

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## County approves Skycrest change

*Construction must begin no later than December 2026*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Construction plans for Skycrest Solar could still be a few years down the road.

Regardless, renewable energy company Invenery still has its sights set on establishing a solar farm in Jay County.

Jay County Commissioners approved an amendment Monday to the county's economic development agreement with Invenery for its 2,500-acre farm planned in northwest Jay County.

Skycrest Solar, a \$150 million, 155-megawatt facility, is estimated to bring an additional \$55 million in assessed value to Jay County.

Jay County Council approved the amended agreement June 12, and Jay County Plan Commission approved an amended development plan for the project June 13. Plan commission also agreed to notify adjoining property owners and send notices through the newspaper and radio about the changes.

Invenery will contribute about \$1.74 million in economic development payments to the county over the course of four years. The updated agreement requires Invenery to make its first payment to the county no later than six months after construction begins. (Previously, the first payment was due up to 120 days after the facility began generating electricity.)

It also stipulates construction must start no later than Dec. 31, 2026, and be completed by Dec. 31, 2028, effectively pushing back the project's timeline by two years.

The need to extend the project's timeline stems from an earlier shortage in solar panels — Invenery recently opened a solar panel factory in Columbus, Ohio, to avoid shortages in the future — and delays with regional electric transmission organization PJM Interconnection.

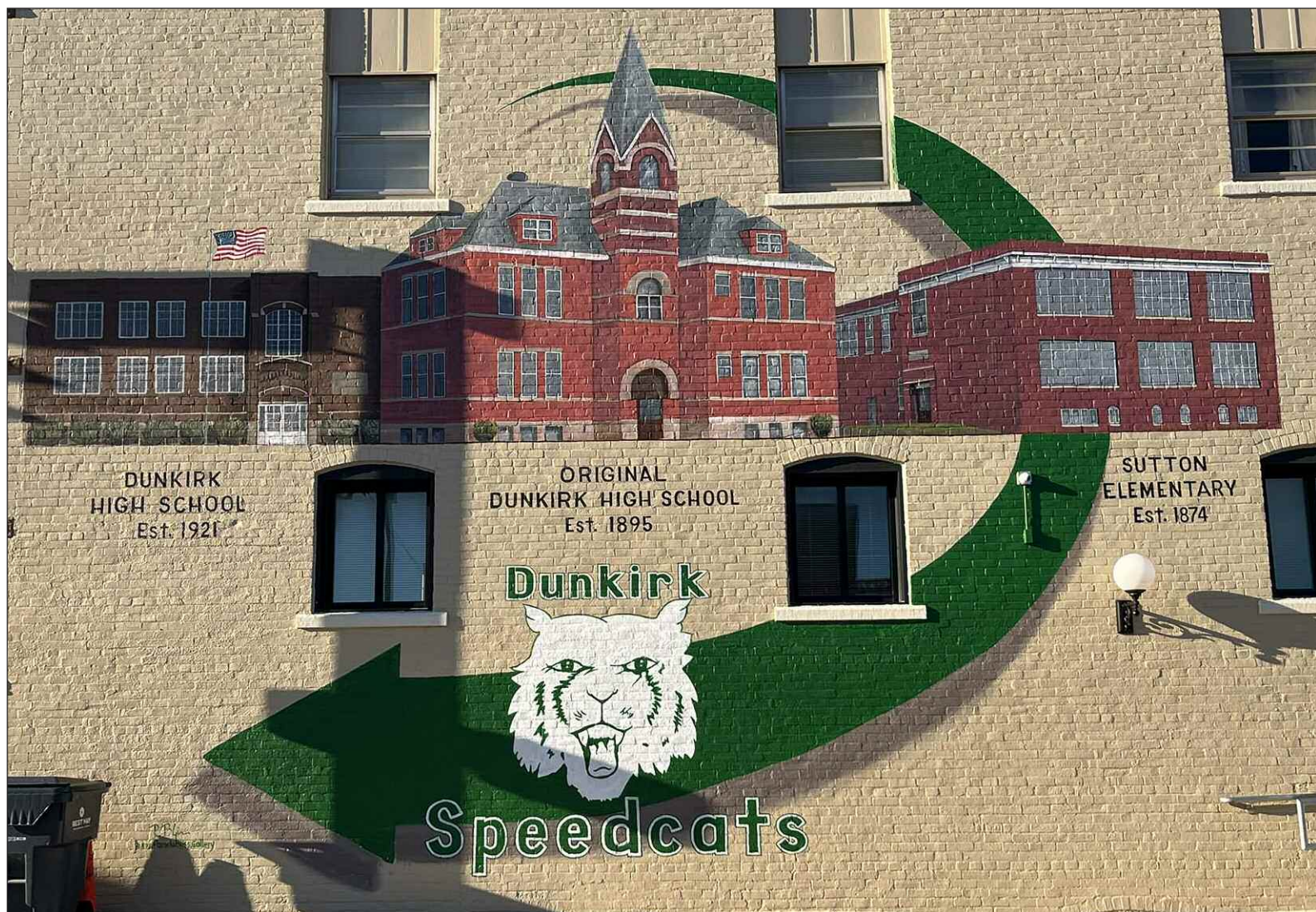
Out of the four companies planning solar farms in Jay County, Invenery is the only one that has received a final interconnection agreement with the organization so far. (Leeward Renewable Energy, Hodson Energy and Scout Clean Energy are still working through the process.)

"How confident are you this project's actually going to happen?" asked commissioner Brian McGalliard.

Ethan Sternburg of Invenery pointed to interconnection costs as a leading factor in a project's outcome. He noted plans to build a new substation and connect to an existing power line running through the project area, requiring few upgrades to connect to the grid.

See County page 2

## Mural complete, projects planned



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The new mural on the Commerce Street side of the Dunkirk city building is complete. Painted by Indiana artist Pam Bliss, who also did the Glass Capital of Indiana mural a half a block away, it features the original Dunkirk High School, the second Dunkirk High School built in 1921 and Sutton Elementary School.

## Logo featured, more painting planned

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — A project to spruce up the outside of the city building is complete.

More upgrades to the facility are on the way.

Dunkirk City Council heard updates Monday regarding various projects completed and pending for the city building.

Mayor Jack Robbins reported

that the mural, painted by artist Pam Bliss, on the Commerce Street side of the city building is complete. It features three former Dunkirk schools and the Dunkirk Speedcats logo.

He also told council members Jesse Bivens, Christy Curts, Dan Watson and Donna Revolt, absent Randy Murphy, that Jerry Brooks will begin paint-

ing the interior of the building will begin Thursday. The work will progress room by room and the facility will stay open during the work.

