

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

TIF district plan approved

Potential projects include transportation, infrastructure

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jay County Plan Commission approved the economic development plan Thursday for the county's tax increment financing (TIF) district.

It moves next to Jay County Commissioners, who meet in joint session with Jay County Council on Tuesday and in regular session June 24.

The TIF district encompasses about 191 acres southwest of Portland in Greene Township. Created about 15 years ago, it has been generating dollars used to pay off bonds associated with road work and sewer improvements near the ethanol plant in the area. Jay County made its final bond payment for the project in 2023. Jay County Redevelopment Commission has been looking into its options for how to spend the roughly \$550,000 accrued annually for the next 13 years.

Its economic development plan details a list of potential projects for TIF dollars, which include: transportation enhancements, public safety enhancements, utility infrastructure, highway garage improvements, a new building for Jay County Solid Waste Management District, a new public safety building and planning and development of the county's 68 acres on the western edge of Portland. Redevelopment commission members approved the plan May 22 and forwarded it to Jay County Plan Commission.

Consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes noted TIF funding could also be used as a local match for state and federal grants.

Plan commission member Jeanne Houchins asked if paying off the bonds associated with Jay County Regional Sewer District had been included in the list of projects. (Jay County Redevelopment Commission in March talked about potentially using TIF dollars for paying off the bonds. At that time, bonds from Jay County Regional Sewer District sat at \$497,000 in principle with \$253,075 in interest. They're expected to be paid off by 2051.)

County attorney Wes Schemenaur said the idea had been considered but that it didn't make the final plan.

"This can always be updated and amended, too," he added.

Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn pointed out the county needs to have an economic development plan in place for its TIF district if it hopes to receive grants for projects in that area. He added that it lines up with the plan commission's comprehensive plan, which was last updated in the 1990s.

Commission members Jeanne Houchins, Steve Ford, Steve McIntosh, Michelle Penrod, Brad Daniels, Scott Hilfiker, Dru Mercer and Todd Skirvin, absent Chad Aker, approved the plan.

Also Thursday, Jay County Plan Commission amended the development plan for Invenergy's Skycrest Solar.

The \$150 million, 155-megawatt facility is planned on about 2,500 acres in Penn and Jackson townships. Skycrest Solar is estimated to bring in an additional \$55 million in assessed value.

See Plan page 2



Flag celebration

Members of the Portland American Legion Honor Guard stand at attention Friday evening during the Portland Elks Flag Day ceremony at Good-Rich Brewery in Portland.

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Supreme Court tosses 'bump stock' ban

By MICHAEL MACAGNONE

CQ-Roll Call Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court threw out a Trump-era rule that banned so-called "bump stocks" that allow rifles to mimic automatic fire, finding the government over-

stepped its authority when it relied on a federal law that applies to machine guns.

In a sharply divided 6-3 decision, the conservative justices in the majority ruled that the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives could not ban the device

that attaches to the back of a firearm that allows it to mimic automatic weapons.

Justice Samuel A. Alito Jr. wrote separately to point out that it is up to Congress to prohibit bump stocks such as the one used in the "horrible shooting spree" in Las Vegas that killed more

than 50 people at a music festival in 2017.

"There is a simple remedy for the disparate treatment of bump stocks and machineguns. Congress can amend the law — and perhaps would have done so already if ATF had stuck with its earlier interpretation," Alito wrote. "Now

that the situation is clear, Congress can act."

The majority opinion, written by Justice Clarence Thomas, said that adding the bump stock to the back of the weapon did not change the specifics of the internal trigger mechanism, which is what the law originally written in 1934

focused on when it banned machine guns.

"We conclude that a semiautomatic rifle equipped with a bump stock is not a 'machinegun' because it does not fire more than one shot 'by a single function of the trigger,'" Thomas wrote. See Ban page 2



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jubilee festivities

Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee kicked off Thursday. At left, 11-month-old Tucker Trumbull is enticed forward by an iPhone, a cup of lemonade and some toys during the Diaper Derby. Above, Charlie Brotherton, 4, is crowned as Little Miss of the Jubilee.

Deaths

Clarisa Clevenger, 82, Ridgeville
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Friday. The low was 62.

Expect mostly sunny skies through Monday with highs in the lower 80s today, lower 90s Sunday and upper 90s Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee continues this weekend with a dodgeball tournament, caricature artist, dunk tank and garden tractor pulls today. Rides will open at 11 a.m. today. The Fireman's Parade is scheduled for 2 p.m. Natalie and Hannah will perform at 4 p.m. For additional details, visit fortrecoveryjubilee.com.

Coming up

Tuesday — Photos from the Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Portland City Council meeting.

Thursday — Coverage of the Jay County Commissioners/Council joint session.



Plan ...

Continued from page 1
The updated plan shifted construction start and end dates back by two years, with construction set to begin no later than Dec. 31, 2026, and to be complete by Dec. 31, 2028.

Pati McLaughlin of Jay/Portland Building and Planning noted per Jay County's zoning ordinance that revisions must be approved by Jay County Plan Commission and explained it's meant to prevent changes between the time of approval and construction. (She referenced a five-year gap from NextEra Energy's initial plans for Bluff Point Wind Energy Center.)

Mike Hill, associate general counsel for permitting and local affairs at Invenergy, explained the need for a timeline extension was partially caused by an earlier shortage in solar panels. He noted Invenergy recently opened a solar panel factory in Columbus, Ohio.

Also, companies across the country have experienced delays with PJM Interconnection, a regional transmission organization that coordinates wholesale electricity movement across 13 states, including Indiana, and the District of Columbia. PJM revamped its analysis process in April 2022 for new services joining the power grid.

Hemmelgarn noted Invenergy is the only company planning a solar farm in Jay County so far that has received a final interconnection agreement with PJM Interconnection. (The first company to begin seeking approval from Jay County officials in 2021, Invenergy was "grandfathered" into the old analysis process with PJM Interconnection. Three other companies — Leeward Renewable Energy, Hodson Energy and Scout Clean Energy — are still working through the process.)

Jay County Council updated the timeline as well in its economic development agreement with the company Wednesday.

