

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fifth in Muncie

The Jay County High School Marching Patriots placed fifth in Saturday's Spirit of Sound contest at Muncie Central. Pictured above, the baritone section, including Joseph Boggs (left) and Jensen Avery (second from left) march across the field Saturday night. At right, Cierra Smith whips a king-themed flag over her head. JCHS scored 65.65 points to trail Muncie Central (73.325), Kokomo, Anderson and Richmond.



Rate highest since 2020

Unemployment increased to 4.5% last month

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Unemployment shot up again last month.

Jay County's unemployment rate went up by 0.6 percentage points in June according to estimates the Indiana Department of Workforce Development released Monday.

The local unemployment rate came in at 4.5%, tied with Clay, Elkhart, Kosciusko, Madison and Wabash counties.

The mark was up just over half a percentage point from the previous month and 1.4 percentage points from June 2023.

The local rate has been on a roller coaster this year, climbing to 4.1% in February and then trending back toward 3% over the next two months before climbing again in May and June. The 4.5% mark is the highest for the county since the 2020 spike related to coronavirus pandemic shut-downs.

Unemployment has been gradually trending upward in Indiana and nationwide. In Jay county, unemployment ranges since the coronavirus pandemic hit are as follows:

•2020 — Peaked at 19.6% in April before falling to 3.1% in December

•2021 — Between 2% and 3.8%

•2022 — Between 2.2% and 3.1%

•2023 — Between 2.6% and 3.5%

•2024 (so far) — Between 3.2% and 4.5%

See Rate page 2

Harris makes case for nomination

By SEEMA MEHTA

Los Angeles Times

Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The day that catapulted Kamala Harris to within striking distance of becoming the Democratic nominee for president of the United States was marked by a flurry of phone calls.

Harris had multiple phone conversations with President Biden prior to his announcement Sunday morning that he was ending his reelection bid,

Vice president seeks to secure support following President Biden's withdrawal

according to a person familiar with Harris' activities on Sunday. The announcement, which he released on X, rocked the political world and came

after growing calls that he not seek a second term after a disastrous debate performance against Donald Trump.

From there, Harris

spoke to more than 100 Democrats, including members of Congress, governors and labor and civil rights leaders, the source said.

"On each of those calls, the vice president made clear that she was extremely grateful for the president's endorsement but plans to work hard to earn the Democratic nomination in her own right," according to the source.

Monday is Harris' first full day campaigning for president, and she is expected to continue trying to unify the party around her.

See Harris page 2

Philippines, China reach interim deal

Agreement covers 'humanitarian resupply of living necessities'

By CLIFF VENZON

Bloomberg News

Tribune News Service

Manila and Beijing said they reached a "provisional arrangement" on resupply missions to a Philippine military outpost in the South China Sea that's been at the center of escalating tensions between the nations.

The Philippines' Foreign Affairs Department said in a statement on Sunday that it had "reached an understanding" with China on the resupply of its troops stationed at the BRP Sierra Madre in the Second Thomas Shoal, and that "both

sides continue to recognize the need to de-escalate the situation."

The deal covered "humanitarian resupply of living necessities," China's Foreign Ministry said early Monday, adding the two sides "agreed to jointly manage differences on maritime issues and work for de-escalation."

Neither side provided exact details of the agreement.

The tentative deal adds to signs that both sides are open to defusing tensions that hit a high point last month when a Philippine sailor lost a thumb as sea clashes escalated. Last week, media reported that the two countries were planning to elevate a sea dispute hotline to the offices of Presidents Xi Jinping and Ferdinand Marcos Jr. and their foreign ministers.

The BRP Sierra Madre, a World War II-era vessel beached on the shoal, has been a flashpoint between the countries in recent months.

Remi reach

Remi Chilcoat, 4, jumps into the arms of her aunt Kiera Stump during Fort Recovery's National Night Out festivities Sunday at Ambassador Pool.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Deaths

Norma Brumbaugh, 92, Portland
Morgan Smitley, 30, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 79 degrees Sunday. The low was 59.

Tonight's forecast calls for scattered showers and thunderstorms with a low in the mid 60s. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a high in the lower 80s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Jay County Personnel Committee will meet at 1 p.m. Wednesday in the auditorium at Jay County Courthouse.

Coming up

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

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Redevelopment Commission meeting.



Harris ...

