting the facility for various criteria, including personnel performance, drug handling and resident living standards.

Commissioner Rex Journay noted a potential candidate for the job, once the job description is modified, could be Brenda Johns, who has served in an administrative role at Adams County’s residential center; Golden Meadows Home. (The facility is in the process of closing.)

In related news, commissioners appointed Laura Garringer to the advisory board.

Board members recommended appointing either Garringer or Clint Moser. Garringer previously worked for Meridian Health Services, and Moser serves as the county’s Veterans Affairs officer.






Journay said Moser may be able to attract more veterans to live at the facility, with Bracy pointing out he has expressed a desire to shut it down. She added that she believes Moser

would still be able to look at board recommendations objectively.

They also heard information is still pending in relation to whether the county’s insurance company Bliss McKnight would cover an outside dog at the facility. (Jay County Country Living has had a dog, Kilo, living on the property for a long period of time.)

\*\*\*\*\*

For more news from Monday’s commissioners meeting, see Wednesday’s newspaper.

CR almanac				
Wednesday 6/11	Thursday 6/12	Friday 6/13	Saturday 6/14	Sunday 6/15
 <b>85/65</b> Sunny skies are in the forecast for Wednesday when the high will be in the mid 80s.	 <b>90/69</b> Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies and a high skyrocketing to nearly 90 degrees.	 <b>86/60</b> Another sweltering day Friday, when the high will be around 86 under mostly sunny skies.	 <b>84/61</b> Saturday's weather looks sunny and hot. The high temperature may hit the low to mid 80s.	 <b>91/62</b> Another hot summer day is in the forecast for Sunday, with sunny skies and a high of 91.

Lotteries	
<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$221 million	57-58-59-63-65-69-76-77 Cash 5: 1-9-17-36-42 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$30 million	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 5-2-4 Pick 4: 8-8-3-0 Pick 5: 2-5-7-3-2 Evening Pick 3: 9-0-6 Pick 4: 9-0-1-8 Pick 5: 9-5-1-9-7 Rolling Cash 5: 4-21-25-28-30
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 9-7-2 Daily Four: 3-6-7-2 Evening Daily Three: 0-0-7 Daily Four: 9-1-5-0 Quick Draw: 9-11-14-16-17-25-31-39-43-45-46-48-	Estimated jackpot: \$110,000

Markets	
<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.44 July corn .....4.44 Wheat .....5.00	July beans .....11.74 Wheat ..... 5.70
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.46 July corn.....4.41 Oct. corn .....4.43	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.33 June corn .....4.26 Beans .....11.75 June beans .....11.69 Wheat .....5.69
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.36 July corn .....4.36 Beans .....11.78	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.41 June corn .....4.41 Beans .....11.50 June beans .....11.55 Wheat .....5.48

## Today in history

In 1927, Charles Lindbergh was awarded the first Distinguished Flying Cross. It's a medal that has been given to aviators since then for acts of heroism or extraordinary achievement while flying. Lindbergh received the award for his nonstop one-man flight across the Atlantic Ocean that year completed in 33.5 hours.

In 1982, “E.T. the Extra-Terrestrial” was released in theatres. Directed by Steven Spielberg and starring Henry Thomas and Drew Barrymore, it drew in just under \$793 million at the box office.

In 1992, Tracy Austin becomes the youngest inductee into the International Tennis Hall of Fame at 29 years old. At 16, Austin won the United States Tennis Open. She won the title again two years later. She was ranked No. 1 in the world in 1980.

In 1993, Spielberg’s “Jurassic Park” was released. Starring Sam Neill and Jeff Goldblum, it came in at more than \$1 billion in the box office.

In 2002, “American Idol” premieres on Fox. Created by Simon Fuller, the show follows tententainers’ auditions for a chance at stardom. The ongoing show has 21 seasons.

— The CR

Citizen’s calendar	
<b>Wednesday</b> 8 a.m. — Upper Wabash River Basin Commission, Wells Carnegie Government Annex, 223 W. Washington St., Bluffton. 1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff’s Merit Board, training room, sheriff’s office, 224 W. Water St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor’s office, city Center, 321 N. Meridian St.	4:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
<b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource hall, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	

# Energy ...

Continued from page 1

It would include air sealing, insulation, heat-pumps and more.

When Hoosiers apply, Hadley said, “We’ll actually send an energy auditor to your home. That energy auditor will conduct his or her assessment and ... produce a report, and that report will point out some key investment opportunities to help that home save energy and have a positive return on that investment.”

Residents would be able to choose from among the suggested upgrades and retrofits, according to Hadley — and they’d get the discount at the time of purchase.

Rebates are typically a way to promote sales: retailers offer customers who purchase their products retroactive partial refunds. That’s not how the programs would work.

“The federal legislation calls them rebates, but it’s kind of a misnomer,” Hadley said. “... So there will be no mailing of things. A customer is not going to be expected to pay the full purchase price of a product and then hope for a rebate to come.”

The discount amount would depend on how much energy the changes save. And, households earning less than 80% of their area’s median income (AMI) could stand to save more money.

The second program, called the Home Appliance Rebate Program focuses on high-efficiency appliance replacements like clothes dryers, stoves, heat pumps, and some electrical upgrades.

“Those types of appliances that have generally a higher energy usage, this provides an opportunity for customers to be able to swap those out for more efficient appli-

ances to help them reduce their utility bills and reduce energy consumption overall,” Hadley said.

It’s only for moderate- and low-income households earning less than 150% of their AMI. Like the first program, households earning less than 80% of their AMI would be eligible for higher discounts.

The maximum amount of savings, as laid out in the federal legislation, is \$14,000 across both programs.

Although federal legislation and guidelines provides states an outline and requirements for the programs, Haldey said there are plenty of details left to work out.

Renters can apply for the programs, for example, with their property owner’s permission. But in a multi-family abode, participation can get more complicated.

“We’re thinking, generally, more more targeted outreach and engagement, and going to folks and saying, ‘Hey, you or your tenants and/or your tenants are eligible for these programs. Here’s what they are, here’s how you can participate,’” Hadley said. “(It’s) more of a ... guided and facilitated ... approach to getting these applications across the finish line.”

But how will those applications look? That’s what program designers hope to collect feedback on.

“A lot of what we’re trying to do at these public meetings is to get that (information) and engage with with tenants, right? We want to understand how best we can communicate with them and with their landlords,” Hadley added.

He had a lengthy list of other remaining questions:

- Application intake: Optimized

for cell phone applicants? With print forms?

- Customer support: A call center? Online chats?
- Driving awareness: Digital advertisements? Television advertisements? Talking with nonprofits? Talking with churches? What other organizations?

Program designers hope to build rapport with potential participants, especially elderly Hoosiers, low-income households and others straining to pay utility bills.

“Not every community appreciates when we say, ‘We’re from the government and we’re here to help,’” Hadley said, referencing a 1986 speech by former President Ronald Reagan.

“How can we get you the support that these programs provide, and what are the best ways to raise awareness for your neighbors and your community as a whole?” Hadley continued.

His office has already conducted a virtual kickoff and an in-person listening event in Gary. Others set for this month include:

- Indianapolis from 6:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. tonight. It’ll be held at the Indiana Historical Society’s Frank and Katrine Basile Theatre, located at 450 W. Ohio St.
- Fort Wayne from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, at the Ivy Tech Coliseum Campus’ room CC1640, located at 3800 N. Anthony Blvd.
- Virtual closing session from 6:30 to 7 p.m. Thursday, June 27. Registration information is yet to be posted.