Invenergy will pay \$1.75 million in economic development payments to the county over the course of four years. Per the updated agreement with Jay County Council, the first payment is now due no later than six months after construction begins. (It was previously required up to 120 days after the facility began generating electricity.)

McLaughlin suggested notifying adjoining property owners and sending notices through the newspaper and radio because of the timeline change. Jay County Plan Commission approved the updated plan and agreed to McLaughlin's suggestion.

Obituaries

Clarisa Ellen Clevenger, Ridgeville, Oct. 13, 1941-June 12, 2024. Services will be at 1 p.m. Thursday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

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

CR almanac

Sunday 6/16	Monday 6/17	Tuesday 6/18	Wednesday 6/19	Thursday 6/20
92/71	98/74	96/72	95/71	96/71
Sunny skies are expected Sunday when the high will be around 92 degrees.	Monday's forecast shows sunny skies as well, with a blistering high of 98.	More hot temperatures are expected throughout the week. Tuesday's high will be about 96.	Partly sunny skies are expected. Otherwise, the temperature will rise to about 85.	Thursday looks to be mostly sunny and hot, with a high of 96. The low at night will be around 71.

Lotteries

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 7-5-0
Daily Four: 9-3-9-5
Quick Draw: 2-5-7-9-16-21-25-28-30-37-49-52-58-59-65-69-70-71-73-75
Pick 5: 1-4-0-9-2
Evening
Rolling Cash: 3-6-11-30-39
Jackpot: \$150,000

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$34 million

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$47 million

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 3-3-1
Pick 4: 2-4-2-9

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	July beans11.68 Wheat5.73
Corn.....4.41 July corn.....4.45 Wheat5.23	ADM Montpelier
POET Biorefining Portland	Corn.....4.33 July corn.....4.28 Beans11.74 July beans11.69 Wheat5.72
Corn.....4.45 July corn4.40 Aug. corn4.47	Heartland St. Anthony
The Andersons Richland Township	Corn.....4.40 July corn4.40 Beans11.50 July beans11.50 Wheat5.53
Corn4.30 July corn4.30 Beans11.72	

Today in history

In 1215, King John sealed the Magna Carta, a document that laid out the rights of the English people. Among its rights, it gave all free men the right to justice and a fair trial.

In 1667, the first human blood transfusion was administered by Jean-Baptiste Denys to King Louis XIV of France.

In 1775, the Continental Congress named George Washington commander in chief of the Continental Army.

In 1844, Charles Goodyear patented vulcanization, a process for strengthening rubber by adding sulfur or

other materials.

In 2017, the Jay County Summer Swim Team defeated the Celina Dolphins 772-388 with Morgan DeHoff, Mara Bader, Sophie Saxman, Ashlyn Dow, Alex Bader and Garrett Cambell all earning three victories.

In 2021, the Fort Recovery Eels summer swim team scored 825 points to defeat Union City (298) and Randolph County (159). Natalie Wenning, Rozlyn Diller, Hailey Wenning and Rhianna Wuebker combined to sweep the 8-and-younger girls events.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.
6:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery School Board, community room, high school, 400 E. Butler St.
7:15 p.m. — Fort Recovery Records Commission, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Tuesday
9 a.m. — Jay County Council and Jay County

Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
5:30 p.m. — Jay/Portland Building and Planning Inter-local Joint Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Wednesday
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.

Thursday
5 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council special meeting, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.



Sweet berries

Penny Howell, 6, dips a strawberry in a chocolate fountain Thursday at Jay County Public Library during its Strawberry Fest. Families visiting the library had an opportunity to meet Indiana author Shannon Anderson, who wrote "I LOVE Strawberries!", eat strawberry snacks and participate in strawberry themed games, crafts and activities.

The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Trump endorses McGuire

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Former President Donald Trump issued an unexpected endorsement in Indiana's Republican lieutenant governor race on Thursday — supporting Rep. Julie McGuire for the party's nomination.

She is the choice of GOP gubernato-

rial primary winner U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, a staunch Trump advocate.

The move comes as 1,800 Republican party insiders prepare to choose on Saturday who's on the ballot for Indiana's second-highest office. It's the first competitive lieutenant governor contest in decades.

Delegates have a choice between Christian nationalist and pastor Micah Beckwith and McGuire.

Capsule Reports

Backing crash

A Pennville man backed the car he was driving into a Portland man's car in the Indiana Bureau of Motor Vehicles parking lot in

Portland about 9:22 a.m. Friday.

Robert M. Daniels, 60, was backing a 2015 Chevrolet Silverado out of a parking spot at 1314 N. Meridian

St. He didn't see the 2012 Ford Fusion driven by 84-year-old John E. Pyle and backed into it.

Damage is estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

Felony arrests

Probation violation

A Portland man was arrested Wednesday for violating his probation.

Ryant A. Blount, 51, 1003 W. Water St., pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to strangulation, a Level 6 felony. He was

sentenced to 545 days in Jay County Jail with 387 days suspended. A petition alleging he violated the conditions of his probation was filed in court Wednesday.

Blount was being held on a \$650 bond in Jay County Jail.

Ban ...

Continued from page 1
Justice Sonia Sotomayor, in a dissent joined by Justices Elena Kagan and Ketanji Brown Jackson, wrote that the decision "will have deadly consequences."

Sotomayor, who read a portion of her dissent from the bench, criticized the majority for casting aside congressional intent in the federal law that bans weapons that fire "automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a

single function of the trigger."

"When I see a bird that walks like a duck, swims like a duck and quacks like a duck, I call that bird a duck," Sotomayor wrote. "Because I, like Congress, call that a machinegun, I respectfully dissent."

Sotomayor wrote that the decision will put "bump stocks back in civilian hands" and invites gunmakers to create new devices that mimic automatic rifles.