Continued from page 1
As Biden's news spread, Harris quickly began to win the backing of many of the top people in her party.
Though Democrats have said they will have an open contest to select their nominee, many of the party's leaders have endorsed Harris, including Govs. Gavin Newsom of California, Roy Cooper of North Carolina, Kathy Hochul of New York, Janet Mills of Maine, Phil Murphy of New Jersey, Jared Polis of Colorado and Josh Shapiro of Pennsylvania, as well as Sens. Laphonza Butler and Alex Padilla of California, Tammy Baldwin of Wisconsin, Bob Casey of Pennsylvania, Catherine Cortez Masto of Nevada, Chris Coons of

Delaware, Mark Kelly of Arizona, Kirsten Gillibrand of New York and John Hickenlooper of Colorado.
There are also indications of spikes in fundraising since the announcement.
Biden's announcement ends weeks of hand-wringing among party leaders who urged him to leave the race after a disastrous debate performance last month left many Democrats fearing he was too old for office and unable to defeat former President Trump.
"I believe it is in the best interest of my party and the country for me to stand down and to focus solely on fulfilling my duties as president for the remainder of my term," Biden said in a statement.

He will address the nation later this week, he said.
In his initial statement, Biden did not endorse Harris but later threw his support behind her in a post on X.
"My very first decision as the party nominee in 2020 was to pick Kamala Harris as my Vice President. And it's been the best decision I've made. Today I want to offer my full support and endorsement for Kamala to be the nominee of our party this year. Democrats — it's time to come together and beat Trump. Let's do this," Biden wrote.
In her own statement, Harris thanked Biden for his "extraordinary leadership."
"I am honored to have the Presi-

dent's endorsement and my intention is to earn and win this nomination," she said. "I will do everything in my power to unite the Democratic Party — and unite our nation — to defeat Donald Trump and his extreme Project 2025 agenda."
Through his wins in Democratic primaries and caucuses in U.S. states and territories, Biden amassed nearly 4,000 party delegates who were pledged to vote for him to be the party nominee at the Democratic National Convention, which is scheduled to begin Aug. 19 in Chicago.
His departure from the race means those delegates are now free to pick another candidate. They are not pledged to Harris.

Obituaries

Norma J. Brumbaugh, Portland, Nov. 5, 1931-July 20, 2024. Services will be at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Green Park Cemetery Chapel in Portland.
Morgan J. Smitley, Portland, April 23, 1994-July 17, 2024. Services will be at 10:30 a.m. Tuesday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.
There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

Felony arrests

Intimidation
A Portland man was arrested Sunday for intimidation.
Edvin W. Gonzalez, 21, 447 S. Meridian St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, along with a Class A misdemeanor for domestic battery.
He was being held on a \$4,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Probation violation
A Portland man was arrested Thursday for violating his bond.
Joshua A. Meckstroth, 35, 116 E. Arch St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to non-support of a dependent, a Level 6 felony.
He was sentenced to two years in Jay County Jail with all but four days suspended and placed on probation for two years. A petition alleging he violated the conditions of his probation was filed in court July 3.
Meckstroth was released on a \$750 bond from Jay County Jail.

CR almanac

Wednesday 7/24	Thursday 7/25	Friday 7/26	Saturday 7/27	Sunday 7/28
84/63	79/58	79/59	82/61	85/69
There's a 60% chance of thunderstorms on Wednesday when the high will be in the 80s.	Thursday's weather also shows a chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	Sunny skies are on the horizon for Friday, when the low may dip into the 50s at night.	Another day of sun is expected Saturday. The high may reach around 82 degrees.	Sunday's forecast looks to be mostly sunny, with the low sticking in the upper 60s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$102 million	68-70-71-72-73-74-76-77 Cash 5: 3-32-34-36-44 Estimated jackpot: \$105,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$279 million	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 2-1-1 Pick 4: 1-1-5-2 Pick 5: 9-4-7-1-2 Evening Pick 3: 2-4-0 Pick 4: 3-0-0-8 Pick 5: 4-5-2-7-4 Rolling Cash 5: 14-24-27-35-36 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 4-1-4 Daily Four: 0-1-1-4 Evening Daily Three: 1-8-3 Daily Four: 0-9-3-8 Quick Draw: 6-12-22-32-34-38-41-45-46-58-59-63-	