Hoosiers can also submit comments or suggestions through an online form, and can send questions about the programs to rebates@oed.in.gov.

# Slate ...

Continued from page 1

The U.S. will be closely watching the outcome of the vote as hostilities with Tehran simmer over the Israel-Hamas war in Gaza and Iran’s contested nuclear program.

The candidates have until June 27 to campaign and are expected to take part in five live debates on national television, according to the state-run Islamic Republic News Agency.

Ghazizadeh Hashemi had participated in the 2021 election, where he came fourth, while Jalili and Zakani withdrew from the race in support of Raisi.

Prominent disqualified figures include former president Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and veteran politician Ali Larijani, both previously barred from the 2021 ballot. Several members of former President Hassan Rouhani’s administration, including his vice president Eshagh Jahangiri, were also barred.

Moderates and reformists have only ever had an outside chance in Iranian elections and the final list of candidates illustrates how little influence they now wield.

Pezeshkian, who’s serving his fifth term as a member of parliament, stands as the solitary Iranian reformist cleared for the presidential race.

He’s known for his measured criticisms of hardline centers of power, especially as they became entrenched under the Raisi administration. As a heart surgeon, Pezeshkian demanded transparency regarding the death in custody of 22-year-old Mahsa Amini in 2022, while urging restraint in protests that followed Amini’s death while in police custody.

The vote takes place at a time of crisis and uncertainty in the Middle East as Israel continues its

offensive against Hamas in Gaza despite efforts by other countries in the region to broker a ceasefire.


As a key supporter of Hamas and Lebanon’s Hezbollah, Iran has already been drawn into the conflict, conducting its first direct military strike on Israel in April.

### SERVICES

**Saturday**  
**Weaver**, Larry: 10:30 a.m., Akron Community Center, 815 Rural St., Akron, Indiana.

---

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



## Swiss Village

### COORDINATOR/RESIDENTIAL ACTIVITIES ASSISTANT

Swiss Village is now seeking a Full-Time employee to work 24 hours/week as a Transportation Coordinator and 16 hours/week as a Residential Activities Assistant. Hours will be M-W 8am-4:30pm in Transportation and Th/Fri 8am-4:30pm in Residential Activities with flexibility for transportation and activities on evening and weekend hours as needs arise. Responsibilities include providing high quality transportation for Swiss Village residents utilizing Swiss Village designated vehicles and keeping a log of transportation provided. Additionally, this position will be responsible for assisting with the implementation of recreation services and programs for Swiss Village residents. This position requires an active Indiana For-Hire Endorsement or willingness to obtain upon hire and the ability to pass the Indiana DOT physical. This position also requires CPR certification or the willingness to become CPR certified within 6 months of hire. The successful candidate must have the physical ability to push wheelchairs, be flexible, and must have a clean driving record.

**Apply online at [www.swissvillage.org](http://www.swissvillage.org)**  
**or send Resume to:**  
Kayla Reilly, HR Specialist  
Swiss Village  
1350 W. Main St., Berne, IN 46711  
Or e-mail: [careers@swissvillage.org](mailto:careers@swissvillage.org)



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**WINGS and RINGS****1204 W. Votaw St., Portland, IN**  
**(260) 726-9647**



55th anniversary



Sharon and Roberto Aparicio - 2024

Roberto and Sharon Aparicio

Roberto and Sharon Aparicio are celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary today. Sharon (Westerman) and Roberto Aparicio wed June 11, 1969, in El Monte, California. They've lived in Portland for 14 years. Roberto Aparicio retired from Norfolk Southern Railway and is currently a bus driver for Muncie Community Schools. Aparicio works as a caregiver for AID of Indiana. They are the parents of Lisa Shook, Robert Aparicio and Jesse Aparicio, and they have five grandchildren. The Aparicios plan to have a family gathering and dinner at their home in Portland.

Nonprofit gift is still unclaimed

DEAR ABBY: I was a member of a nonprofit group for a couple of years. The wife of the leader bought me an old upright piano, thinking I would use it in a church they were starting. I was grateful for the piano and have used it a lot. It's lovely. The nonprofit disbanded and we no longer see these people. They haven't asked for it back or for any money. It would be a hardship to give them \$200, and it seems like it was a gift. Do you think I need to give them \$200? — A GIFT IN THE WEST

DEAR GIFT: If your conscience is telling

Dear Abby



you to remind them you have the piano and ask if they wish to be compensated, then make the call. It may make you feel better. Because you were not asked to return it, it is possible they won't ask you for money. But if they do, try to work out an installment plan that won't cause you stress.

Rare opportunity still came with guilt

The funny thing with being a first-time parent is wanting to spend every waking moment with your child. You don't want to miss a smile, a laugh or a new milestone. Alas, sometimes, as parents, we need a reprieve. That's where the "village" comes in. A couple weeks ago when Indiana was hosting The Greatest Spectacle in Racing, my wife and I got a break from parenthood for a once-in-a-lifetime experience; the Canadian Hockey League's Memorial Cup tournament. The Memorial Cup is a four-team, round-robin tournament for the three Canadian junior hockey leagues. It is arguably one of the toughest junior hockey trophies to win based on the sheer fact there are 60 CHL franchises and the timeframe for its players is limited (only players aged 15 to 20 are eligible). The tournament pits the champions from the CHL's three leagues (Western Hockey League, Quebec Maritimes Junior Hockey League and Ontario

Parental Ponderings



Hockey League) as well as the host city. My hometown team, the Saginaw Spirit, have been an OHL team since 2002 and have never won its league. But in March 2023, the Spirit won the right to host the tournament. It's the first time the tournament was to be held in the United States since it was played in Spokane, Washington, in 1998. Despite its name, nine of the 60 CHL teams are based in the U.S., so Saginaw being picked to host the city is a tremendous opportunity for the area. When it was announced Saginaw was going to host, I was ecstatic. As a more-than-casual hockey fan, I was stoked for the opportunity to watch such a momentous tournament. That

opportunity was put in jeopardy once we became pregnant and realized our child would be two months old when the tournament began. The likelihood of us being able to go was fleeting. With a stroke of luck — free tickets from my employer as it is a season-long sponsor of the team and the aforementioned village which came through to babysit — we were able to escape for a night to watch the highest level of junior hockey in the world. Our sitter(s) came over a couple hours before the game started so we could make the 6.1-mile drive downtown to experience the Fan Fest surrounding the tournament and then watch the opening game of the tournament — our Spirit against the WHL champion Moose Jaw (Saskatchewan) Warriors. We parked, got into the Fan Fest area and probably spent too much money on merchandise. I may never get the chance to go to the Memorial Cup again, so I wanted to commemorate this

occasion by buying a hat, a shirt and a Spirit flag to add to my garage collection. While walking around the outdoor event, it was awesome to see fans from across the CHL, donning sweaters (the slang term for a hockey jersey) from teams I've never heard of before. We entered Dow Event Center in time to get to our seats before puck drop and the pregame ceremonies, which included both the Canadian and U.S. national anthems. The night got off to a hot start for the host team and its fans. A Nic Sima goal put the Spirit up 1-0 in the first period, and that score held until the hosts ripped off three more goals in the second period for a 4-0 lead. But within a span of 95 seconds late in the second, Moose Jaw scored three goals. One goal from each side in the final 20 minutes led to the eventual 5-4 Saginaw win, a huge accomplishment for a team making its Memorial Cup debut although it didn't win its league. The atmosphere was electric. I

loved the opportunity to experience the Memorial Cup and (finally) see our hometown team play for the first time this year. Ten days later, the Spirit completed an improbable run and hoisted the Memorial Cup as tournament champions. The entire time, though, part of our minds and hearts were not in the arena with us, but back home with our 9-week-old child. We constantly got updates as to how she was doing (sleeping like a rock) and were notified when she fed and got a visit from her oldest cousin, my niece Taylor. It was wonderful for Chrissy and I to have a night out for such a rare opportunity. And although we got to experience history for both the CHL and my hometown, guilt made us rush home afterward to be with our baby. .... Chris Schanz is a former CR Sports Editor embarking on a new journey as a father. You can reach him at christopher.schanz@gmail.com.