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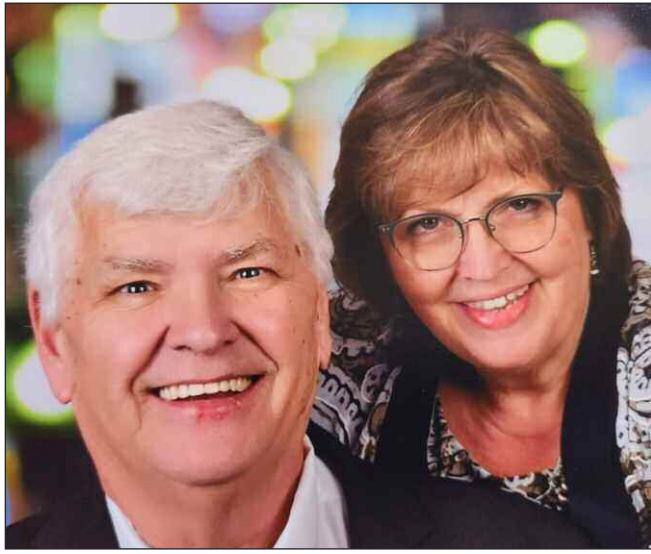
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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in June.

50th anniversary



Fred and Paula Barron - 2024

Paula and Fred Barron

Paula and Fred Barron are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary today. Fred Barron and Paula Taylor wed June 15, 1974, in Portland. Now both retired, they have lived in Jay County for more than 60 years. They have two children, Kristy Barron of Dunkirk and Latisha Blankenship (Jon) of Dunkirk, five grandchildren and four great-grandchildren. (Another great-grandchild is due Oct. 24.) They celebrated with a cruise to Bermuda and plan to hold an open house with friends and family.

Sibling wants twin to live by same rules

DEAR ABBY: I have an identical twin who lives in a different state. I am married; she never has been. At 62, she still demands that I live my life her way. I love her, but I'm an adult. I live by my own rules. She seems enraged that I don't think and behave the same way she does. By the way, she works from home and sets her own schedule. I work in a call center. I would appreciate your input. — LIKES MY FREEDOM IN IOWA

DEAR LIKES: At 62, you are entitled to live your life exactly as you wish. So is your sister. You may be identical, but this does not mean you must think alike. Perhaps the next time your twin unloads on you, you should remind her of that.

Dear Abby



DEAR READERS: Happy Father's Day weekend to fathers everywhere — birth fathers, stepfathers, adoptive and foster fathers, grandfathers, and all of you caring men who mentor children and fill the role of absent dads. P.S. Also, a big shout-out to dual-role moms. I applaud you all — today and every day. — LOVE, ABBY

Birth announcements

Croyle

Wade Alan, a son, was born June 6 at St. Vincent Randolph to Ridgeville residents Ciara Ogle and Drew Croyle. He weighed 6 pounds, 13 ounces. Grandparents are Steve Ogle, Sher-

ri Johnson, Andy Croyle, Beth Croyle, Heidi Huffman and Kevin Huffman. Great-grandparents are Terry Wright, Kathy Wright, John Johnson, Edel Lewis, Tim Croyle, Deb Croyle and Kenny Studt.

Johnson

Ellie Mae, a daughter, was born May 30 at St. Vincent Randolph to Portland residents Alexis and Forrest Johnson. She weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces. Grandparents are Doug and Kim Loy and Pam and Tim Johnson.

Fort Recovery students make second semester honor roll

Fort Recovery High School announced students who made it on the second semester average honor roll. On the list with all A's were seniors Lucas Acheson, Wes Bechtol, Myah Breen, Katie Bruns, Natalie Brunswick, Chloe Bubb, Alex Dues, Alex Evers, Megan Evers, Teigen Fortkamp, Carson Grube, Paige Guggenbiller, Trevor Heitkamp, Troy Homan, Addy

Jenkins, Nate Jutte, Abby Keller, Allison Knapke, Ella Kremer, Saige Leuthold, Rex Leverette, Mara Pearson, Matthew Romer, Libby Schlarman, Brynn Stammen, Tiffany Taft, Riggs Tobe, and Sage Wendel. Making the list with A's and B's were seniors Jac Barga, Clayton Bertke, Drew Bihn, Gavin Faller, Kensey Gaerke, Reece Guggenbiller, Jenna Hart, Liz Hartings,

Aidan Heitkamp, Lydia Kahlig, Conner Kaikala, Evan Keller, Drew Langenkamp, Brett Lauber, Joscie LeFevre, Jose Martinez, Marissa Schoen, Cole Shoemaker, Abe Siefing, Olivia Smith, Austin Steinbrunner, Britney Tebbe, Ella Westgerdes, Ellie Will and Brooklyn Weyerick. Juniors making the honor roll with all A's were Drew Backs, Samantha Brackman, Nicole

Braun, Mason Diller, Kassidy Dues, Evan Evers, Marlee Fiely, Ava Grisez, Kayla Heitkamp, Kyle Huntsman, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlie Niekamp, Kylie Post, Ben Reinhard, Anna Roessner, Ella Schoen, and Emma Will. On the list with A's and B's were juniors Alivia Bergman, Layla Bihn, Madison Bihn, Tucker Brockman, Kaleb Coleman,

Calleigh Crabtree, Amber Dirksen, Brennan Dues, Gavin Evers, Jacob Foote, Sarah Fritz, Riley Grieshop, Caden Grisez, Brooke Hart, Ethan Hartnagel, Eva Kahlig, Joelle Kaup, Cody Klenke, Gabe Knapke, Lindsey Knapke, Emily Lauber, Norah Meyer, Zach Schoenlein, Bella Taft, Victoria Tchelidze, Cooper Thompson, Reid Timmerman and Eowyn Vela.

Community Calendar

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

Today

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.
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 SOLDIER — 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. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.
Sunday
A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The

Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.
PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.
JAY RETIRED TEACHERS — Will meet at noon Monday, June 17, at Richards Restaurant, 1615 N. Meridian St., Portland.
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 (260) 726-5924.
PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free preg-

nancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.
BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.
Tuesday
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.
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.
BRYANT COMMUNITY

CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.
FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.
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 as well as devotional time.
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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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.

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Parties want debates to themselves

Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

Many Americans are less than thrilled with the two presidential candidates whom the major political parties have foisted upon them this November. It's no surprise that a majority of voters favor expanding the presidential debates to include other candidates.