Markets

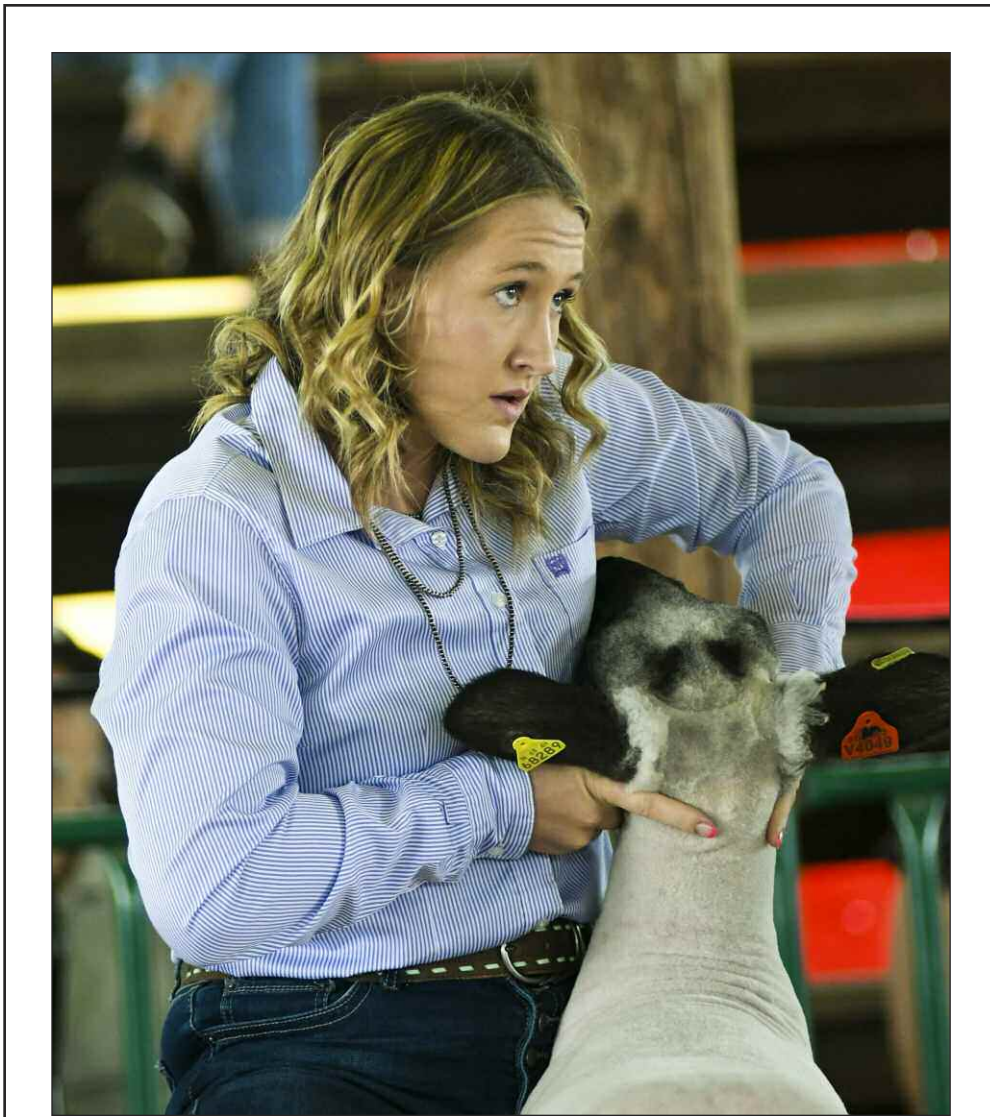
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.86 Aug. corn3.90 Wheat4.73	Aug. beans.....11.25 Wheat 4.97
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.93 Aug. corn3.93 Sept. corn.....3.83	ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.80 Aug. corn3.77 Beans11.19 Aug. beans.....11.06 Wheat5.02
The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.83 Aug. corn3.83 Beans11.25	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.82 Aug. corn3.82 Beans11.17 Aug. beans.....11.07 Wheat4.73

Today in history

In 1868, the 14th Amendment, which guarantees citizenship for all those born or naturalized in the United States, was ratified.
In 1885, President Ulysses S. Grant, who commanded the Union Army as a general during the Civil War, died at the age of 63.
In 1892, Haile Selassie I was born Tafari Makonnen near Harer, Ethiopia. Selassie served as emperor of Ethiopia from 1930 to 1974, bringing the country into the United Nations.
In 1995, the Hale-Bopp comet was discovered by Thomas Bopp and Alan Hale.
In 1999, U.S. astronaut Eileen Collins became the first woman to command a space shuttle mission with the launch of NASA's Columbia orbiter.
In 2007, Jay County Commissioners approved a request from Jay County Sheriff's Department to hire Emergency Radio Service Inc. as its new maintenance provider for its 911 system following the expiration of a contract with EMBARQ on Sept. 23 of that year.
In 2011, British singer and songwriter Amy Winehouse, a five-time Grammy Award winner, died of alcohol poisoning at age 27.
In 2021, The Commercial Review received nine awards during a virtual announcement from Hoosier State Press Association. The honors included seven for sports editor Chris Schanz, including first place for best headline writing.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Wednesday 1 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
Thursday 5 p.m. — Jay County	



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Showing sheep

Jay County High School senior Mallory Winner shows her sheep Sunday in the Show Arena at the Randolph County 4-H Fair.

Rate ...