Community Calendar

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

**Today**  
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.  
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCBRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based 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 Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — 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.

**Wednesday**  
WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB —

Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.  
PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.  
BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.  
PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.  
COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.  
JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.  
PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.  
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.

# SENIOR CITIZENS

## Special

Our **Senior Citizens Special Section** will be distributed in  
*The Commercial Review (Portland),  
The News-Gazette (Winchester),  
The News Times (Hartford City)  
and The News and Sun (Dunkirk)*



FULL-PAGE COLOR – \$600  
*(only one available)*

FULL-PAGE B&W – \$500

1/2-PAGE COLOR – \$450  
*(limited availability)*

1/2-PAGE B&W – \$400

1/4-PAGE COLOR – \$350  
*(limited availability)*

1/4-PAGE B&W – \$250

Big business card (3x3.5) – \$100

Business card (2x2) – \$60

**WOW!**



Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.  
Deadline for ads is Wednesday, June 12.

### GRAPHIC PRINTING

NEWSPAPERS

Contact Lindsey at  
**L.Cochran@thecr.com**  
or **(260) 726-8141**

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday's Solution

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

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.



# Effort on happiness is refreshing

The Virginian-Pilot  
Tribune News Service

In the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson, writing on behalf of the Continental Congress, proclaimed that all people have an inalienable right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. These stand as guiding principles for our republic, shaping both our system of government and the public's expectations for their nation.

A bipartisan duo of elected leaders recently argued that we're doing too little to advance that third and vitally important principle, and they want to find ways to help Americans better pursue the promise of happiness. That's a worthwhile discussion and one worth following as it takes shape.

Each year, Gallup World Polling compiles a World Happiness Report, using quality-of-life survey data from 140 nations, averaged over three years, along with input from "interdisciplinary experts from the fields of

## Guest Editorial

economics, psychology, sociology and beyond" to rank countries based on their population's happiness.

This year's report, released in March, found Finland, Denmark, Iceland and Sweden atop the rankings. That wasn't much of a surprise since the Nordic countries routinely perform well in these surveys.

What was surprising, however, was the United States landing at No. 23, the first time our nation fell outside the top 20 since Gallup began this effort 12 years ago. Costa Rica, Kuwait, Slovenia and the United Arab Emirates all ranked higher.

Particularly troubling is the steep decline in happiness among

young people. That tracks with polling from the Harvard Kennedy School's Institute of Politics released in April that found only 9% of voters aged 18-29 believe the country is headed in the right direction.

For U.S. Sen. Chris Murphy, a Democrat from Connecticut, and Utah Gov. Spencer Cox, a Republican, the report confirmed something they had been discussing for a while: that despite the high quality of life many Americans enjoy, people seem more dour, anxious and, well, unhappy than ever before.

So in April, they launched the "Restoring the Common Good Initiative," an effort to explore the reasons behind the dissatisfaction evident throughout the nation. They assembled a diverse and bipartisan group of academics, writers, thinkers, activists and others, and began holding round-table discussions with members of the public about how they feel and ways to better facilitate happiness.

"Many Americans are less happy and less hopeful than ever before," they said in a joint statement. "The source of this anxiety may vary, but many feel like they are powerless in their economic lives, disconnected from community, and distrustful of the institutions of government, media, higher education, religion, business and others.

"This broad social and political disaffection begs for a diverse set of leaders to spark a conversation about what makes a truly good life and why this life feels so inaccessible to many Americans."

Murphy telegraphed this initiative in a March op-ed, writing that Americans are unhappy despite low unemployment, slowing inflation, rising GDP and a falling rate of violent crime. He argued that should be a more pressing concern to officials at every level of government.

Murphy's op-ed focused specifically on one worrisome trend: the lack of deep, nurtured relationships with other people which are

essential to humans' sense of fulfillment. He noted studies that show more Americans than ever say they have three or fewer closer friends.

But how on earth can government help with that? For Murphy, bad public policy choices — a lack of regulations for social media, for instance, and weak protections for workers — are among the root causes and areas in which the public sector could do better.

And, as he and Cox both point out, the Declaration implores our government to empower Americans to pursue happiness, meaning officials have a responsibility to embrace policies that can foster hope and optimism among the public.

Whether this is a well-meaning initiative or something that results in a policy agenda remains to be seen, but it's refreshing to see public officials focus on this nationwide concern and to seek ways to work together to address it.

## Is LEAP project stuck in neutral?

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

For two years, the state of Indiana has sat on thousands of acres of farmland in Boone County with no new announced tenants for a controversial innovation park.

Hoosiers should be concerned about the lack of progress given the \$358.4 million spent on land so far. And that doesn't count millions more in consulting and development contracts into which the Indiana Economic Development Corporation (IEDC) has entered.

The state began acquiring land in late 2021. Then, in May 2022, the IEDC publicly revealed the Limitless Exploration/Advanced Pace (LEAP) Research and Innovation project: a massive tech park with Eli Lilly & Co. as its first tenant.

Lilly initially planned to invest \$2.1 billion into the project on 600 acres of land. But it increased that to more than \$3.7 billion at the groundbreaking in April 2023.

The company again added to that investment a few weeks ago, for a total of \$9 billion and 900 new jobs, still on its 600-acre LEAP lot.

Lilly last year quietly bought its 600 acres from the state — in two parcels — for \$60 million. Erin Sweitzer, spokeswoman for the IEDC, said the state purchased the Lilly land at \$81,000 an acre and sold it at \$99,260 an acre.

"Cash received at time of sale was returned to the General Fund. Additionally, the improvements being made to the land we have purchased to date will increase the value of the land for future sale," she said.

The IEDC has purchased 4,009 acres of land to date and has an additional 3,607 acres under contract, according to Sweitzer.

The progress on LEAP seems to have stalled because of one major issue: water.

While there is enough water to support the Lilly project, when the state started talking to major semiconductor companies it became clear they would need more water than Lebanon had to offer.

That's when a plan was proposed — privately — to pipe up to 100 million gallons of water a day from

Niki Kelly



the Wabash River in Tippecanoe County.

The plan leaked in a clumsy way and residents in Tippecanoe reacted negatively. IEDC commissioned a water study and initial results claimed there was enough water to support the diversion. But momentum was moving against it.

As a result, Gov. Eric Holcomb directed the Indiana Finance Authority to take over the study and widen it for a more comprehensive examination.