But the Democratic and Republican parties could not care less.

A Harvard CAPS/Harris poll found that 71% of those surveyed said that debates between Republican Donald Trump and Democratic President Joe Biden should include other can-

Guest Editorial

didates as long as they can meet "a viable threshold," The Hill reported last month. A second poll, this one from News Nation/Decision Desk HQ, found that 65% of American voters support allowing third-party candidates such as Robert F. Kennedy Jr. to take part in the debates.

Biden has agreed to two debates with Trump, the first on

June 27 on CNN, the second hosted by ABC on Sept. 10. The Commission on Presidential Debates — a consortium of the two parties — has traditionally organized the debates, but the president's team has scuttled that approach in favor of directly negotiating with the Trump camp and networks. This provides the teetering Biden campaign with more control over the process.

Biden has said he will share the debate stage only with Trump. The former president has been more circumspect but previously insisted he would debate anytime, anywhere. Yet he, too, eschewed debates — during the Republican primar-

ies — when he calculated they weren't in his best interest.

The commission has typically used an arbitrary polling standard to keep third-party candidates from appearing. Reform Party candidate Ross Perot in 1992 was the only non-major candidate to make the stage. He eventually earned 19% of the vote in the general election.

Certainly, some standard must exist. But American voters would be better off — particularly this election cycle — with criteria that demand either a minimum level of polling support (say 10%) or a ballot access threshold.

But typically the gatekeepers manipulate the standards to

appease the two major-party candidates. Thus the Green Party and Libertarian hopefuls, who will appear on most state ballots, will be excluded because of polling numbers. Kennedy, polling at 15% in some surveys, probably will be left out under the guise that he hasn't qualified for the ballot in enough states.

The deck is stacked. That's too bad.

At a minimum, Kennedy deserves a place on the debate stage, particularly as voters crave alternatives. ABC and CNN should invite him. If Biden or Trump want to walk away, let them suffer the political consequences. But don't hold your breath.

Funding recovery shouldn't be difficult

By HEIDI GERARD

OtherWords

Treating addiction is hard. But as someone who's in recovery and now helps mothers on their own recovery journey, one thing is very simple: We need more investment in the solutions that work.

Every person in recovery has their own story.

My grandmother was an American missionary who rescued and adopted my mother — an orphaned infant in Iran — and supported us financially. When she died, life became much more challenging.

We moved from our affluent Maryland neighborhood to rural South Dakota, where my mother had music teaching credentials and the cost of living was lower. But as a new brown girl and the daughter of an immigrant, being different there was difficult.

Almost anything that went wrong in that insular community school was somehow blamed on me. The bullying and harassment were constant and terrifying. And when my mom sent me to escape that treatment with another caretaker in northern Nebraska, I suffered sexual abuse and fell into a crowd that was using drugs.

By the time we got back to Maryland, the damage was done. I became pregnant and started using, only to see my child's father die of an overdose.

I got clean, turned my life around, and was happy and successful as a teacher in an elementary school. I suffered a relapse after I got back together with an old boyfriend from my days of using, who was eventually imprisoned for dealing. But I finally found Narcotics Anonymous, got sober again, and tried to help him — I even married him while he was incarcerated.

Although I was ultimately unable to save him, I learned so much about the prison system, the extreme difficulties of re-entry for people who are experiencing addiction, and about recovery. I understood my calling was to help those who needed it most — mothers returning from incarceration with substance abuse disorders.

I now run a non-profit organization that focuses on moms and children in need of support related to addiction — whether that means finding a home,

Heidi Gerard



escaping domestic abuse, transitioning out of prison, or regaining custody. We provide wrap-around services so that the whole family is treated — not just one symptom.

We get some government funding, but it's woefully small compared to the need. Nationally, about 2.5 million people aged 18 and older had an opioid abuse disorder in 2021 — and nearly 300 people died of overdoses every single day. Yet only 36 percent of those experiencing addiction received any treatment at all.

Medication treatment is even rarer — only 22 percent received it, most of them urban white men over 35. These disparities must be addressed.

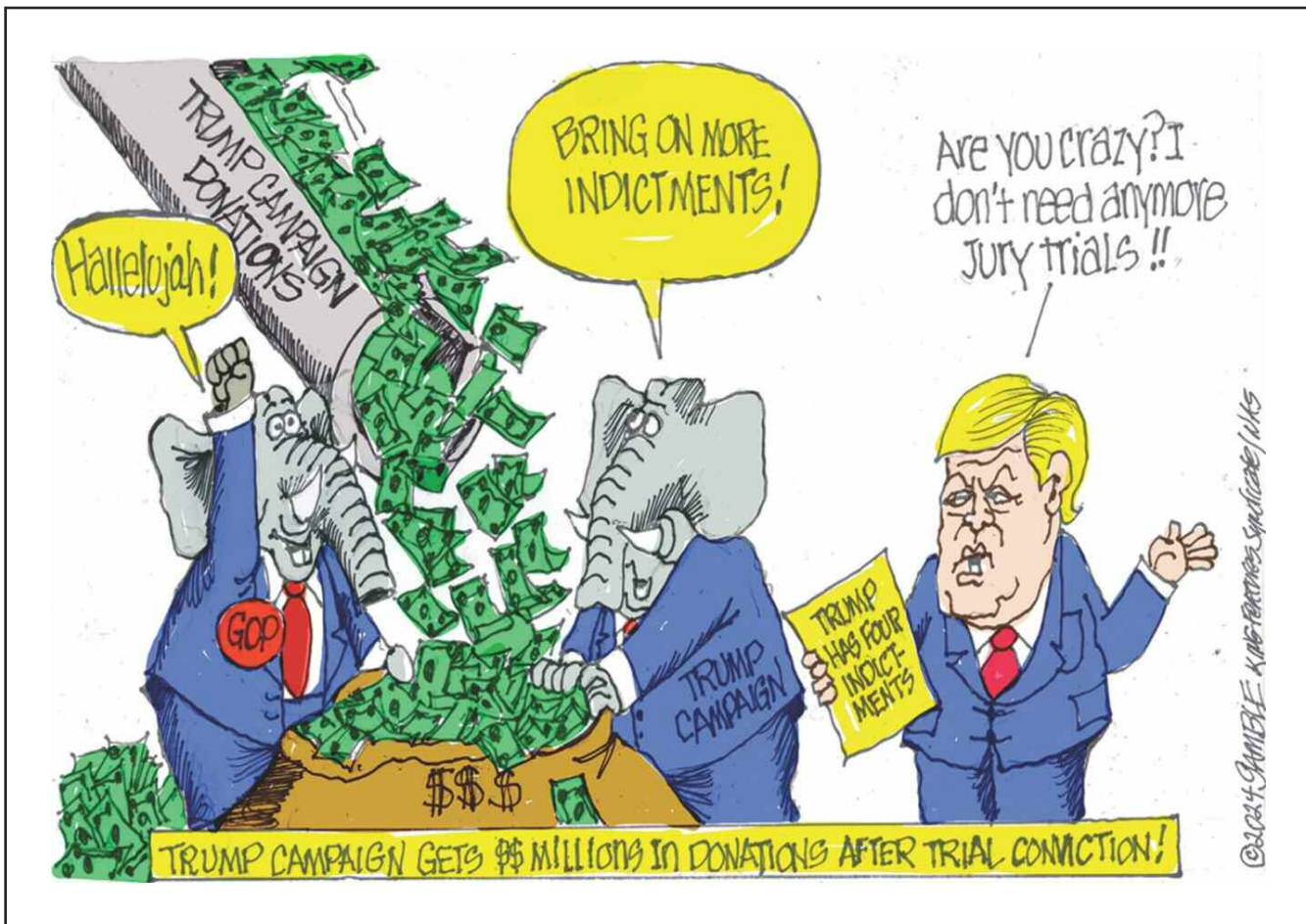
The opioid crisis is a public health crisis and should be treated as such, with sufficient investments from all parts of the government in evidence-based prevention, treatment, and recovery efforts. We need an integrated, systemic, and whole-of-government approach that links treatment services with good science — and consciously aims to correct deficiencies in our health care, justice, education, and social service systems.