Continued from page 1
Unemployment was up throughout the region in June, with Adams County (a percentage-point increase) and Delaware County (a 0.8-percentage-point increase) hit the hardest.
Indiana's rate climbed by 0.4 percentage points in June to 4.4%. The rate was 3.5% in June 2023.
Gibson County had the lowest unemployment rate in the state for the fifth month in a row, tying Daviess County at 3.4%. Seven counties were tied at 3.5%.
Fayette County posted the highest unemployment rate in Indiana, climbing to 6.2%. Howard and Lake counties were next at 6% and 5.9%, respectively. Eleven of the 92 counties had rates of 5% or higher.
Adams County: 4%, up 1 percentage point, tied for 35th-lowest
Blackford County: 5%, up 0.4 percentage points, tied for ninth-highest

Delaware County: 5.5%, up 0.8 percentage points, fifth-highest
Jay County: 4.5%, up 0.6 percentage points, tied for 29th-highest
Randolph County: 4.6%, up 0.2 percentage points, tied for 23rd-highest
Wells County: 3.6%, up 0.3 percentage points, tied for 10th-lowest

SERVICES

Today

Smitley, Morgan: 10:30 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Wednesday

Bowers, Debra: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.
Brumbaugh, Norma: 11 a.m., Green Park Cemetery Chapel, Portland.

Thursday

Steed, Wayne: noon, MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Service listings provided by

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Keep kids safe outside

By DEB BALZER
Mayo Clinic News Network
Tribune News Service

Summer vacation for kids is well underway. Finding activities to keep the kids busy and destinations to visit can be on many parents' lists. There is one place Mayo Clinic's Dr. Steven Maher hopes they don't have to visit — and that's the emergency medicine department.

From wearing bike helmets to keeping kids hydrated, Dr. Maher says there are a few things you can do to help keep kids safe during summer play.

Learning to ride a bike — it's something many kids look forward to. Ending up in the emergency department is not.

"Bicycle injuries are commonly seen among children. And one of our key preventive measures for that are bicycle helmets," said Maher.

Wearing a well-fitted helmet every time is important.

And not just the kids, everyone can reduce the risk of head and brain injuries in the event of a crash by wearing a bike helmet.

Consider sun safety as well. Put on sunscreen.

And don't forget to keep the water flowing.

"They should drink lots of water, plenty of it. And once they get into the second or third bottle of water, they can start adding in something like an electrolyte drink," Maher said.

It pays to spend more for convenience

By CHRIS SCHANZ
The Commercial Review

In a perfect world, we wouldn't need child care for our daughter.

But we're living in anything but a perfect world. So instead, we're OK spending a little bit more for convenience.

The impending opening of a new child care facility in the former Judge Haynes Elementary building will give Portland a boost in its need for more child care. More than 200 miles north, us Saginaw and Mid-Michigan residents are feeling the same pressures — there just aren't enough vacancies.

Our search for future care began with an inquiry on Facebook months before Baby Schanz was even born. The suggestions came pouring in, only making our search for the right fit more difficult.

Whose input do we trust? Which place is the cheapest? Which is closest? Which has more benefits? Are there even any openings?

Our first criteria in choosing a place was the price. Sure, as the old saying goes, "You get what you pay for," but we needed to be certain we weren't overpaying for care — and could actually afford it.

I was on a hybrid work schedule in that our six-member marketing department

Parental Ponderings



location at the top of our short list of places. And we were content with it staying there.

Our search was over. Or so we thought.

As I left the office and walked toward the parking lot one day after work, a new sign appeared at the building across from our office.

It was a child care center, a second location for an outfit in the nearby small town of Frankenmuth.

Construction crews had been in and out of that building for months with not a single inclination of what would be making it its new home.

Chrissy made a phone call, set up a tour, and I met her there one day during my lunch hour.

Could we be so lucky?

We hadn't even finished the tour, nor did we know all of the benefits and amenities, but Chrissy looked at me with a gleam in her eye and whispered, "This is the place."

Diapers are included with tuition. Food will be too (once our child gets to the age of eating solid foods) as they have an on-site kitchen. Compared to where we first envisioned taking our child, it costs \$10 more per week.

But did I mention it's literally across the street from where I work?

Online couple prepare to meet, wed

DEAR ABBY: I'm a Chinese man born in the United States.

My girlfriend, whom I've yet to meet in person, lives in China and is 24 years younger than I am. (I live in California.)

We're awaiting approval of paperwork with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service. We have both been divorced twice.

She has a grown son (single) in his 30s in Japan. My two children are in their 50s and self-sufficient.

We both are Christian and educated. Her English proficiency is fair to good. I'm a physician; she's a teacher. We are kind, gentle, patient people.

We plan to meet and, hopefully, marry. She would relocate to the U.S., and I might continue to work part time. From what I've told you,

Dear Abby



You and this woman have never seen each other in person and have no idea what the chemistry between the two of you would be like.