The IFA has retained Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. and Jacobs Engineering Group, Inc. Preliminary data from the study are anticipated to be released in late spring or summer of 2024 with final results in the fall.

If the water pipeline happens, the cost will be massive. Some have said upwards of \$2 billion, though the state disputes that an estimate exists.

But in the meantime, Boone County is losing property tax revenue as thousands of acres of land have been removed from tax-paying rolls and sit idle. That's because government-owned land is tax exempt.

The IEDC website boasts about the district's future.

"Modeled after the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina, in the heart of the Midwest in Indiana, the LEAP district will be a hub of global innovation and a key component of Indiana's plan to attract and retain businesses that keep Indiana one of the top states in the nation in which to do business," it says.

Some work is being done to prep the land with needed infrastructure but as far as adding tenants, the project seems stuck in neutral with state costs continuing to rise.

Kelly has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



## Clark can handle the bruises

By LZ GRANDERSON

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

We knew Caitlin Clark was going to have a slow start to her pro career because the team that drafted her, the Indiana Fever, has not had a winning season since President Barack Obama was in office. Of course, growing pains come with being the No. 1 pick in the draft — regardless of sport.

You can also count on those top picks to be tested by veterans, especially physically. It's a rite of passage for star rookies. Hard fouls are part of the game.

Cheap shots, like the one Chennedy Carter delivered to Clark on an inbound play on Saturday, are not supposed to be part of the game. But they are part of competition. Hence the Rodney Dangerfield joke: "I went to a fight the other night, and a hockey game broke out."

For her part, Clark has repeatedly said she's ready to go through that rite of passage. However, it seems many of her supporters are not.

"It is an absolute outrage what's happening to Caitlin Clark in the @WNBA," posted tennis commentator (and former colleague of mine) Patrick McEnroe, without explaining what he thinks is happening to her. Fox Sports analyst Emmanuel Acho posted a video of Carter's foul on Clark, asking, "Are the women out to get her?"

One of the more disappointing synopses came from former NBA player Austin Rivers, who accused WNBA players of resenting Clark because of her fame: "If you girls were Destiny's Child, she would be Beyoncé."

He also echoed a popular sentiment that hostility toward Clark is rooted in identity politics and that

LZ Granderson



her play alone is why she has so much attention.

"And it's not because she's white," he said about Clark's popularity and economic importance. "It's not because she's straight — good God, no one cares. And it's not because she's pretty, another thing I heard some woman who knows nothing about basketball saying.... It's because she's an unbelievable basketball player and talent."

Rivers, whose father is NBA legend Doc Rivers, could have offered his perspective on what it's like being tested as a rookie with a target on your back because of fame. He also could have addressed why women's basketball wasn't more popular before Clark. But that would have taken nuance. So instead he tried to gaslight everyone by suggesting being pretty, straight and white doesn't help a woman's Q-rating, which is akin to saying being tall, dark and handsome doesn't help men.

Clark has repeatedly said she wants to be treated like everyone else. And that's how she's being treated. Why are so many having a difficult time accepting that?

WNBA basketball has always been a physical game. At the very beginning, star rookie Rebecca Lobo had to adjust from college play to the physicality of the professional game. When Candace Parker was a superstar rookie in 2008, she found herself in the middle of a brawl. Angel Reese

was hit in the neck mid-jump less than a week before Carter hip-checked Clark. Afterward Reese said: "They're not supposed to be nice to me or lay down because I'm Angel Reese or 'cause I'm a rookie."

The problem began the moment men with very large platforms started making proclamations about Clark's place in history without respecting the history of the game.

Consider this: In any major sport, someone can be considered a contender for "the greatest of all time" only if they have won a championship. In fact, the conversation typically starts with how many Super Bowls or rings a particular player has.

Not how close they got but how many were captured.

Except with Clark.

Her accomplishments are worthy of all the attention she has attracted, but sports media shoehorned Clark into a GOAT conversation that by the industry's own metric, she didn't belong in. They did so because Clark was great in college, and they weren't watching the sport before her so ... she was crowned without context. It's like a tourist who spends a week at a resort and proclaims to know the local culture better than the people who live there.

And now there is this outcry from casual fans who are shocked to find out the WNBA is a lot tougher than college. Something that wouldn't have to be explained at all if professional women's basketball were given the attention it has always deserved.

Clark doesn't need protecting. She's a talented player who's learning the ropes, not a damsel in distress.

Granderson is an op-ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

# The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
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The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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VOLUME 151-NUMBER 29  
TUESDAY, JUNE 11, 2024

[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Ribbon cutting

Jay County Chamber of Commerce held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week for the new Sonrise Aviation corporate hangar at Portland Municipal Airport.

AP board restructuring announced

The Arts Place board of directors has approved a new structure. Board president Sarah Lingo announced last week that the restructuring process will result in a board that has equal representation from Jay and Blackford counties. Arts Place operates the Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland and the Blackford County Arts Center of Arts Place in Hartford City. “The new structure reflects best practices for non-profit organizations who, like Arts Place, have a regional footprint,” said Lingo.

**Workshop set**  
Jay County Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring a leadership workshop from 9 a.m. to noon Thursday, June 27, at Community Resource Center. The Fusion: Leading Multi-generational Teams event will cover social, political and economic influences that shape the attitudes of individuals across generations. It will focus on improving leadership and communication skills. For more information, or to register, visit [shaferleadership.com/fusion-jay-county](http://shaferleadership.com/fusion-jay-county). Jay County Chamber of Commerce will also host ribbon-cutting ceremonies for a couple of new businesses. Also, the chamber will host a ribbon-cutting ceremony at 11 a.m. Monday, June 17, for Sweet T’s Creations. The new bakery is located at 2 West High St., Redkey.

**Zoom with the fair**  
Jay County Fair Board intern Kaden Khayyata will host several “Business After Hours” Zoom

Business roundup

presentations to allow local businesses to learn about ways to advertise and otherwise be involved with the Jay County Fair. Presentations are scheduled for 6 p.m. Tuesday, 6 p.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. Saturday. Links are available at [TinyURL.com/JCF-BizAfterHrs24](http://TinyURL.com/JCF-BizAfterHrs24). To contact Khayyata, email [jaycofairsponsorships@gmail.com](mailto:jaycofairsponsorships@gmail.com) or call (260) 726-9616.

**Cash retiring**  
Penn Township Public Library recently announced the retirement of librarian Brenda Cash. Her last day at the library was May 30. She had been the librarian for 17 years. An open house to celebrate Cash’s career is scheduled for 2 to 4 p.m. Saturday, June 29, at Pennville Community Center, 210 S. Union St.

**Projects moving**  
NextEra Energy Resources and Entergy on Friday announced a joint development agreement for the development of up to 4.5 gigawatts of new solar generation and energy storage projects. The five-year joint development agreement is expected to facilitate the development and construction of new solar generation and energy storage projects.

“We believe the power sector is at an inflection point, and growing electricity demand will be met by low-cost, renewable generation and storage,” said Rebecca Kujawa, president and CEO of NextEra Energy Resources. “We’re pleased to reach this agreement because it further strengthens our long-standing collaboration and adds up to 4.5 GW on top of the more than 1.7 GW of renewable energy projects already underway with Entergy.” NextEra owns and operates Bluff Point Wind Energy Center in southern Jay County and northern Randolph County.