Robbins also noted that: •He expects to get a quote from Green Construction for a new front door for the city building.

•City officials met with an information technology profes-

sional regarding installing cameras and microphones in the council chambers. He said plans are to get at least two quotes for the work. (State law requires that government meetings be livestreamed and recorded beginning July 1, 2025.)

•He plans to seek quotes for new carpet for the city building.

See Projects page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Pageant angels

Inara Sanderson (left) and McKenna Vore strike a "Charlie's Angels" pose Sunday night during a performance by the 2024 Miss Jay County Fair Queen contestants and 2023 court during the pageant at Jay County Junior-Senior High School.

## Indiana's reps were reimbursed nearly \$200,000

By MIA HILKOWITZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana's nine U.S. House members received a combined \$199,332 in reimbursements for lodging, meals and incidentals in 2023 as part of a new program that allows federal lawmakers to recoup expenses without providing receipts.

The U.S. House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress approved the program in 2022. It is considered an alternative to representatives giving themselves a raise and aims to encourage more people to run for office, according to the committee's December 2022 report. House members receive a base salary of \$174,000.

The committee also said in its report that there should be "reasonable reimbursement limits,"

ethics requirements and that the process should be transparent to the public, but did not specify how to achieve these goals.

The reimbursements aim to help representatives cover the costs of living and maintaining households in both their home district and in D.C. However, the program does not require members to keep and submit receipts of the specific expenses, so it is unclear exactly when the expenses occurred and what they covered.

According to a Washington Post database of the 2023 reimbursements, the 328 House of Representatives members who reported reimbursements received \$5.8 million under the program. Representatives received an average reimbursement around \$18,000.

See Reps page 2

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 82 degrees Monday. The low was 60.

There is a chance for rain tonight with a low of 60. Expect

mostly sunny skies Thursday with a high of 80. Highs will stay in the 80s through the weekend.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

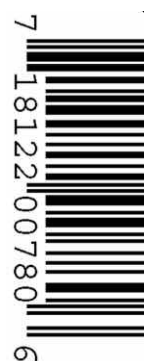
Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council are meeting in a joint session at 6 p.m. tonight in the auditorium at Jay County Courthouse for additional discussion about emergency radios.

### Coming up

**Thursday** — Results from the Portland Rockets game against the Fort Wayne Blues.

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Jay County commissioners/council joint session.

**Saturday** — Results from the JCHS Summer Swim Team's meet against Catalina.



Randy Head elected to lead state GOP

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Indiana Republican State Committee unanimously elected former lawmaker and lobbyist Randy Head to be the next chair of the state GOP on Monday, naming a successor for former chair Anne Hathaway.

Hathaway resigned after a 10-month stint chairing the party. "I would first like to express my gratitude to the State Committee for their unanimous support. Having served on the State Com-

Former state senator will succeed Hathaway

mittee, I have good relationships with its members and am ready to hit the ground running," Head said in a statement.

"Luckily, Chairwoman Hathaway has put the party in a great position and I look forward to working with her and the rest of the State Committee to continue

the Republican Party's streak of success in Indiana. I would finally like to thank Senator Braun for his recommendation. We are ready to come together and make sure Republicans are sprinting across the finish line this Fall!" Head has a bachelor's degree from Wabash College and a law

degree from Indiana University Maurer School of Law. The former deputy prosecuting attorney has 28 years of legal experience. Head also served as Logansport's senator for 11 years.

In a release from the state GOP, U.S. Sen. Mike Braun praised Hathaway. Braun is the Republican candidate for governor and will run with self-identified Christian nationalist Micah Beckwith as his lieutenant governor after a surprise vote earlier this month.

Head on his unanimous election to serve as our party's next chair! Last week, I met with the State Committee to put my full support behind Randy," Braun said. "He has served the Republican Party in many different facets over the years, and I look forward to working with him to ensure Republican victories across the state come November!"

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Thursday 6/27, Friday 6/28, Saturday 6/29, Sunday 6/30, Monday 7/1. Includes weather icons and temperature forecasts (e.g., 81/61, 84/72).

Lotteries

Table listing lottery results: Powerball, Mega Millions, Hoosier, Ohio, and Daily Four/Quick Draw results.

Markets

Table listing market prices for various crops: Cooper Farms Fort Recovery, POET Biorefining Portland, The Andersons Richland Township, Heartland St. Anthony, and ADM Montpelier.

Today in history

In 1870, a portion of the Atlantic City Boardwalk opened on New Jersey beach. In 1963, President John Kennedy delivered his "Ich bin ein Berliner" speech. In 1997, "Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone" was published.

Citizen's calendar

Table listing events for Wednesday, Tuesday, and Monday, including city board meetings and council sessions.

Projects ...

Continued from page 1 Council members also unanimously approved a series of expenditures related to the water department. They were:

- \$20,747 to Peerless Midwest of Mishawaka to rebuild a high-service pump
•\$19,959.65 to Culy Contracting of Winchester for already completed repairs related to a water main break at the corner of North and Meridian streets
•\$4,180 for Culy to replace a fire hydrant near West Jay Elementary School
•\$3,130 to 4TC of Portland to replace all of the lights on the plant's warning system operation panel with LEDs.

Felony arrests

Michael G. Stoner, 46, 917 S. Vine St., pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 5 felony. Brian G. Johnson, 33, 719 Louis St., Miamisburg, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

Reps ...

Continued from page 1 Indiana Rep. Jim Baird, R-4th, received the third highest reimbursement — \$41,549 — of any member of the House. Most of this reimbursement, \$29,875, was allocated for lodging, while the remaining \$11,674 covered meals and incidentals.

representative, Republican Larry Bucshon, R-8th, who received a total of \$31,759. Bucshon received almost \$14,000 more than the typical reimbursement. The next highest Indiana spenders — Republicans Victoria Spartz (R-5th) and Greg Pence (R-6th), and Democrat André Carson (D-7th) — all received at least \$9,000 more than the average reimbursement.

SERVICES Today Chaney, Anna: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland. Friday Doss, Jennifer: 10 a.m., Wilson-Shook Funeral Home, 2048 N. 1000 West, Parker City. Burchnell, James: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

"Congressman Carson continues to support a legislative branch that is effective, efficient, and transparent," Ellert said. According to the Post's database, 107 representatives reported \$0 in reimbursements under the program. Rep. Rudy Yakym, R-2nd, received the lowest reimbursement of the Indiana representatives, around \$4,000. Representatives Jim Banks, R-3rd, Erin Houchin, R-9th, and Frank Mrvan, D-1st, also received less than the \$18,000 typical reimbursement. Even though they are not required to submit receipts, representatives can still face criminal prosecution for lying about expenses under the program.