When she arrives, take sufficient time to get to know each other, observe each other in various situations (including stressful ones) and figure out whether your personalities and lifestyles mesh. Because of these unanswered questions, I think your chances of success are about 50-50.

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.

how would you rate our chances of marital success? — HOPING FOR THE BEST

DEAR HOPING: Are you ABSOLUTELY certain that this woman is who she says she is? Many people have been duped by someone they met on the internet. Have you discussed this with your adult children, who might be more tech-savvy? (I hope so!)

Community Calendar

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

Today

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance

C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday.

A BETTER LIFE — BRANNA'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.

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for help-

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

A BETTER LIFE — BRANNA'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. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

POLL WORKERS Needed!

The Indiana Secretary of State's Office is calling on the next generation to fulfill your civic duty.

If you're interested, go to IndianaVoters.com and click "work polls."

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

Run a **half-page color ad** in **ALL FOUR** of our newspapers:

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Space for color is limited. Ads will automatically convert to black and white if color space is not available.

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

GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

EXPLORE

CATHOLIC

"Why Be Catholic?"

An informal discussion on the topics of the widely popular book "Why We're Catholic" by Trent Horn, who recently joined the Catholic Church.

Hosted by 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, July 25TH

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

Property taxes are one key issue

To the editor:
As I campaign in the large territory of State House District 33, I talk to a lot of people.

One thing that seems to be very common is that there are a lot of people upset about their property taxes going up over the past few years, but nobody seems to understand why. After some in-depth research through many sources, I have finally learned enough of the basics to explain what happened to our property taxes, what has been proposed to fix the problem and what has been done.

The first thing to take note of is that the Indiana Constitution caps property tax at 1% for homesteads, 2% for other residential and farmland and 3% for other property.

Properties are given a thor-

Letters to the Editor

ough reassessment every four years and rise incrementally in the other three years by the rate of inflation. This is done by the county assessor per the guidebook set by the legislature.

In 2013, there was a court case from Lake County which was decided by the Indiana Supreme Court which required the Indiana legislature to assess property values based on "market value." Around 2016, the legislature passed the difficult calculus formulas to determine market

value. The legislature was 70-30 Republican in the House and 41-9 Republican in the Senate.

In 2020, interest rates dropped to keep the economy moving during COVID. This allowed people to pay more for a house at the same payment, so market value increased greatly. This is the cause for the assessment values going up. The four-year "true-up" of assessments for all properties has now happened.

The great increase in the amount of tax owed for their properties has caused quite a pinch on people's pocketbooks. What has been done to help property owners from the skyrocketing payments?

The Republican supermajority in the legislature claims to be doing everything they can to keep property taxes low. They

passed legislation which gives seniors a break (if they don't receive other breaks). They passed legislation raising the cap on assessment value for disabled veterans (even though this did not expand the number of veterans benefitting from the new cap). They gave a break for gazebos and swimming pools. In other words, very few people have been given property tax relief.

The Democrats in the legislature offered legislation in 2023 to revise the complicated calculus for calculating market value so that we don't underfund our local governments and schools. In the meantime, they wanted to give every homestead a \$56,000 homestead exemption (meaning up to \$560 off your property tax bill if you are taxed up to the 1% cap

rate). The Republican supermajority tabled these proposals in committee and never gave them a hearing.

We need to hold our legislators accountable to the people. With the supermajority the Republicans have held in the Indiana legislature for the past decade, they have no incentive to provide relief to their struggling citizens. They know that many people will just vote for them by voting for one party and not considering that there are other candidates who want to help their situation. Property taxes are just one issue you should be considering when you vote this November.

John Bartlett
Hartford City
(Editor's note: Bartlett is a candidate for state representative in District 33.)

Diversity is a good thing

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
Indianacapitalchronicle.com

One of the most disheartening things I saw following the failed attempt to assassinate Donald Trump was a concentrated, days-long social media flogging of a female U.S. Secret Service agent.

Social media users clipped shots of her from video, spread them and commented on her hair, height, weight and nerves.

It was a pile-on like I have rarely seen.

But the biggest comment in the posts has been about "DEI," which stands for diversity, equity and inclusion. Commenters wrote that the agent got her job only through efforts to diversify the Secret Service.

I don't know her name or any of her qualifications. And neither does anyone else. The assumption that she isn't qualified simply because she is a woman is wrong and upsetting.

She ran up on that stage amid gunfire to protect Trump with her life. She did her job and she — not the shooter — has become a target for hurtful rhetoric.

Yes, she fumbled while holstering her gun as the motorcade pulled away. But I can't even imagine the adrenaline coursing through her veins moments after protecting a presidential candidate from violence that claimed the life of another.

And it's just the latest example of pushback on DEI.