**Cardiologist added**  
Lutheran Health Physicians has added cardiologist Dr. Shezad Sanaullah to its staff at Bluffton Regional Medical Center, 303 S. Main St., Bluffton. Sanaullah earned his medical degree at Creighton University and did his residency at State University of New York followed by fellowship training in cardiovascular diseases from the University of Florida. He previously worked at Cardiology and Internal Medicine Group of North Florida in Apalachicola, Florida. He diagnoses and treats patients with coronary artery disease, vascular disease, heart failure, heart valve disease and other disorders. He is also board certified in nuclear cardiology.

**Training scheduled**  
ServSafe training is held at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland. The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, June 18. The certification course is open to all food service

employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses. For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

**Named dean**  
Ball State University has announced that Katrina Bulkley will become the new dean of its Teachers College beginning July 1. Bulkley is currently a university innovation fellow at Montclair State University in New Jersey. A graduate of Stanford University (doctorate), the University of North Carolina (master’s) and Wesleyan University (bachelor’s), she is also a professor of educational leadership. “I am excited to welcome Dr. Bulkley as the new dean of our Teachers College,” said Dr. Anand R. Marri, provost and executive vice president for academic affairs at Ball State, in a press release. “Throughout our national search process, Dr. Bulkley impressed us with her passion for education, her extensive experience in leading academic initiatives, and her commitment to data-driven and equity-focused leadership. I look forward to working with her to build on the strengths of our Teachers College and to advance our University’s mission and strategic plan.”

**Colleges join**  
Purdue University, Indiana University and the University of Notre Dame have joined Indiana Research Consortium to collaborate on national defense research. The consortium seeks to “drive innovations and advance-

ments in areas critical to U.S. national security while positioning Indiana as a hub for defense research.” The universities will work together to address challenges in areas including micro-electronics, hypersonics, energetics and cyber-physical systems. “Indiana is home to a deep bench of research experts and programs that are critical to our national defense,” said Karen Plaut, Purdue University executive vice president for research, in a press release. “Through the spirit of collaboration and cooperation by the state’s three leading research universities, we can pool our expertise and programs to support the missions of NSWC Crane and the Defense Department and help to solve significant challenges in key areas of national security research. Indiana’s superpower is working together to solve big problems, and this is the first step towards that goal.”

**Considering options**  
Dollar Tree is considering options for its Family Dollar stores, including possible sale. Dollar Tree purchased Family Dollar in 2015. Earlier this year it announced plans to close 970 of its 8,359 Family Dollar stores. “Many of these stores had been under-invested for years, and the capital investment required to fix them could not deliver an acceptable rate of return,” said Dollar Tree CEO Richard Dreiling. Does your business have news to share? Email us at [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com) to be included in our weekly business roundup.

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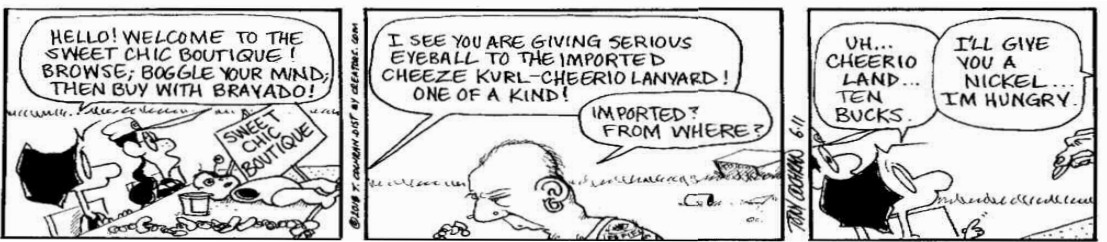
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Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A crucial decision

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ 6 5  
♥ K Q J 10 9  
♦ Q 9 3  
♣ A Q 5

WEST  
♠ A K 7 2  
♥ 7 5 4  
♦ 8 6 4  
♣ 9 8 7

EAST  
♠ 9 8 3  
♥ A 6 2  
♦ 10 7 2  
♣ K 6 3 2

SOUTH  
♠ Q J 10 4  
♥ 8 3  
♦ A K J 5  
♣ J 10 4

The bidding:  
North 1♥ Pass  
East 2♥ Pass  
South 1♠ Pass  
West 2NT Pass

Opening lead — nine of clubs.

There is often more than one story in a bridge hand. For example, take this case where South was in three notrump and West led the nine of clubs. Declarer played the five from dummy, losing to East's king, whereupon East shifted to the nine of spades, covered by South with the ten.

West won the ten with the king and concluded that there was very little chance of defeating the con-

tract unless East had both the eight of spades and ace of hearts. Accordingly, West returned the deuce of spades at trick three. Declarer took East's eight with the jack and had no alternative but to tackle hearts. East won the first heart with the ace and returned the three of spades, allowing West, who had the A-7 over South's Q-4, to score two spade tricks for down one.

There is no question that East-West defended perfectly. Nevertheless, the fact remains that South could and should have made the contract.

All he had to do was to put up dummy's ace of clubs at trick one and play the king of hearts at trick two. This would have guaranteed at least nine tricks — four diamonds, four hearts and a club — no matter how the defenders' cards were divided.

The lesson to be learned from South's play at trick one is that a finesse should not be taken just because it's there. While J-10-x facing A-Q-x is an ideal holding for finessing purposes, the overriding consideration is that here, taking the finesse jeopardizes the contract. That being the case, declarer has no choice but to decline the finesse.

Tomorrow: Precision defense.  
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6-11

CRYPTOQUIP

U H G J W I T S S E H U C L S W W Y T A

I X C G G L T C Q K T, U G L U R Y

E W X P W X S A Z T H T Z G W G L T K

Q C U - G T R G Q P S T G J U R C.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FITTING NAME FOR A PASTA RESTAURANT INSIDE A HUGE MANHATTAN TRAIN DEPOT: PENNE STATION.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals J

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Male deer  
5 Boy king  
8 Streetcar  
12 Roly-  
13 Swiss canton  
14 Medal recipient  
15 Grade sch.  
16 Baseball Hall-of-Famer Roberto  
18 Rabbis, et al.  
20 Short concession speech  
21 Actor Maher-shala  
22 Shade tree  
23 "Divine Comedy" author  
26 Sanitize  
30 Have bills  
31 Tibetan bovine  
32 Admiral's org.  
33 Butcher's need  
36 Receded  
38 Sass  
39 Hooting bird

40 "The Stranger" author  
43 Without question  
47 Climbing plant  
49 Belafonte song  
50 "Misery" star James  
51 Giverny summer  
52 Daring Knieval  
53 Taylor of "Mystic Pizza"  
54 Badge metal  
55 Frisbee, e.g.

DOWN

1 Detail, briefly  
2 Road charge  
3 Down-wind  
4 Avid exerciser  
5 Stanley of "The Devil Wears Prada"  
6 Web addresses  
7 Dead heat  
8 Grammy-winning singer  
9 Nevada city  
10 — and crafts  
11 Champagne brand  
17 Race distance  
19 Land in la mer

22 Antlered animal  
23 AMA member  
24 Piercing tool  
25 Born  
26 Lincoln or Ford, e.g.  
27 Gist  
28 Away from  
29 Finish  
31 "You betcha!!"  
34 Grads  
35 Travel permit  
36 Ram's mate  
37 Like ice skates  
39 Mary-Kate or Ashley  
40 Roman  
41 Jai —  
42 Repast  
43 New York's — Field  
44 Sitarist Shankar  
45 Caustic agents  
46 Egg part  
48 Asian holiday

Solution time: 22 mins.