DIRECTV advertisement: All your entertainment. NOTHING ON YOUR ROOF. CHOICE PACKAGE \$84.99/mo. SIGN UP FOR DIRECTV and get your first 3 months of Max, Paramount+ with SHOWTIME, STARZ, MGM+ and Cinemax, included.

GoGo advertisement: With GoGo, you have a say: Live and age your way. Get help with rides, groceries, meals, and more! Memberships starting as low as \$1 per day. 1-833-562-1140

Holder Bedding advertisement: Even our Adjustable Bed has a Flippable Mattress. Affordable priced everyday! Made in Muncie for over 70 years. 765-747-8103



Photos provided

## New members

Portland Evening Optimist Club recently inducted two new members. Pictured at left above are club president and sponsor Linda Aker and new member Nancy Jonas. At right above are new member Carol Hedges, sponsor Ferrell Blazer and Aker.

# Wife refuses to repeat her husband's stories

DEAR ABBY: My husband of almost 40 years is not well. He has been a good provider, but his life stories are heavily laced with lies. That has been very difficult for me to live with.

I believe he will die before I do, and I'm uncomfortable about holding a service for him. His obituary would be filled with half-truths and lies. Because of his work positions, it would be expected that we have a service. I wouldn't know what to say without the probability of repeating his lies. Have you any suggestions on how this could be handled? — LIAR'S WIFE IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR WIFE: As a matter of fact, I do. When a husband dies, the person who is usually responsible for the creation of his obituary is his

Dear Abby



**SPOUSE.** If you want it to be truthful, do not repeat his lies. State his age and place of birth. Mention his parents and siblings. Say that you and his children (if there are any) are mourning the loss of a loving, caring husband and father. Omit ANYTHING that has to do with his work life. As to having a public service, no law says you must. You can have a graveside service for family only.

.....

DEAR ABBY: Last week, I wasn't looking my best at the laundromat. An ex-coworker, who I haven't seen in longer than I worked with them — and who never liked me — decided to sneak an unflattering photo of me. I'm guessing it was to show my old employer, who also never really liked me.

This has shattered my already fragile self-esteem. I've been depressed and stressed about this, and I don't know how to let it go and move forward. My friends and boyfriend say this person is jealous and I should forget it. I've been really low and struggling to do that.

I hadn't run into either of these people in eight years in our neighborhood, but I worry they could spread this photo around and damage my profes-

sional reputation and business. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. — CAUGHT OFF-GUARD

**DEAR CAUGHT:** Listen to the good advice you received from your friends and boyfriend. You have blown this completely out of proportion. People (regardless of their profession) are not required to be glamorous at the laundromat.

.....

DEAR ABBY: I met a man, and we started seeing each other, but I'm not really sure about him. He's a cross-dresser. I have tried to accept it, but I honestly don't think I can. It turns me off. I don't find it attractive, and I don't know if I could ever be OK with it.

I don't know how to tell him. I don't want to hurt him, but I just

can't bring myself to be sensual with him. What's the best way to explain this without hurting his feelings? I don't want to lose his friendship. — NOT MY THING IN THE MIDWEST

**DEAR NOT MY THING:** Tell the man that you like him very much and would like to remain friends, but that you feel friends are all you are destined to be. If he presses you further or needs a reason, tell him the chemistry isn't there. It is the truth.

.....

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

## Community Calendar

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

### Today

**WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB** — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend.

**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.

**EUCHRE CLUB** — Will

meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

**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.

**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.

**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 Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St.

### Thursday

**SMART RECOVERY** — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

**LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES** — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

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

## EXPLORE

# CATHOLIC

"What is Truth?"

An informal discussion on the search for objective Truth in a world that seems to lack truth nearly everywhere, with Fr. Peter Logsdon of the Catholic Churches of Jay and Randolph County

- Considering Becoming Catholic?
- Want to Know More about the Catholic faith?
- Just Curious or Interested in this topic?

THURS, June 27<sup>TH</sup>

BUFFALO WINGS-N-RINGS in Portland @ 7:00 PM

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# Big brother hit marriage milestone

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from June 25, 2014. Jack looked up to his big brother Steve, frequently telling stories about him. Ten years ago, he shared stories related to his brother's 50th wedding anniversary. This year, Steve and Beth Ronald, who live in Minneapolis and are blessed with children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, celebrated 60 years of marriage.*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

Fifty years. That's a milestone for any marriage. And it's a milestone my brother, Steve, and his wife, Beth, passed this month. Steve ordinarily would have been back in Jay County for his 55th high school reunion. He

## Back in the Saddle



graduated from Portland High School in 1959, and for most of his reunions he has slept in our spare bedroom after partying with his classmates.

But this one was different. This reunion collided with his wedding anniversary.

Steve met Beth Taylor when they were students at Earlham College. I was in junior high at the time, and to me everything about them was larger than life.

In the year or two before the

wedding, the families got to know one another. Beth made the kind of stressful visit to our house that every fiancée dreads, and our family made the trek up to Minnesota to meet Beth's family.

Ours was the easier trip. Beth's visit was marked by someone spilling milk at Sunday dinner, while ours was a delightful visit to Lake Minnetonka outside of Minneapolis. And while Beth's visit to Portland was probably pretty hum-drum, our visit to Minneapolis was — at least in the eyes of a junior high kid — very cool.

Beth's family had ties to a bookstore near the university in an area known as Dinkytown, and for me there was nothing cooler on earth at that

age than a bookstore. Portland didn't have a real one. Dunkirk didn't have one. My best book choices came from a newsstand at the Rexall Drug Store in Portland, and I made the most of it.

The patriarch of Beth's family, Grandfather Perine was a gnomish little old man who made Steve's younger siblings feel at ease immediately. He was a coin collector and currency collector. And before our visit ended, he'd given me a \$2 bill, telling me to keep it in my wallet forever and only use it if I ended up completely down and out. It was great advice.

The wedding happened about a year later, and I found myself in my first tuxedo.

Did I look like a 15-year-old dork? You bet I did.

It was the first time I had ever

worn rented clothes, which struck me as a little odd.

The tuxedo drill goes something like this: Pants, jacket, shirt, cummerbund (what the heck is a cummerbund?), suspenders, shirt studs (we can't afford buttons?), silk socks (those are weird) and shiny shoes.

In Tuxedo World, none of the clothes you wear everyday have any use. So you have to rent replacements from some guy who knows more than you do. Or pretends to.

My role, 50 years ago, was as an usher, a task I handled without embarrassing myself.

I was not, to my immense relief, asked to be Best Man. But several years later, I tapped my brother for that very role.

I didn't ask him to wear a tux.