That's not my diagnosis. That's the recommendation of our own federal National Institutes of Health.

The problem is widespread, the gender and racial treatment disparities are stark, and the consequences of inaction are dire. But the good news is that the evidence for what works is overwhelming. Our national addiction response, including centers like mine, needs real investment so families have a fair shot of success.

Gerard is the founder and Executive Director of ChrysantheMoms, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to providing comprehensive housing and support services to women and children affected by the disease of addiction.

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Spartz is unreliable, at best

By MICHAEL LEPPERT

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Maya Angelou gave the best advice with absolutely the best words when she said, "When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time." I have found that people are really good at showing who they are, even when that's exactly what they are trying to avoid. Angelou reminds us of the obvious, to believe what we see, but importantly to not waste precious time reaching the often inevitable conclusion.

Last week, Adam Wren and Daniel Lippman reported for Politico that the House Ethics Committee is making a preliminary inquiry into the behavior of Rep. Victoria Spartz, of Indiana's 5th District. The reasons stem from complaints made by current and former staffers of the second term congresswoman's unstable and abusive behavior toward them.

While the reports were troubling, and I will share some highlights, I would be surprised if anyone who has been paying attention to Spartz over the years was surprised by the news.

Here's an example of the behavior detailed by a current staffer, as reported by Politico: "The common thing is for her to call someone up or to their face, cuss them up, say the F-word about a million times, call them effing retards, effing children, effing whatever ... That's a weekly thing. It's not rare. All my interactions with her have been filled with complete and total rage."

That came from a current staffer, quoted in last week's story. Since January, the resignations have piled up so fast, it would seem that former staffers are easier to find than those remaining on her damaged team.

Politico also reported that last Tuesday, "her chief of staff, Patrick Slowinski, resigned after being in the job for less than a month,

Michael Leppert



according to a person familiar with the matter. He declined to comment. Michael Stevens, who has been communications director for Spartz since January, also resigned Tuesday night, according to the same person."

Spartz is showing Hoosiers, and everyone else, exactly who she is. For anyone who might want to take the position that she is simply being tough, save it. This unpredictable and unproductive behind-closed-doors behavior is consistent with the brand she displays publicly. I have been baffled by her election and reelection because of it, and now, the Angelou quote rings truer than ever in the Spartz example.

Exhibit 2 was her announced retirement. In February 2023, one month into her second term, NBC News reported on her announcement that she would retire from politics after 2024. At the time, Spartz said, "I won a lot of tough battles for the people and will work hard to win a few more in the next two years ... However, being a working mom is tough and I need to spend more time with my two high school girls back home, so I will not run for any office in 2024."

I don't know what battles she won, but again, those of us paying attention were never confident she was serious about retirement. Turns out, we were right. In the least surprising reversal in a career filled with reversals, a year later, she filed for reelection, telling Politico, "The country is too much in trouble."

Exhibit 3 was displayed during the election of now former U.S. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy.

That month was a highlight reel for Spartz. NBC also reported that she went from "yes" to "present" and back to "yes" on his initial election as speaker in a weeklong series of votes. During that same timeframe, she initially came out against her party's push to remove Rep. Ilhan Omar, D-MN, from the House Foreign Affairs Committee, calling it a "charade" — before flipping to yes.

All of these things are "showing" us who Victoria Spartz truly is. These behaviors of quickly flipping on votes, and her lack of commitment to any particular decision, defines her as a member of congress. It defined her career in the Indiana Senate, too. Again, for those paying attention, the pattern is clear.

The preliminary inquiry by the Ethics Committee is in response to the complaints by her current and former staff. But the complainants were told "the committee would not launch a formal investigation before (the May primary) given the potential appearance of meddling in the election."

Let this be my reminder that the "election" is actually in November, but I understand what they meant.

Her primary battle was not an easy one. She was challenged energetically by State Rep. Chuck Goodrich (R-Noblesville) and others, and many Indiana Republicans have commented that the party let a better option slip away last month. Maybe.

One certainty though is that Spartz is unquestionably unreliable. Maya Angelou likely would have said that voters should have known that long ago.