POOH BBC RAMA  
EAVE AIR ELIS  
WHEY SCARFACE  
SUNDAE GUINEA  
ALBS ETA  
BABYFACE SLAB  
IPO ALIAS DRY  
DEBT LOSEFACE  
BAD NYRO  
STYLES RARITY  
TYPEFACE ERIE  
ERIN GPA SMEW  
WONT SAD TARS

Yesterday's answer 6-11

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12  
15  
18  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29  
30  
33  
40 41 42 43 44 45 46  
47  
50  
53

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# Dues delivers

Box score

Fort Recovery Indians  
vs. Hillsdale Falcons

OHSAA Division IV  
state semifinal

Hillsdale (19-12)

	ab	r	h	bi
Fickes p	4	0	1	1
Bower 2b	4	0	0	0
OHoffman 3b	3	0	3	0
Jarvis c	3	0	0	0
Lewis ss	3	0	0	0
Heller rf	3	0	1	0
AHoffman lf	1	1	0	0
Casdorpf cf	3	0	0	0
Bickel 1b	2	0	1	0
Totals	26	1	6	1

Fort Recovery (16-12)

	ab	r	h	bi
THoman cf	3	1	1	0
Wendel lf	4	0	0	0
CHoman dh	2	0	1	1
Seigrist pr	0	0	0	0
Gaerke ss	2	2	2	0
Grisez 3b	3	0	1	0
Faller 1b	3	0	1	1
Evers rf	3	0	1	1
Tobe c	3	0	2	0
Miller pr	0	0	0	0
Dues p	2	0	1	0
Totals	25	3	10	3

Hillsdale 000 100 0 — 0  
Ft. Rec. 012 000 X — 3

LOB — Hillsdale 8, Fort Recovery 8. 2B — Fort Recovery 2 (THoman, Faller).

IP H R ER BB SO

Hillsdale

Fickes 6 10 3 3 1 4

Fort Recovery

Dues 7 6 1 1 2 5



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Alex Dues only gives up one run in state semifinal win against Hillsdale

**By ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

AKRON — The Indians were amped to play in the state tournament.

After asking themselves all week why they couldn't win it all, things started off on the right foot.

Momentarily, they got a bit ahead of themselves.

After poking a sharp ground ball down the first baseline, Troy Homan slid into second base, got up and started celebrating, not realizing that he could have made it to third base.

It didn't happen again.

Instead, the Indians played to get all 21 outs and advance to the state championship game for the first time in 71 years.

The Fort Recovery High School baseball team got a strong performance out of Alex Dues on the mound to lead the Indians to a 3-1 victory over the Hillsdale Falcons in the OHSAA Division IV state semifinal on Saturday at Canal Park, home of the Ducks.

With the win, the Indians (16-12) advanced to play No. 1 Hiland in the state championship Sunday at 7 p.m. Hiland beat No. 4 Russia 2-0 in the sec-

ond semifinal game. The last time the Indians played in the championship game was in 1953, when they lost to Beavercreek.

“Just extremely happy,” FRHS coach Kevin Eyink said. “Obviously we’re moving on and we have a chance for the championship, so we’re extremely happy.”

“The guys played really well. They did everything they needed to do and here we are. We get to play one more day.”

The Indians got a tremendous effort out of Dues, their senior ace, on the mound. In 93 pitches, Dues went the distance for Fort Recovery Only allowing one run on six hits and two walks, while punching out five batters.

“I had to really mix it up,” Dues said. “My slider is a lot different than my curveball and fastball velocity wise. It's just like from low 80s to high 50s, so you’ve got to keep them guessing.”

The Falcons (19-12) found ways to hit Dues as they had at least one hit in the first five innings, but couldn't find a way to get those hits to turn into runs. They threatened to score in the third inning when an

error by Sage Wendel at second base and a pair of hits loaded the bases, but Dues struck out a pair of batters to strand the bases loaded.

Hillsdale finally scratched one across because of mistakes Dues made. The FRHS senior issued a pair of walks to Aiden Hoffman and Byron Bickel before surrendering a two-out single to Jack Fickes to give up the run.

A ground ball to Caden Grisez ended the inning and Dues became nearly untouchable the rest of the night.

“I just knew (there was) a lot of game left and I had a lot of game in me,” he said. “I just had to keep my head up and keep going.”

Dues gave up a single to Owen Hoffman to start the fifth inning, but a pop out and two groundouts kept the Falcons quiet. He recorded his first three up, three down inning in the sixth to bring him three outs closer to the state finals.

Dues had to face the top of the order, including Fickes, who had Hilldsdale's only RBI, and Owen Hoffman, who was 3-for-3 at that point. Dues got Fickes to fly out

to center fielder Troy Homan for the first out. Both Brock Bower and Owen Hoffman sent ground balls to Wendel at second, who cleanly made the play to send the Indians to the finals.

“Sage Wendel had a mistake early,” Eyink said. “He came back and made the last two outs of the game, so just a phenomenal job by him. That’s what this team is able to do, keep playing no matter what.”

Fort Recovery got on the board as early as the second inning. Shortstop Alex Gearke led off the inning with a single up the middle that Gavin Casdorpf mishandled in center field to allow Gearke to reach second base. He later reached third base on a dropped third strike before Reece Evers knocked him in with a single to the left side.

Gearke later smacked a two-out single to left field in the third. A single by Grisez moved him up to second so that Gavin Faller's double to shallow left center field got Gaerke to the plate.

“(I was) just staying calm, collected, having a good swing, making sure to keep your head

down and not letting the moment get too big for you,” Gaerke said. “That’s what we’ve been doing all tournament, jumping out on teams early, trying to get on them and just tear them down mentally too. Those early runs were big.”

Splitting the two runs scored by Gearke was Troy Homan's run. The senior led off the third inning with a double that could have been a triple, but he slid into second base thinking that right fielder Brady Heller would cut off the ball. An error on a pick off attempt moved Troy Homan to third before Caden Homan hit a sacrifice fly for the score.

Just as they had to get 21 outs to make it to the championship game, starting pitcher Grisez is 21 outs away from giving the Indians their first baseball state championship.

“To know that it’s going to be the last one with the friends I grew up playing with in this atmosphere tomorrow, I can’t wait,” Troy Homan said. “Like I said earlier this week, we wanna be that first Fort Recovery team to bring one home and right now we are 21 outs away.”