# Investing in child care supports us all

By TESSIE RAGAN  
Progressive Perspectives  
Tribune News Service

We have a child care crisis in the United States. And as a child care education provider, I know how to fix it: Put families first.

The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports that each month, tens of thousands of Americans miss work due to a lack of child care, resulting in \$122 billion annually in lost productivity, earnings and revenue.

Meanwhile, early childhood education and child care workers are among the lowest-paid workers in the country, even as we're entrusted with our nation's most valued and vulnerable population.

I'm also a veteran of the U.S. Armed Services. I grew up with a military dad and a mom who was an early childhood educator on military bases. I knew I wanted to serve my country like my father and be an educator like my mother.

After 9/11, I served for four years and was then honorably discharged to care for my newborn son. I later enrolled in college for early childhood education. But when I graduated in 2011, I found that the wages were unlivable: The best offer I got was \$12.95 an hour to work in an underfunded state-federal program.

That was far less than we needed, so I started my own home child care business for kids who lived on the base where my husband served. Entrepreneurial, patriotic, service-oriented and well-educated — I have all the elements to live the American dream. Yet child care remains an undervalued, low-wage industry wherever you go.

Recently, we got a glimpse of what a better system could look like. As part of the Biden administration's American Rescue Plan during the pandemic, a "Child Care Stabilization Fund" allowed small, in-home, family child care facilities like mine to temporarily affiliate with the federal Head Start program and receive some of those funds.

The Stabilization Fund was a game-changer.

It provided stability and increased wages for over

Tessie Ragan



225,000 child care providers while maintaining care for 10 million at-risk children. This not only kept child care centers open but also created more slots for children, enabling more parents to return to work. For me, it meant I could continue catering to the unique needs of military children and collaborating with school districts to provide one-on-one, smaller settings for children in need.

The Republican House majority let that fund expire last fall. And other federal support will expire this September unless Congress renews it.

Let's be clear: Every family should have access to early childhood care and education. Without it, children, their parents and our entire economy suffer — especially women, low-income communities and communities of color.

We need to value all children, families and early learning providers equally — not only as an issue of equality but also because this strengthens our families, communities, workforces and nation.

The Center for Community Change, where I volunteer, offers a vision to address the child care crisis that I think we can all agree on. It's rooted in the beliefs that every family deserves everything they need to provide the best care for their kids, that child care workers should be treated with dignity and earn a living wage and that families should have real choices for how to care for their young children — including when that care happens at home.

Just imagine how much stronger and more secure our families and workforce would be if we prioritized these values in our federal investments.

Ragan is a family child care educator, consultant, advocate and a Child Care Changemaker with the Center for Community Change.



# We need more, better testing

By LISA JARVIS  
Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

During COVID, public health experts and armchair epidemiologists became obsessed with poop — or, more accurately, the secrets it held about the state of the pandemic. Wastewater, which can measure how much virus humans excrete, has become a valuable disease-tracking tool.

But using that tool to track our current viral threat, the H5N1 bird flu that has begun circulating in cows, is much trickier. Finding even high levels of bird flu in wastewater does not necessarily mean an area is experiencing an outbreak. Rather, it sets off a hunt for the source.

That's still valuable information, particularly amid the paucity of testing that has made it nearly impossible to gauge the state of the outbreak. But it's also leading to some confusion and even alarmist interpretations.

Although scientists had been mining wastewater as a public health tool for years, the approach really came into its own during the COVID pandemic, becoming a reliable sentinel of an outbreak. Although the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention regularly published testing and hospitalization numbers, those were lagging indicators. The wastewater numbers tended to tick up in time to serve as a warning to the wary.

When it comes to bird flu, though, the information offered by wastewater is much murkier.

The confusion began when wastewater showed an uptick of influenza A, a broad category that includes the H5N1 strain, in parts of the country at the same time bird flu came onto the public's radar.

That stoked fears that, rather than an unseasonable bump in garden variety flu (or a quirk in the way CDC was measuring its data), H5N1 was quietly running rampant. But that confusion didn't abate once wastewater tests were refined to specifically pluck out H5, a narrower category that includes the strain circulating in cows.

Lisa Jarvis



Whereas COVID was concentrated in humans, bird flu by now is circulating in an assortment of species. Researchers currently can't decipher whether a signal is coming from an infected human, a cow, or a dead bird that fell into the sewer system.

Further complicating matters is the high level of virus in the milk supply — bits of virus have shown up in as much as 20% of store-bought milk. Although industrial farms aren't typically connected to municipal sewer systems, waste from dairy processing plants does end up there. And people dumping their expired milk down the drain could be enough to trigger a positive signal in wastewater.

So when a wastewater sample comes back showing H5, it's not a sure sign of an outbreak in that immediate area. But it's still helpful information given the appalling lack of testing for bird flu in both humans and cows.

Verily, the life sciences arm of Alphabet, has teamed up with an effort from Stanford and Emory universities called WastewaterSCAN to test for H5 across their network of wastewater collection sites. Samples from early in the outbreak, which began in Texas, showed high levels of bird flu in Amarillo — an area with no farms, but a dairy processing plant just a few blocks from the wastewater treatment plant, says Bradley White, who helms Verily's wastewater work.

Verily has also been able to detect H5 in states where cows later tested positive. Most recently, it picked up a signal in Iowa and Minnesota about a week before those states reported infected herds. Meanwhile, it has shone a light on the need for further investigation in sites with known out-

breaks. Michigan, for example, is currently investigating the source of sky-high H5 levels in its wastewater to determine if infected herds or even infected humans are flying under the radar.

Verily and its partners, which include the CDC, can't solve every wastewater mystery. When H5 showed up in a wastewater sample in the San Francisco Bay Area — a situation that led to some overly alarming headlines that seemed to suggest the virus was spreading undetected there — it took serious sleuthing by public health officials to determine that the likely cause was infected chickens.

But there's hope for more clarity in the future, and we should be continuing to develop this technology to squeeze out all the information it can offer.

Verily is working on ways to disentangle useful signals from the sludge. The company is developing a method that could allow its scientists to more clearly pinpoint the source of a given viral fragment. The goal is to eventually be able to estimate that, say, 80% of the flu in a sewer system is coming from cattle and 20% is coming from birds. It could also, in the worst-case scenario, identify how much is coming from humans, White says.

Of course, that only works for the places where wastewater data are being tracked. The U.S. should be working to assess as much of the country as possible. Although imperfect, this disease snapshot is an important one to keep developing — especially when government agencies seem unable to offer a clear picture via testing of individual cows and farm workers.

Even as we develop better ways to capture bird flu data from our sewers, we must complement that data with more testing of people and animals. That will put us in a better position if H5N1 does eventually adapt to be dangerous to humans.