Leppert is an author, educator and a communication consultant in Indianapolis.

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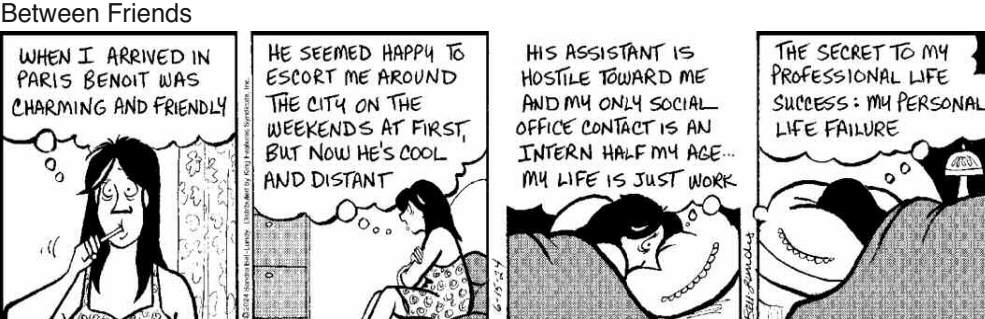
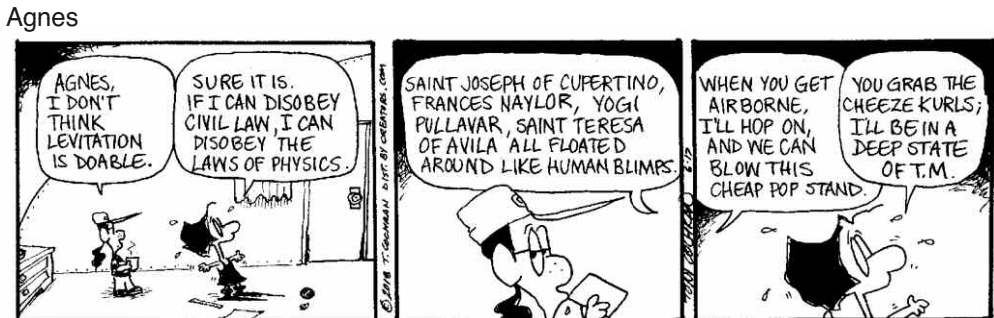
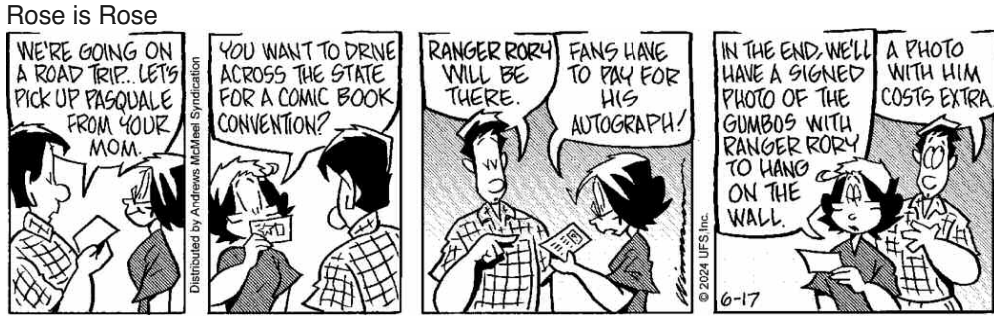
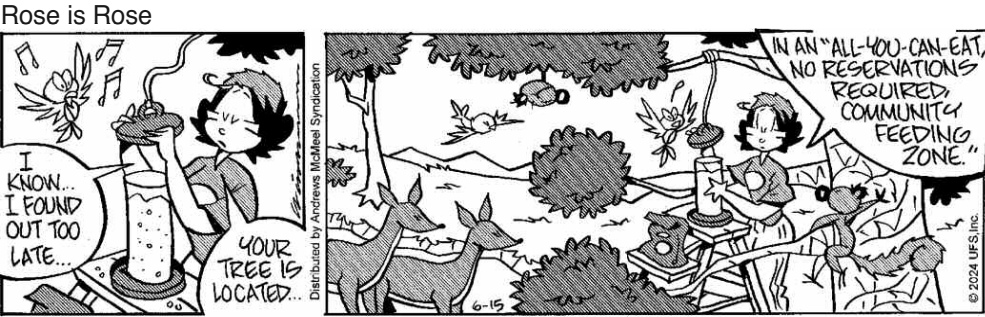
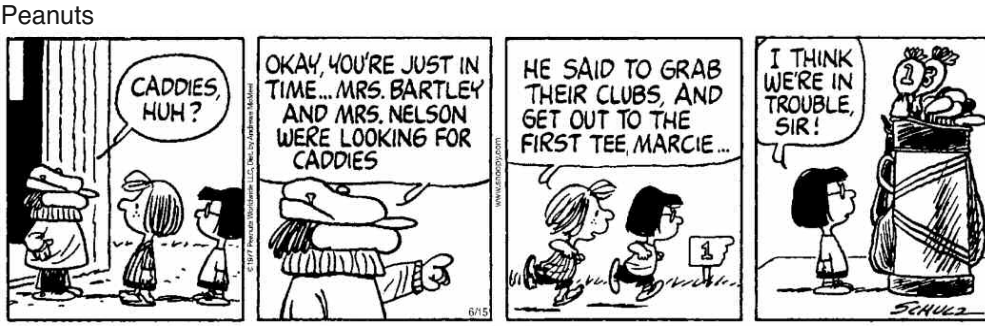
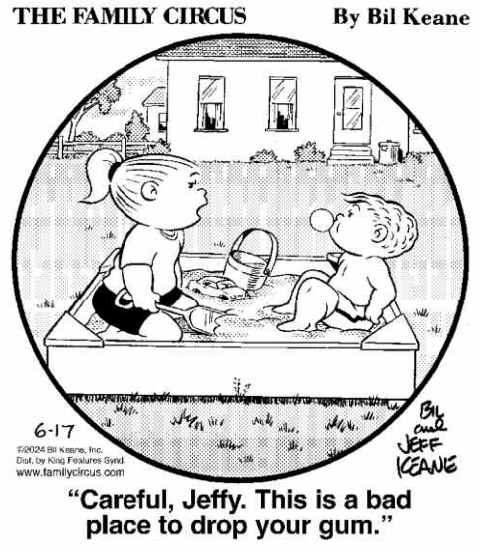
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"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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TIME 5:00 P.M.
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17.63 Acres in section 10, Jackson Twp. Jay County, Indiana with approximately 15 acres tillable. Frontage on highway 18. For more information phone auctioneers.
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Wayne Craig Estate
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer
AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 3295 E 450 S, Bluffton, IN
Saturday Morning
June 22nd, 2024
10:00 A. M.
MODEL A CAR-CAR-TRUCK-MOWE-TOOLS
1931 Model a car with soft top, rumble seat, Parade ready title, 1962 Galaxy Car, 1986 Chevy flatbed truck, John Deer LT160 mower, metal wagon, small anvil, Craftsman tool box, Home Utility 1/2" drill press, Craftsman's belt and vibrating sanders, car parts, and many other items not listed.
HOUSEHOLD GOODS-OLD ITEMS
Oak wall telephone (Chicago Supply Co., Elkhart, IN), 3 drawer marble top dresser with mirror, 1941 US Navy boat clock, Coca Coal Cooler, Aladdin green base lamp, Noritake Gold Stein china, old newspapers, organ stool with glass ball feet, Indy 500 mugs, Smith Bros. 3 cushion sofa, golf clubs, and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Vehicles will be sold at 12:30 P.M. The vehicles will be offered both live and on Hi Bid