90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
FRIDAY JUNE 21ST, 2024  
TIME 5:00 P.M.  
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Bryant, IN  
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OWNER: AMOS C GRABER  
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.  
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110 HELP WANTED

Gloria May, Redkey Town Hall 8922 IN-67 Redkey, IN 47373. For more information, please contact Brenda Beaty, Town Council President, at 419-203-9081.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
2024 TERM  
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of:  
Richard Gene Mock, Deceased  
No. 38C01-2405-EU-000015  
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION  
Notice is hereby given that JoAnn Mock was, on the 29th day of May, 2024, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Richard Gene Mock deceased, who died on April 27, 2024.  
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 30th day of May, 2024.  
HINKLE, RACSTER & SCHEMENAUR  
121 W. High Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
Attorney  
Jon Eads  
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana  
CR 6-4,11-2024 HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
CAUSE NO: 38C01-2406-PL-000013  
ROBERT BROWN  
Plaintiff  
vs.  
JAMES PHILLIPS, RODNEY FUGIETT, GLYNN AND KELLIE BARBER, and All Others Who May Claim Any Lien on or Interest in the Real Estate Described Herein,  
Defendants  
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION  
This summons is to the Defendants above named and to any other persons who may be concerned.  
You are notified that you have been sued in the Jay Circuit Court, Jay County, Indiana, in the case set forth in the caption above, by the person named above as Plaintiff. This summons by publication is specifically directed to the Defendants named above and all others who may claim any lien on or interest in the Real Estate described below.  
The named Plaintiff is represented by Joshua A. Atkinson, 940 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371.  
The nature of this suit against you is to quiet title in Plaintiff to the Real Estate described below against the named Defendants and the world and the Real Estate is located in Jay County Indiana:  
The West one-half being twenty-five feet off from Lot numbered Thirty-Four (34) in the Original Plat of the Town of Redkey, Indiana.  
ALSO, the second story of the two-story brick business room situated on the East half of Lot numbered Thirty-Four (34) in said Original Plat of the Town of Redkey, Indiana.  
EXCEPTING THEREFROM: Commencing at the southeast corner of the West half of Lot numbered Thirty-Four (34) in the Original Plat of the Town of Redkey, Indiana, and running thence North Eighty-Two (82) feet to the north line of the Main Brick building now on said Lot numbered Thirty-Four (34), thence West Four (4) feet; thence North Forty (40) feet to the north line of the brick addition to said Main building; thence West Four (4) feet; thence North Twelve (12) feet; thence West Two (2) feet; thence North Ten (10) feet, more or less, to the alley, thence West to the northwest corner of said Lot numbered Thirty-Four (34); thence South to the southwest corner of said Lot numbered Thirty-Four (34); thence East to the place of beginning and being a part of the West half of Lot numbered Thirty-Four (34) in the Original Plat of the Town of Redkey, Indiana. An answer or other response in writing to the complaint must be filed either by you or your attorney within thirty (30) days after the last notice is published and if you fail to do so, judgment by default may be rendered against you for the relief demanded by the Plaintiff.  
If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response.  
Dated: 6/4/2024  
Jon Eads  
Clerk of the Jay Circuit Court  
CR 6-11,18-2024 HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT  
CAUSE NO: 38C01-2406-PL-000013  
ROBERT BROWN  
Plaintiff  
vs.  
JAMES PHILLIPS, RODNEY FUGIETT, GLYNN AND KELLIE BARBER, and All Others Who May Claim Any Lien on or Interest in the Real Estate Described Herein,  
Defendants  
SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION  
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If you have a claim for relief against the Plaintiff arising from the same transaction or occurrence, you must assert it in your written answer or response.  
Dated: 6/4/2024  
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# Stopped ...

Continued from page 10

Kaden Kandel drew a walk before pitcher Caden Grisez secured the second out of the inning with a fly ball to Alex Dues at shortstop.

Despite nearly every Fort Recovery fan rising to their feet and cheering Grisez on to get the final out, Monigold smashed a deep fly ball to right center field that both Reece Evers and Troy Homan lost in the lights. The ball dropped for a two-RBI single to give Hiland the lead for the first time, which they would never relinquish.

“Props to the other team,” Grisez said. “Hiland is a great hitting team. I was just trying to pitch strikes and let the boys do work in the field.

...

“(That situation) might be tough at first but just gotta keep your composure and give it your all, that’s all you can do. I know the outcome isn’t what we wanted, but we gave it our all.”

The Indians (16-13) punched Hiland in the mouth right out of the gate. In the top of the first inning, FRHS got some needed momentum when Riggs Tobe gunned down Caden Coblentz who was trying to steal second. Grisez then punched out Colin Coblentz to give the Indians a little more momentum as they came to the plate the first time.

Troy Homan didn’t waste that momentum, sending the first pitch from Finn Schneider into left field for a double. Reece Wendel’s single moved him to third base before Caden Homan grounded out to second base to drive Troy Homan in.

Upon entering the dugout, Troy Homan shouted to his team “They know we’re here now,” sending the message that Fort Recovery wasn’t content with just making the championship game.

“It was such an adrenaline rush,” Troy Homan said. “It was a dream come true to start a state championship game like that. ...

“They thought they had the game won last night



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Troy Homan, a senior on the Fort Recovery High School baseball team, celebrates a leadoff double that got the Indians started in the bottom of the first inning in the state championship game. When Homan came around to score, he shouted, “They know we’re here now,” sending the message that the Tribe wasn’t going to roll over and give Hiland a free state title.

already. We wanted to let them know that we were here and they were going to have to play their tails off to get us.”

FRHS scored a second run two batters later on a single that Grisez placed

in left field to get Wendel home.

The momentum started to shift in Hiland’s favor in the bottom of the third inning.

Troy Homan led off with a ball hit sharply

down the first base line, but the relay throw from second baseman Kandel got the FRHS senior at third base. Left fielder Connor Beachy then took another extra-base hit away from Reece Wendel

with an acrobatic catch, eliciting Wendel to tip his helmet. The inning ended on a ground ball by Caden Homan that Yoder fumbled at shortstop, but recovered to get the out.

The following inning,

the Hawks scratched their first run of the game as Yoder singled and made his way around on an error by second baseman Sage Wendel.

Yoder also came in to pitch the final three frames of the game and only allowed one base runner to close out the win.

While disappointed and frustrated with the result, many of the Indians expressed their gratitude for the multitude of fans that showed up for them and appreciation for the Cinderella run they just went on. Eyink had a similar point of view, choosing to focus on the positives of making it to the highest level for only the second time in school history.

“Everybody’s got to be proud of what we did,” Eyink said. “We’ve got to hopefully stay hungry. We’re going to miss these seniors and we’ve got some holes to fill, but hopefully we stay hungry and have some young guys who can step in and try to do this all again.”

Box score				
Fort Recovery Indians vs. No. 1 Hiland Hawks				
Hiland (27-5)				
	ab	r	h	bi
CaCoblentz 3b	4	0	2	0
CYoder cf	4	0	0	0
CoCoblentz rf	4	1	1	0
BYoder ss	2	1	1	0
Kandel 2b	1	1	0	0
Hostettler c	3	0	1	0
CaBeachy pr	0	0	0	0
Monigold 1b	3	0	2	2
MMiller pr	0	0	0	0
CaBeachy lf	3	0	1	0
WMiller dh	3	0	0	0
Totals	27	3	8	2
Fort Recovery (16-13)				
	ab	r	h	bi
THoman cf	3	1	2	0
Wendel lf	3	1	1	0
CHoman dh	3	0	0	1
Gearke ss	3	0	0	0
Grisez p	3	0	2	1
Faller 1b	2	0	0	0
Evers rf	3	0	0	0
Tobe c	3	0	1	0
Dues ss	2	0	0	0
Totals	25	2	6	2
Hiland	000	102	0	— 3
Frt. Rec.	200	000	0	— 2
LOB — Hiland 6, Fort Recovery 5. 2B — Hiland 1 (Monigold), Fort R 2 (THoman 2).				
IP H R ER BB SO				
Hiland				
Schneider 4	4	2	2	1 0
BYoder 3	1	0	0	0 4
Fort Recovery				
Grisez 7	8	3	2	1 4

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Portland Rockets vs. Muncie Chiefs – 7 p.m.