Jarvis is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering biotech, health care and the pharmaceutical industry.

# The Commercial Review



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VOLUME 151—NUMBER 40  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024

www.thecr.com

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.

We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to [letters@thecr.com](mailto:letters@thecr.com). They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

"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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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Weiler duel

Mercutio (played by Carter Hoffer) reacts after being run through by Tybalt (Pete Sheldon) while Benvolio (Ash Bowen) watches Monday night during Hoosier Shakespeare Festival's performance of William Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet" at Weiler Plaza in Hartford City. The group was back in Weiler Plaza on Tuesday evening to perform "A Midsummer Night's Dream" closing its 2024 season with performances Thursday and Friday in Jonesboro.

## County ...

Continued from page 1  
"Once that happened, we really (were) a lot more confident of the project's feasibility," said Sternburg, noting the company has extended its leases with property owners as needed. "Invenergy's fully committed to the project and making sure that we're able to reap the benefits of this large project coming to the community ... we're fully committed to the project and feel good about its prospects moving forward."

Commissioners also approved the economic development plan Monday for the county's tax increment financing (TIF) district.

Started about 15 years ago on about 191 acres in Greene Township, the TIF district had been generating dollars used to pay off bonds associated with road work and sewer improvements near the ethanol plant southwest of Portland. Jay County made its final bond payment related to the TIF district in 2023, leaving the county with an additional \$550,000 annually for the next 13 years.

The economic development plan lists potential projects those dollars may be used for, including: 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.

Also Monday, commissioners were reminded applications for the owner-occupied rehabilitation program close Friday. Community coordinator Nate Kimball noted the county has received about 90 applications so far, with about 70 of them fully completed.

Intended to help residents pay for home improvements, the program is mainly funded through a \$1 million grant from Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. Applications — they must be submitted in-person — are available at jaycounty.net, Jay County Auditor's Office at Jay County Courthouse in Portland, Dunkirk City Hall, Redkey Town Hall and Kimball's office at the Community Resource Center in Portland.

In other business, commissioners Brian McGalliard, Rex Journay and Chad Aker:

- Re-addressed the dog, Kilo, living at Jay County Country Living. Jay County Country Living advisory board president Cindy

Bracy noted officials recently heard back from its insurance provider, Bliss McKnight. Commissioners confirmed as long as the dog is vaccinated, he may continue to live outdoors on the property. (If he bites a person, they added, the dog must be removed.)

- Approved the following: Sheriff Ray Newton to utilize about \$18,000 from his department's budget to hire consultant Charles Braun — pending Schemenaur's review of the contract — for updating standard operating procedures for employees at Jay County Sheriff's Office and Jay County Jail; allotting \$11,000 toward the 2024 Launch Jay! pitch competition, with Jay County Development Corporation executive director Travis Richards explaining the program had been previously funded through a grant; increasing meal reimbursement for employees attending training or conferences in-state from \$15 to \$20 for breakfast and lunch and \$25 to \$30 for dinner, effective July 1.

- Agreed to write a letter of support for renaming the bridge on Indiana 67 near Jay County Junior-Senior High School in honor of Bryant resident and Jay County High School graduate Lance Cpl. Andrew Whitaker, who died while in active military service in 2008. District 33 State Representative J.D. Prescott plans to propose the naming in the statehouse.

- Learned from Jay County Highway Department superintendent Bob Howell that B&M — in May, commissioners selected the company to make repairs to the building being used to store salt at the highway department — does not have a certificate of insurance. Plans are to request bids again for the project.

- Accepted a commercial washer and dryer and other furniture donations from Adams County's residential center, Golden Meadows Home, which is in the process of closing.

- Heard Jay Emergency Medical Services' financial breakdown for May from director Gary Barnett. In May, the department had \$170,312.11 in expenses and \$100,852.18 in income.

- Heard from Progressive Del Toro Office Products owner Adolfo Solis, who invited commissioners to his business' open house, grand re-opening and ribbon-cutting on Monday.

- OK'd selling a Ford truck to Robert Burkey for \$900 and a decommissioned ambulance to Brad Barnett for \$1,750.

# HEALTHCARE

## 4 stretches that can help to alleviate lower back pain

Lower back pain is a big problem. Though that's likely no surprise to people who suffer from lower back pain, the scope of the problem is perhaps wider than many may realize.

A recent study conducted by the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington found that lower back pain affects 619 million people across the globe. Researchers behind the study, which was published in The Lancet Rheumatology in 2023, estimate that 843 million people will suffer from lower back pain by 2050.

Lower back pain can have an adverse effect on quality of life. The good news is that people are not helpless against lower back pain. In fact, the American Association of Neurological Surgeons notes roughly 90 percent of lower back pain cases are temporary and treatable without surgery. Stretching can help individuals alleviate lower back pain, and the following are four stretches that can be performed at home without expensive equipment.

**1. Knee-to-chest stretch:** This stretch is straightforward. Lie on your back with your knees bent and feet flat



on the floor. Grab one leg beneath the knee with both hands, interlocking your fingers, while keeping the other leg flat on the floor. Pull the knee up toward your chest, holding the stretch for 15 to 30 seconds. New York Presbyterian advises keeping the lower back pressed to the floor for the duration of the

stretch, which can be repeated with the opposite leg. Perform the stretch between two and four times for each leg.

**2. Trunk rotation:** When beginning a trunk rotation, lie on your back and bring the knees up toward your chest. The online medical resource Healthline notes the body should be positioned as if you're sitting in a chair. Extend arms out to the sides fully, with palms facedown on the floor. With knees together and hands on the floor, roll both bent knees to one side and hold for 15 to 20 seconds. Return to the starting position and then do the same for the opposite side, repeating several times for each side.

**3. Cat-cow:** Various yoga exercises, including the cat-cow, can help to alleviate lower back pain. The British Heart Foundation recommends beginning slowly when attempting to alleviate lower back pain, doing the cat-cow 10 times, once or twice a week. Kneel on all fours with hands flat on the floor and arms positioned straight under the shoulders and knees directly below the hips. Breathe in as you drop your stomach toward the floor, arching the back and

looking up to the ceiling. Hold for one to two seconds, then reverse. Breathe out as you pull your stomach back toward the back, rounding your back upwards and dropping the head toward the floor.

**4: Seated hamstring stretch:** The seated hamstring stretch can be beneficial because Healthline notes tight hamstrings are believed to be a common contributor to lower back pain. Stretching the hamstring muscles helps to release tension in the spine. Sit on the floor with one leg out in front of you and hook a bath towel around the heel of your foot. Gently bend forward at the hips, bringing the belly down to the thighs. Keep your back straight as you grab the towel so you can bring the belly closer to your legs. Healthline advises keeping the stretch until you feel mild tension in the lower back and the back of the leg. Hold for 10 seconds, rest for 30 seconds and repeat three times for each leg.