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JAY COUNTY CONSERVATION CLUB is accepting resumes for the position of Caretaker. This position includes rent-free living quarters on the club property with electric, propane, and phone included. Responsibilities include setting up rentals, mowing club property, cleaning the clubhouse, and basic maintenance repairs. Please forward all resumes to: lrce1220@gmail.com or mail to: Jay County Conservation Club c/o Jennifer Bailey 4897 E. SR 26 Portland, IN 47371. Please submit all resumes no later than Monday June 24th, 2024.

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RR3837879 Beer Wine & Liquor - Restaurant (210-1) RENEWAL
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JUNE 22, 2024

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AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is only a partial listing of the many items that will be sold. Vehicles will be sold at 12:30 P.M. The vehicles will be offered both live and on Hi Bid.

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Helpers to heroes

A trio of former bat boys make the state tournament eight years later

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

Gavin Faller, Troy Homan and Sage Wendel have all been to the OHSAA state baseball tournament before.

However, it wasn't at Canal Park. It was at Huntington Park, home of the Columbus Clippers.

And instead of manning their spots at first base, center field and second base, they were hanging out in the dugout and helping the team out by shagging balls.

Eight years later, they've made it themselves.

After serving as bat boys for the 2015 and '16 Fort Recovery High School baseball teams that made the state tournament, Faller Homan and Wendel got their own chance to compete at the highest level of high school baseball in Ohio over this past weekend.

"It's been awesome," Homan said. "To be able to experience it with some of my best friends ... is amazing. To do this in my last run with Fort Recovery is even better."

"It's something you dream about as a kid and don't think you'll ever really have the chance," Faller added. "We have the chance and just seeing the community behind us and how excited they are for us has made it the experience of a lifetime."

"Back when we were bat boys it was like 'Dang this is really cool,'" Wendel rounded out with. "Then to finally be here, and actually playing in the state finals just exceeds all expectations."

For the Homan family, it meant more than just making it to state, but it was Troy getting to follow in the shoes of his older brothers Ross and Will, who both played for the team the last time the Indians made it to state.

As the regular season was coming to a close and the Indians surrendered a 3-0 lead to St. John's, it started to settle on Michele and Todd Homan that Troy may never get that experience of going to state like his brothers did.

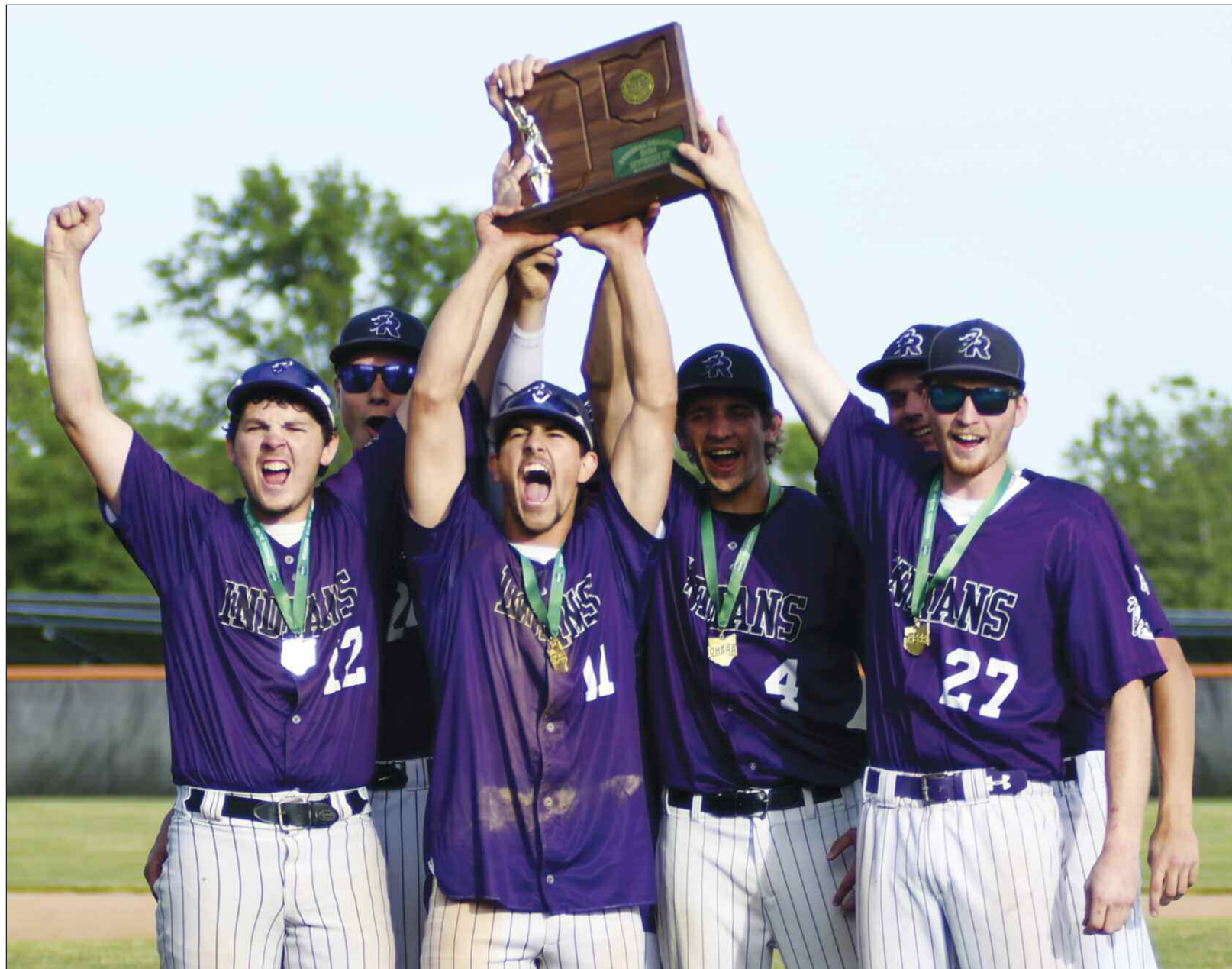
"We were kind of preparing the fact that Troy may never have that feeling and get that feeling that his brothers did," Michele said. "To see him and his team get there has been overall amazing."