**Wednesday**  
Fort Recovery ACME baseball at St. Marys Memorial – 6 p.m.

Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

**Wednesday**  
7 p.m. — 2024 Congressional baseball game for charity (FS1)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA Finals: Boston Celtics at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)

## Local notes

**Meet booked**  
The Jay County Chamber Classic golf outing is set for Friday, July 19, at Portland Golf Club. The deadline to register is July 10, and it’s limit-

ed to 20 teams. Awards of \$400, \$200 and \$100 will be given out to first, second and third place, respectively.

Golf will begin with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. To register, email tabby@jaycountychamber.com. For more information call (260) 726-4481.

**Date set**  
The 42nd annual Cancer Association of Darke County/Annie Oakley Golf Tournament is set to take place on July 22 at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville, Ohio.

Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., with a shot-

gun start to follow at 12:15 p.m.

All proceeds will go to the Cancer Association of Darke County.

For additional information or an entry form call (937) 548-9960 or email director@cadcinfo.org.

**Outing scheduled**  
The annual City of Portland Mayor’s Golf Outing has been scheduled for Friday, June 14, at Portland Golf Club.

Registration for the event will be held from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on the day of the outing. A meal will also be provided for the four-person teams

at this time. Registration is limited to the first 20 teams and must be completed by June 10 and submitted to 321 N. Meridian St., emailing mayorsoffice@thecityofportland.net or calling (260) 726-9395.

Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Those interested can also sponsor the event. It cost \$150 to sponsor a hole, \$200 to sponsor a team and a meal or \$300 for to sponsor a team, a meal and hole sponsorship.

.....

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



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# Cinderella stopped

Fort Recovery baseball falls 3-2 in state championship game to Hiland

**By ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

AKRON, Ohio — The sixth seeded team from the Northwest 3 district found itself in the state championship game.

They picked off the No. 2 seed, two Midwest Athletic Conference teams, a pair of conference champions, including a 20-win team and state-level competitor.

They just happened to run into the top team in the state and defending national champions.

Yet, the Indians came into the game hot, determined to prove they weren't just a cinderella. The Hawks wouldn't go down quietly, getting the late-game spark they needed to go back-to-back.

A two-out double by Grady Monigold in the sixth inning pushed the No. 1 Hiland Hawks to a 3-2 victory over the Fort Recovery High School baseball team in the OHSAA Division IV state championship game on Sunday at Canal Park.

"Incredible effort by our kids," said FRHS coach Kevin Eyink. "Man there were some great plays in that game. ... Great hits to start out and we were on fire. We just couldn't quite hang on, but we gave them everything we had."

This trip was the Indians' second time competing in the state championship game, the last coming in 1953 when they lost to Beavercreek.

Fort Recovery looked as if it was going to pull off the upset going as late as the sixth inning before it finally cracked.

Despite facing an 0-2 count, Colin Coblentz shot a single up the middle to lead off the frame for the Hawks (27-5). Brady Yoder's sacrifice bunt moved him into scoring position.

See **Stopped** page 8



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School senior Gavin Faller prepares to stretch to receive a throw on a bunt attempt in the OHSAA Division IV state championship game on Sunday. The Indians fell to the No. 1 Hiland Hawks 3-2 to finish as the runners-up for the second time in school history and the first since 1953.

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		<b>All Beef Hot Dogs</b>	<b>\$4.69/lb</b>

**\*while supplies last, no rain checks, sale prices reflected at the register**

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## Summer swim team opens with big win

UNION CITY — The Jay swimmers started their season off with a bang.

The Jay County Summer Swim team started the 2024 season off strong as the girls dominated to push Jay County to a win at the Wabash Valley Conference Relays on Saturday held at Union City High School.

Jay County tallied 1,876 points between the boys and girls, blowing away runner-up Wells Community by 420 points. South Adams avoided the bottom spot with 1,044 points, while Blackford/Marion brought up the rear with 388.

Jay County claimed 26 of the 50 relays in the meet.

The girls dominated the younger age groups as they swept the 8-and-younger, 9-10-year-old, 11-12-year-old and 13-14-year-old categories.

The 15-and-older girls only won the 200-yard backstroke relay.

The boys won five relays.

Four of the first-place finishes came from the 13-14-year-old relay team, while the 8-and-younger team claimed the 100 backstroke relay.

### Rockets struggle

The Portland Rockets finished 1-3 over the weekend after a pair of doubleheaders against the Northeast Kekiongas.

The Rockets dropped both games on Saturday with scores of 4-1 and 9-1.

Joel Kennedy drove in the only run of the opening game with an RBI single in the first inning, but the Rockets (4-6) already trailed after Tyler Reynolds gave up a pair of runs in the top half of the inning.

### Local roundup

Reynolds suffered the loss, giving up two more runs in the sixth without getting any more run support.

Another RBI single by Kennedy got the Rockets on top in game No. 2, but Sam Dunlavy couldn't hold the lead, giving up six runs – only two were earned – over the next four innings.

Portland won the third game of the series 10-6. It jumped on top early with three runs in the first and four in the second. Kennedy had two hits and drove in three runs.

The Kekiongas took the finale 7-5 by breaking the tie in the seventh inning with a triple and a passed ball.

### Penrod leads

Kenna Penrod dominated the Stinger Division of Pennville Soccer Club on Saturday, finding the net six times for the A Place to Grow Wasps.

Penrod's day started by scoring all three goals for the Wasps in a 3-3 tie with the Patriot Sportswear Hornets.

Grant Cosner scored two goals for the Hornets, while Ian Kaehr added one.

Penrod netted three goals, while the Wasps shut out the AgBest Express Bees for a 4-0 win. Mabel Leonhard also scored to support Penrod's effort.

### Meteors dominate

The Bro Shadow Meteors boasted the most dom-

inant win of the day Pennville Soccer Club's Space Division.

The Meteors beat down the Vinson Rental Property Galaxy for a 7-0 victory. Neymar Carreno led the way with five goals for the Meteors, while Audriana Gaucin and Jonas Westfall each added one.

Owen Ehrhart scored a pair of goals to help lead the Dave's Heating and Cooling Asteroids past the New Beginnings Holiness Church Rockets 3-2. Jordan Wendel had the other point for the Asteroids. The Rockets' scores came from Cooper Bailey and Ivy Riley.

The Ohio Valley Gas Stars and the Galaxy finished in a 1-1 draw. Madalyn Malyska found the net for the Stars, while Calvin Minch accounted for the Galaxy's goal.

### Lions take two

The WPGW Lions won a pair of games in the Wildcat Division of Pennville Soccer Club on Saturday.

The Lions' first win came against the Portland Cougars by a score of 4-3.

Jade Westgerdes found the goal twice for the Lions, while Charlee Peters and Payson Rickard each added a goal. Lyle Beiswanger scored all three of the Cougars' points.

Later in the day, the Lions took down the Pennville General Store Tigers 2-0. Peters and Karsen Kuhn powered the Lions offense.

The Penrod Monument Jaguars and the POET Biorefining Cheetahs wound up in a 1-1 tie. The Jaguars' score came from Carsten Penrod, while the Cheetahs' got theirs from Liam Thompson.