Lower back pain is a common but treatable problem. These stretches and more can help people overcome lower back pain and improve their quality of life.

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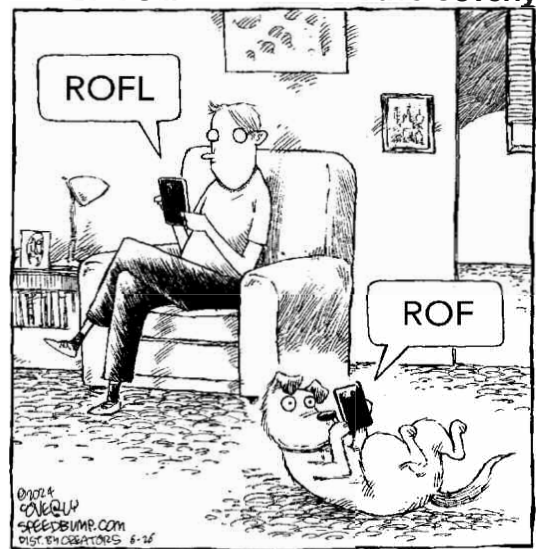
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THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



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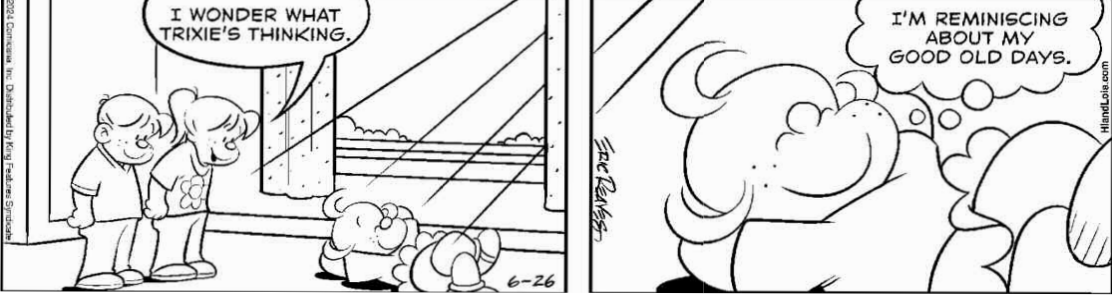
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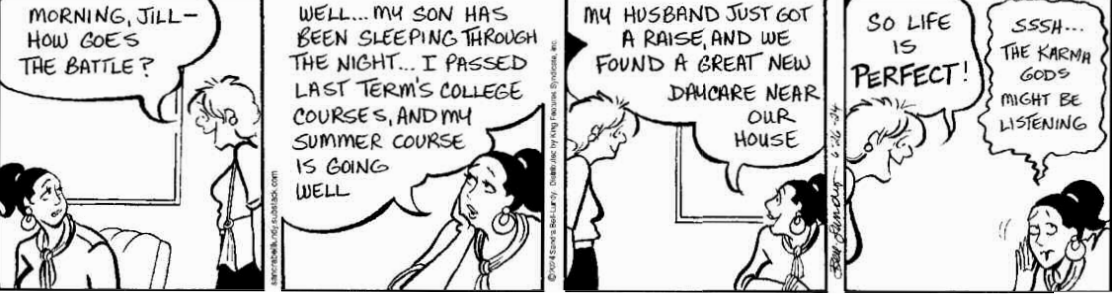
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Hi and Lois



Between Friends



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Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A not-so-innocent mistake

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH ♠ J 9 6 2 ♥ A Q 9 8 6 5 3 ♦ Q ♣ A WEST ♠ 8 5 ♥ J 4 ♦ A J 10 8 5 3 2 ♣ 8 7 EAST ♠ K Q 7 4 3 ♥ K 7 2 ♦ 9 6 4 ♣ 10 6

CRYPTOQUIP

DRZC GQPXN QVF GZXX XFFGRFM CRZC LZWF CRFJT RZKJCZCM JV ZVN ZTQPVN MLZXX MCTFZLM? KTQQWDQTLM. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN PEOPLE ARE COMPLETELY AFRAID OF ELEVATORS, I RECKON THEY WILL TAKE STEPS TO AVOID THEM. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: G equals C

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

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## Tennessee ...

Continued from page 8

“I think it’s pretty selfish of you to ask me that question, to be honest with you,” Schlossnagle said when asked by a reporter late Monday about “rumors circulating today about a specific job opening.”

An annoyed Schlossnagle added: “I left my family to be the coach at Texas A&M. I took the job at Texas A&M to never take another job again. And that hasn’t changed in my mind. ... I understand you’ve got to ask the question, but I gave up a big part of my life to come take this job.

“I poured every ounce of my soul into this job, and I gave this job every ounce I could possibly give it. Write that.”

Schlossnagle, 53, along the way did not deny he’s a possible candidate for the Texas job. The resilient Aggies advanced to their first title game despite playing the CWS without star right fielder Braden Mont-

gomery, who broke his ankle in the first game of a super regional against Oregon on June 8, and starting pitcher Shane Sdao, who hurt his arm in the second game of the super regional.

“Everybody has to fight through something,” Schlossnagle said. “It’s unfortunate, but it’s just another example

*‘Everybody has to fight through something. It’s unfortunate but it’s just another example that I can use as a coach and players can remember, that your time can come, and it can change in an instant. It changed in an instant for Braden, and it changed in an instant for Shane.’*

—Texas A&M coach Jim Schlossnagle

that I can use as a coach and players can remember, that your time can come, and it can change in an instant.

“It changed in an instant for Braden, and it changed in an instant for Shane.”

A former understudy got the best of an old boss in the best-of-three series, as well. Vitello was an assistant to Schlossna-

gle at TCU from 2011-13 before moving on as an assistant to Dave Van Horn at Arkansas from 2014-17. Tennessee rolled the dice on an unproven assistant in 2018, and that bold move paid off with a national title against Schlossnagle and the Aggies.

“We had unfinished business, especially with this being

the third time we’ve been to (Omaha) in the last four years,” Volunteers pitcher Zander Sechrest said.

Tennessee won the SEC regular season title and the SEC tournament title and became the first No. 1 overall seed to win the College World Series since Miami in 1999, the first year of the current NCAA Tournament format.

The Volunteers earned the title at Charles Schwab Field in front of former Vols quarterback Peyton Manning, current Tennessee basketball coach Rick Barnes and current Tennessee football coach Josh Heupel, among other orange-clad attendees celebrating a first for the university.