Take a stroll through social media, columns and other commentator quips. Essentially if you aren't white or a man, the first response is to throw DEI around.

It's a hurtful assumption that these people haven't earned their positions through qualifications and hard work.

I, for one, am heartened to see women in leadership positions. It's easy to tell someone anything is possible. But it is far more realistic if a child can see a person that looks like them doing just that.

For instance, Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Loretta Rush recently announced she will seek another term leading Indiana's court system and I couldn't be happier.

No one better say DEI about her.

Rush has led with distinction, serving the

Niki Kelly



cause of justice for more than 40 years as both an attorney and jurist.

When she was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court, Indiana was one of only two states without a woman on the court. That is despite being half the population. Additionally, she is only the second woman to ever hold a position on the state's top court.

Rush's position means something to women — that they can reach the top of their chosen fields despite challenges that men don't face.

The National Center for State Courts reports that this year, 21 states have female chief justices; in 2019, 16 did. The number of states with over 40% female justices increased from 34 in 2023 to 35 in 2024, and those with over 50% increased from 13 in 2023 to 15 in 2024.

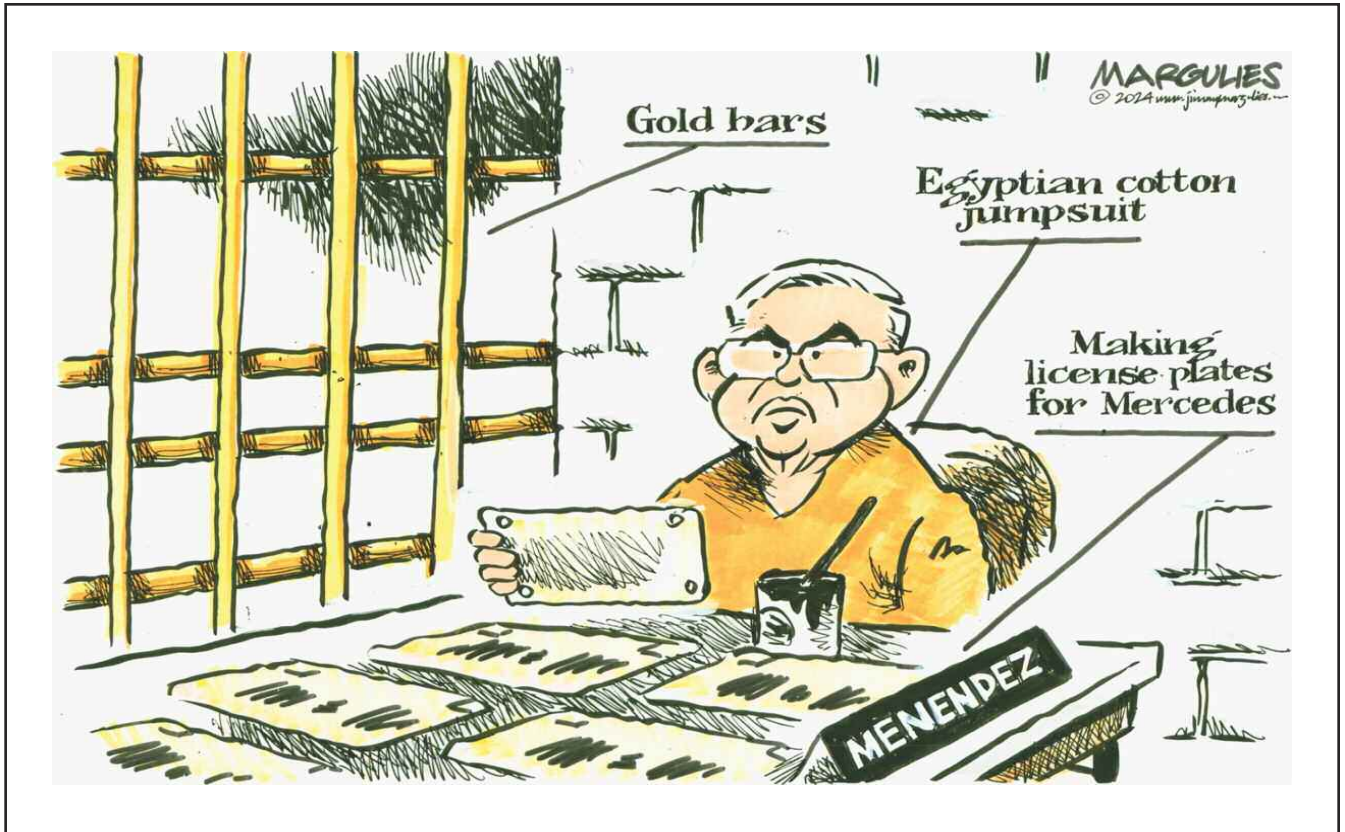
Women have served as governor in 32 states but not here in Indiana. So far, the position of lieutenant governor seems to be the ceiling.