"We feel very fortunate and blessed that all of the boys get to be there," Todd added.

They described Troy as Ross and Will's biggest fans while they were on the team. When it was Troy's turn to take the field, Ross and Will made the effort to come to as many games as they could, but Will was forced to miss the state semifinal game for a wedding.

Following the 3-1 win over Hillsdale, Troy called Will to celebrate and inform him to get ready to attend the state championship game on Sunday.

"I've always had a close bond



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School baseball players Gavin Faller, Troy Homan and Sage Wendel all competed in the OHSAA Division IV state baseball tournament on June 8 and 9. The trio of seniors served as bat boys for the 2015 and '16 Indians teams that previously made it to state. Pictured above, the seniors hold up the regional trophy after clinching a state berth with Homan in the center, Faller to the far right and Wendel behind the group out of sight. Below at right, Sage Wendel poses with his cousins Cade (left) and Cole during the 2015 season.

with my brothers," Troy said. "To be able to share an important memory as big as this one, it means so much. I'm so excited to see him here at the game."

Sage Wendel also had relatives on the team, as his cousins Cole and Cade played for the '15 team. Cade also played for the '16 team and Sage mentioned that he picked No. 14 to wear - Cade's old number - in honor of his role model.

While Faller didn't have any relatives on the team, he remembered looking up to the players on the team and the attitudes they brought to practices and games as well as the energy they injected into baseball. Prior to the trip to state, Faller mentioned that he was hoping to inspire the younger generations in Fort Recovery in similar ways that he was just under a decade ago.

So far that's what the team has done.

"We came up after the game we came up to talk to coaches ... (Eyink) gave the head nod and they opened the gate and about 15 little kids came running at me," Faller said. "When

you're standing on deck they're all chanting your name and nothing gets you more excited to go up and try and do something for them and get them fired up."

This season, the Indians have Eli Eyink, coach Kevin Eyink's son, as a bat boy. Now he's getting the experience that Faller, Homan and Wendel had eight years ago.

"It's really cool," Eyink said. "This might be my only time at a state game. So it's pretty exciting to be out here going to a state championship game."

Eyink said he's learned from the Indians to be a state contender, you need to be a good teammate and a good leader.

While the trio ended up two runs short of their first state championship, they can still look back on the experiences the 2024 postseason brought them and how it all stemmed from the runs in '15 and '16.

"Those years gave us a taste of what it was like when we were younger," Wednel said. "It's just so much more than that now because you did that yourself and you did that as a team together."



Photo provided



2024 Hudson Family Park Amphitheatre Concert Series!

509 S Wayne St, Portland, IN 47371

● **Thursday, June 20th @ 8pm: Phil Dirt & The Dozers**
*Payne's Food Truck AND *Mrs. P's Kitchen

● **Thursday, July 18th @ 8pm: Whoa, Man! Band**
Celebrating Women in Rock; Pat Benatar, Joan Jett, Stevie Nicks, Gwen Stefani, and more!
*Ryzone's Pizza AND *The Scoop Station

● **Thursday, August 8th @ 8pm: Liverpool Lads: A Beatles Tribute**
*Imagine Burgers AND *Kona Ice

● **Thursday, September 12th @ 7pm: Sounds of Summer: Beach Boys Tribute**
*Pappie's Smokehouse BBQ AND *Iceberg Ice Cream

Concerts are FREE!



The Greazy Pickle will be set up for ALL four concerts!

Thank you to our sponsors:
Compass Wealth Solutions, The Portland Foundation, and The City of Portland!

Activities are made possible in part by the Community Foundation of Randolph County, the Indiana Arts Commission, a state agency, and the National Endowment for the Arts, a federal agency.

Jay rolls to victory

Jay County Summer Swim Team beat South Adams 691-328 Thursday at Portland Water Park.

Jay County had seven triple event winners, including Sam Benirscke (boys butterfly, individual medley and short freestyle) and Sophie Warvel (girls IM, breaststroke and short freestyle) in the 11-12-year-old age group.

Earning three wins in the 13-14-year-old division were Cooper Glentzer (boys 200 freestyle, butterfly and backstroke) and Maria Laux (girls butterfly, backstroke and IM).

Also winning three girls events were Maddie Theurer (8-and-younger long freestyle, backstroke and short freestyle), Addisyn Champ (9-10-year-old backstroke, IM and breaststroke) and Brooklyn Byrum (open 200 freestyle and two events in the 15-and-older division).