“We’ve got all the resources in the world where we are (at Tennessee),” Vitello said. “But it’s a place where we kind of had to build a foundation to catch up with some of these other storied programs.”

## Panthers ...

Continued from page 8

“It’s not a dream anymore. It’s not a dream. It’s reality,” said Panthers forward Matthew Tkachuk, who got traded to Florida two summers ago with this as his goal. “I can’t believe it. I can’t believe it. ... I can’t believe how good these two years have been. So thankful for this group of guys. It’s the best place, best guys. It’s something really special here with what we have.”

Mattias Janmark had the goal for Edmonton and Stuart Skinner stopped 19 shots for the Oilers. The Oilers also couldn’t snap Canada’s title drought; it’s been 1993 and counting since a team based in Canada won the Cup.

Montreal was the last to do so, 30 seasons ago. Since then, there have been seven attempts by teams from Canadian-based cities — Vancouver

in 1994 and 2011, Calgary in 2004, the Oilers in 2006, Ottawa in 2007 and the Canadiens in 2021 — to win titles, and all were in vain.

South Florida now has one of everything when it comes to titles from the four major pro sports leagues in the U.S. The Miami Dolphins were champions twice, the then-Florida Marlins were champions twice, the Miami Heat have three titles and now the Panthers have joined the party.

Welcome, Stanley. The Panthers have been waiting. Maurice hoisted the Cup by the bench, closed his eyes tight to control the emotion and let out a yell. General manager Bill Zito didn’t bother even trying to not let the yell out. And in the stands, Tkachuk’s family — his father, Keith, never won a Cup — reveled in the moment, knowing

their surname will soon be on Lord Stanley.

“This is for them,” Tkachuk said.

Bobrovsky was as cool as could be, even in the biggest moments. Oilers defenseman Evan Bouchard had a good look from the right circle with about 14 seconds left in the second period; Bobrovsky blocked the shot, and the puck bounced off him and into the air.

No problem. Bobrovsky took his stick and batted the puck away again, more like he was playing morning pickleball at a park than in the biggest game of his life — literally, the last line of defense against the Oilers, and against a piece of history that the Panthers desperately fought to avoid.

Florida led this title series 3-0, then got outscored 18-5 in Games 4, 5 and 6 to waste three chances at winning the

Cup. Edmonton was one win away from becoming the second team in NHL history to win the Cup after dropping the first three games; Toronto did it to Detroit in 1942, and no team has pulled off such a comeback since.

They brought in seven-time Grammy winner Alanis Morissette — she was born in Canada and became a dual U.S. citizen in 2005 — to sing the national anthems. Hardly anybody could hear her; the Oilers fans drowned her out for “O Canada,” the Panthers fans did the same for “The Star-Spangled Banner.” They had Panthers legend Roberto Luongo bang the ceremonial bass drum after that; he urged fans to “let’s go” with an extra word in there that needed to be bleeped a few times.

“I just can’t believe we did it,” Barkov said.

The pregame was raucous. The stage was set.

And the teams came out absolutely ablaze.

The Panthers got the first goal just 4:27 into the game when Verhaeghe waved his stick at the puck that was fired in from the left side by Evan Rodrigues and got just enough to redirect it past Skinner for a 1-0 lead — the first Florida lead since the end of Game 3.

They waited more than a week to be back on top. They stayed there for just over two minutes.

Janmark got behind the Florida defense and beat Bobrovsky over the right shoulder at 6:44, knotting things right back up and ensuring that this Game 7 of the final — like all 17 of the previous such games — wouldn’t end 1-0.

It stayed that way through wild ebbs and flows — the Oilers controlled long stretches, the Panthers would counter, back and forth — until

Reinhart scored late in the second to put Florida up 2-1. It capped a crazy sequence, one where Florida defenseman Dmitry Kulikov wound up in the net to help prevent an Edmonton goal seconds before Reinhart beat Skinner. The goal was Reinhart’s 67th of the season, extending his Florida single-season record, and it was up to the Panthers to make it hold up.

Florida was an NHL-best 44-0-3 entering Monday when leading after two periods this season. An NHL-best 85-2-6 in that situation in the two seasons under coach Maurice, too.

They slammed the door, one last time. And the Cup was their reward.

“This is the best moment of my life so far,” veteran Panthers defenseman Aaron Ekblad said. “Nothing tops it.”

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Fort Recovery ACME baseball at Fort Loramie — 6 p.m.  
Portland Rockets at Northeast Kekiongas — 7 p.m.

**Thursday**  
Jay County summer swim team vs. Catalina — 6 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
12 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Belgium vs. Ukraine (FOX)  
12 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Romania vs. Slovakia (FS1)

1:10 p.m. — MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

3 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Portugal vs. Georgia (FOX)  
3 p.m. — UEFA European Championship 2024: Turkiye vs. Czechia (FS1)

6 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Jamaica vs. Ecuador (FS1)

7:15 p.m. — MLB: Atlanta Braves at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)

8 p.m. — NBA draft (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Mexico vs. Venezuela (FS1)

**Thursday**  
4 p.m. — NBA draft second round (ESPN)  
6 p.m. — Copa America soccer: United States vs. Panama (FOX)

6:30 p.m. — Olympic men’s gymnastics trials (USA)

7:45 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)

8 p.m. — Olympic track and field trials (NBC)  
8:10 p.m. — MLB: Cleveland Guardians vs. Kansas City Royals (FS1)

9 p.m. — Olympic track and field trials (USA)  
9 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Bolivia vs. Uruguay (FOX)

### Local notes

**Soccer camp announced**  
The Jay County High School boys and girls soccer teams will hold a youth soccer camp July 29-31. The camp is for kids going into first grade up to eighth grade. It will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. at the

old soccer field behind the baseball diamond.

Admission is \$30 per child and each additional child from the same household will cost only \$20. To sign up visit <https://qrco.de/bf9AoD>. For more information, email [kilmuhlenkamp@jayschools.k12.in.us](mailto:kilmuhlenkamp@jayschools.k12.in.us) or [rreynolds@jayschools.k12.in.us](mailto:rreynolds@jayschools.k12.in.us).

Payment can be sent to the high school front office by July 12th.

**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 limited 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](mailto: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 shotgun 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](mailto:director@cadcinfo.org).

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# Sports

## Wiggins walks it off for Joyce Dayton

Playoffs are underway for Portland Junior League. Coming down to the end, Annabelle Wiggins came through to make sure that Joyce Dayton's season continued.

Wiggins secured the 16-15 win for fourth-seeded Joyce Dayton over No. 5 seed Homestead Bedding 16-15 with a walk-off single that scored Mackenna Cramer in the sixth inning of the first round of the Portland Junior League Rookie softball tournament on Monday.