Diversity isn't a bad thing, and it doesn't mean a person isn't qualified. And, here's a crazy thought, often the person is even better. Not because of their sex or race but because of their skills. We are giving them an opening and they are seizing it. They aren't DEI hires. They are hires. Period.

Of course, standards should not be lowered to make that happen. But reaching out to encourage people of all genders, race, religion and age to apply for positions is simply giving more people a chance.

Expanding the pool of candidates is the best way to get to diversity. And once there let a person's work ethic, talent and credentials win the day.

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



Trumpism was there all along

By FRANK BARRY
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Former President Donald Trump's decision to select Ohio Senator J.D. Vance as his running mate reminds me of the Seinfeld episode in which Jerry falls hard for a woman and eventually realizes why: She's just like him.

Trump doesn't want another goody two-shoes like Mike Pence hanging around the Oval Office and telling him he can't, say, steal an election. He wants a mini-me, and Vance fits the bill perfectly. Well, almost perfectly.

Vance's evolution from calling Trump "cultural heroin" to becoming a Trump junkie has been much dissected. But an important aspect of how their bromance blossomed is being overlooked.

The most obvious explanation for Vance's about-face — sheer cravenness — is impossible to ignore. The only way for Vance to win the 2022 Ohio Senate primary was to go from decrying Trump to, as Trump put it when he endorsed him, "kissing my ass." Trump drives the GOP bus, and Vance knows that those who don't get on board get run over.

Vance denies this, of course. He lays out his own explanation for the change of heart in an interview with Ross Douthat of the New York Times, where he attributed his epiphany to the public reaction to his book, *Hillbilly Elegy*. After becoming a household name among people very much like himself — well-educated and well-to-do Trump opponents in both parties — he felt he was being used by them to assuage their concerns, rather than challenge their assumptions. And so he rebelled.

I don't doubt the sincerity of that rebellion. Conventional wisdom among elites can be suffocating. But there is something else at work, too.

When I was beginning to write a book about what holds America together, I went back to look at Hill-

Frank Barry



billy Elegy, which had disappointed me. Don't get me wrong: It's a worthwhile read. Partisanship shouldn't keep people from it. But the dog-eared pages and underlined passages in my copy reminded me what bothered me about it.

In short: Vance's mission was to explain "them" (hillbillies) to "us" (elites). Achieving that mission required supplying answers about how they are different from us. And so at various points, Vance positions aspects of the Appalachian mindset as unique when, in fact, they are quite common, if not universal.

He writes, for instance, that "the feeling that you have little control over your life and a willingness to blame everyone but yourself ... is distinct from the larger economic landscape of modern America." Really? That feeling of powerlessness can be as present in urban neighborhoods as it is in rural areas.

Vance cites a social science paper suggesting "that hillbillies learn from an early age to deal with uncomfortable truths by avoiding them, or pretending better truths exist."

Yet that kind of avoiding and pretending is part of human nature and runs throughout American history. Ask Jews whose ancestors never talked about the Holocaust, or Black Americans who quietly suffered through Jim Crow and discrimination, or any other group that has faced pain and tragedy.

Vance cites the phrase "too big for your britches" to suggest that hillbillies who achieve success are uniquely subject to shaming about

forgetting their roots. Yet city kids who escape poverty can hear similar taunting, and Black Americans have long heard a harsh version of it, having their success labeled "selling out."

There are other instances that fit the same pattern — seeing differences where commonalities exist, and trying to localize sentiments that are widespread. And so rather than challenging people's assumptions, as Vance hoped to do, his book played into them.

In trying to highlight divides that don't exist, or exaggerate their size, Vance was showing an early sign of his later turn to divisive rhetoric. Because it wasn't just Vance's view of Trump that changed. So did his tone.

When he decided to run for Senate, Vance morphed from a good-natured explainer to a scorched-earth warrior, trading persuasion for provocation, civility for bombast, and independent analysis for hyper-partisan trolling and finger-pointing.

If Trump wanted to run on unity after he was nearly assassinated, he might have picked a less polarizing figure, like Doug Burgum, Tim Scott, or Marco Rubio, or one of his Republican critics, like Nikki Haley. Instead, he wanted a mini-me.

"Now I know what I've been looking for all these years," Jerry says to Kramer in explaining his love for his new girlfriend. "Myself! I've been waiting for me to come along! And now I've swept myself off my feet!"

Jerry eventually tires of his mini-me, as he recognizes that self-love has its limits. It's hard to see that happening with Trump. Should he win, the selection of Vance — and his predilection for inflaming us versus them division — will be a preview of the government to come.

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Barry is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist and member of the editorial board covering national affairs.