Along with the winning hit, Wiggins led Joyce Dayton in hits (five) and runs scored (four). She had four singles and a triple in the win.

Other offensive leaders include Adalyn Overla, Ivy

### Local roundup

Trinidad, Cramer and Renlee Hummer.

Overla smashed four hits, including a triple, while matching Wiggins with four runs scored. Trinidad added four base knocks and scored three times she reached base.

Cramer and Hummer both had three hits and one run scored. Cramer also had a double.

Joyce Dayton moves on to play

top-seeded Optimist on Wednesday today at 5:30.

### Comeback win

No. 4 seed William's Auto Parts stormed back from a seven-run deficit to defeat fifth-seeded Pak-A-Sak 11-9 in Monday's opening round of the Portland Junior League Rookie baseball tournament.

After three innings, Pak-A-Sak led 9-2 before William's Auto Parts turned the tables.

Thobe Keller drove in the most runs for William's Auto Parts as a home run and a triple plated five. He scored both times as well.

Carson Dailey, Brett Huntsman and Zander Williams all

went 3-for-3 from the plate and combined for eight runs, six extra-base hits and three RBIs.

Rickey Heitkamp led the Pak-A-Sak offense, finishing 3-for-3 at the plate. He hit a triple and two singles, while driving in two runs and scoring two as well.

William's Auto Parts drew top-seeded Cook's Nursery in Tuesday's semifinal matchup.

### POET advances

Second-seeded POET Bioprocessing claimed a 15-2 win over No. 7 seed Barnett's Auto Parts in the opening round of the Portland Junior League Rookie baseball tournament on Monday.

Harvey Hemmelgarn, Nolan

Homan, Corbin Hutzler, Hudson Bullock-Thomas and Marshall Hemmelgarn all collected three hits in the win.

Harvey Hemmelgarn led the effort with a home run and two doubles. He only crossed home plate on his home run.

Homan and Hutzler both scored three times to lead POET Bioprocessing. Homan had a triple and two doubles, while Hutzler had a triple, double and single.

Alex Miller had the best day for Barnett's Auto Parts. He collected two hits, including a double, and scored one run.

POET Bioprocessing played the winner of third-seeded Pioneer Packaging and sixth-seeded Matt's Garage.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

### Tagged out

Kipton Zimmerman tags out a runner headed for third base during the Redkey Junior League Minor baseball game between the Hire Construction Pirates and the POET Orioles on Monday.

## Tennessee Vols win College World Series

By BRENT ZWERNEMAN

San Antonio Express-News Tribune News Service

OMAHA, Neb. — Texas A&M baseball made program history in coach Jim Schlossnagle's third season, but the Aggies fell two runs shy of college baseball immortality.

Top-ranked Tennessee defeated No. 3 A&M 6-5 on Monday night in the title game of the College World Series in Omaha, Nebraska, the first time the Aggies have played for the championship.

"We got the tying run to the plate in the ninth inning, which I knew we would regardless of the score," Schlossnagle said. "It's a tough one to swallow, even when you make it this far. Everybody wants to win their last game."

The Volunteers won their first national title in the sport after finishing as the runner-up to Oklahoma in 1951.

"It clearly could have been either team's trophy tonight," Tennessee coach Tony Vitello said of the one-run outcome.

The Volunteers, who never trailed in the game, cushioned their lead to 5-1 in the bottom of the seventh inning on a two-run home run by Dylan Dreiling off A&M's Evan Aschenbeck, who was named the nation's top reliever last week. Dreiling homered in each of the three title round games against the Aggies, and was named the CWS most outstanding player.

The Aggies (53-15) appeared to be in good shape for the program's first national title following a 9-5 A&M victory in Saturday's opener, but the Volunteers (60-13) rebounded with a 4-1 victory on Sunday and then Monday's one-run clincher that touched off dancing in the streets of Knoxville, Tenn.

"(I've got) nothing too intelligent to say, other

### Volunteers stave off Texas A&M comeback for 6-5 victory

than the first thing to say is I hope the fans have turned this into an insane party, an insane event," Vitello said. "They got the series that they wanted and that they deserved."

The Aggies closed the late gap to a lone run on a Hayden Schott RBI single and a Caden Sorrell RBI double in the eighth, followed by a Jackson Appel RBI single and then Appel scoring on a wild pitch in the ninth, before Tennessee reliever Aaron Combs struck out Ted Burton, who represented the tying run with two outs, on a 1-2 slider.

The mighty Southeastern Conference, which Texas and Oklahoma are officially joining on July 1 after exiting the Big 12, won its fifth consecutive baseball national title, which would have happened regardless considering the Aggies joined the SEC from the Big 12 years ago.

A&M had never even made the sport's final four prior to Schlossnagle's arrival three years ago, and the Aggies have now done so in two of the past three seasons under the former TCU coach.

Schlossnagle, too, is expected to be a candidate for the Texas vacancy. Longhorns athletic director Chris Del Conte on Monday dismissed David Pierce after eight seasons of leading one of the nation's most storied programs. Texas has won six national titles, but none under Pierce.

See Tennessee page 7

## Panthers win Stanley Cup

By STAR TRIBUNE STAFF

Star Tribune Tribune News Service

SUNRISE, FLA. — There was no collapse. The Florida Panthers are Stanley Cup champions for the first time, and they took about the hardest path possible to the title.

Sam Reinhart and Carter Verhaeghe scored goals, Sergei Bobrovsky made 23 saves and the Panthers beat the Edmonton Oilers 2-1 on Monday night in Game 7 of the Stanley Cup Final. It was the third title-round appearance in Florida's 30-year history; it was swept in 1996 by Colorado and routed 4-1 by Vegas last season.

### Florida Panthers top Edmonton Oilers 2-1 in game 7 for their first championship

This time, they were on the right side of history — after avoiding what would have been a historic collapse. The Panthers won the first three games of the series, then lost the next three and needed a win on Monday to avoid joining the 1942 Detroit Red Wings as the only

teams to lose the final after taking a 3-0 lead in the title round.

"It's not what I thought it would be," Panthers coach Paul Maurice said. "It's so much better."

It wasn't easy. Not even close. But it's done.

"It's heavy," Panthers captain Aleksander

Barkov said, after he took the celebratory first lap with the Cup.

But not too heavy. Barkov handed it to Bobrovsky and the celebration was on. It took until the very end for the Panthers to deny Connor McDavid his first title, and Edmonton what would have been its first Cup since 1990.

McDavid won the Conn Smythe as MVP of the Stanley Cup playoffs. He didn't come out for the trophy. It's not the one he wanted, anyway. The Cup is what they play for, and it was Florida that hoisted it.

See Panthers page 7

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