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Bank named to Top 100 list again

A local bank continued its streak as a top farm lender.

The American Bankers Association recently named First Bank of Berne as a Top 100 Farm Lender in the nation.

It marked the fourth consecutive year that the bank has earned the honor.

The Top 100 list is compiled by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and is determined by farm loan value.

"We are proud that the American Bankers Association has recognized First Bank of Berne as one of the top ag lenders for the fourth year in a row," said Jayde Ketring, First Bank of Berne agribusiness banking manager, in a press release. "Of course, I must give credit to our wonderful team of knowledgeable and experienced ag bankers, who make it their mission every day to exceed our customers' expectations. Enabling local farms and agribusinesses to achieve their goals is what we love doing."

Edwards awarded

The American Public Gardens Association's Executive Garden Leaders Community recently honored Minnetrista Museum & Gardens associate director of horticulture James Edwards with the Gerry Donnelly Future Leader Award.

Edwards started his career as a gardener at

Business roundup

Minnetrista. He has placed a focus on creating access to horticulture and engaging the community through innovative and sustainable practices.

"James has consistently demonstrated his commitment through his diligent work and innovative approaches not only on our campus, but throughout Community," said Minnetrista president and CEO Brian Stutz in a press release. "His passion for creative problem-solving and steadfast commitment to personal and professional growth distinguish him as a leader here at Minnetrista," he said. "By empowering our staff to attend workshops, conferences, and educational programs, we ensure that our team stays at the forefront of industry trends and best practices."

Bottles added

Ardagh Glass Packaging - North America has introduced a new series of 12-ounce craft beverage bottles.

The bottles are available in emerald green, flint and amber glass. They are designed and manufactured in the United States and utilize 100% recyclable glass.

"Ardagh Glass Packaging continues to focus on developing its portfolio of American-made glass bottles to offer craft beverage producers increased flexibility for packaging their products," said Ardagh vice president of beer and beverage Rashmi Markan in a press release. "The new, 12-ounce craft beverage series of bottles complement a wide variety of craft beverages, offering brand differentiation with a trusted, sustainable glass bottle that fully protects the flavor of the beverage."

Ardagh has glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Job fairs set

The United States Postal Services is hosting a series of job fairs this month.

The job fairs are designed to make postal service staff available to provide information and answer questions about open positions. Applications are submitted online at usps.com/careers.

Job fairs in the area are scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, July 25, at the following locations:

- 205 S. Main St., Bluffton
- 106 S. Ogden St., Ossian
- 130 N. Meridian St., Winchester

Training scheduled

ServSafe training is held at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 30.

Additional sessions are set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays Aug. 20, Sept. 24, Oct. 29 and Nov. 26.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Newly named

Stephanie Michaels has been named as the new director of programming for Muncie's Cornerstone Center for the Arts.

Michaels previously served as curator of programs and collections management at the Anderson Museum of Art. She is a graduate of Ball State University.

"Working at an art museum for the past 10 years has been an amazing experience, but being able to add dance and music back into the mix is a dream," said Michaels. "I look forward to working and being a part of the community I live in. One of my goals is to make all of the arts more accessible and to encourage creativity and exploration. Cornerstone has unlimited potential, and I am excited to help be a part of its growth and positive impact on Muncie and our surrounding communities."

Applications open

Indiana Chamber of

Commerce is accepting applications for the Indiana Best Places to Work in Manufacturing 2024 awards.

Manufacturers can register for the program at bestplacetoworkmanufacturingin.com. For more information, email answers@workforcerg.com or call (281) 602-5004.

The deadline is July 26.

Job fair scheduled

A job and resource fair is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 6, at Ivy Tech Culinary and Conference Center, 2820 N. Meridian St., Indianapolis.

The event will include various resources, including assistance with resumes. More than 70 vendors will be on hand.

Market returns

Indiana Grown and the Indiana Farmers Market Community of Practice will hold Indiana's Ultimate Farmers Market again this year.

The event is a contest that allows customers across the state to vote for their favorite farmers market in an effort to encourage local engagement and statewide recognition. To nominate a farmer's market, visit infmcp.org between now and Friday, July 26.

Voting will run from July 29 through Aug. 11, with winners announced Aug. 13.

"The Indiana's Ultimate Farmers Market

allows for communities to support their local farmers market by voting for their favorite," said Christina Ferroli, Indiana Farmers Market Community of Practice program coordinator, in a press release. "Not only can consumers show support of their favorite farmers market, but by voting, it helps others discover local products."

Courses offered

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will offer a pair of OSHA general compliance courses in August.

A 10-hour course will be held Aug. 20 and 21. A 30-hour course will run Aug. 20 through 23. The courses will result in two to four credits toward Safety Compliance Specialist Certificates.

The chamber is also offering a Safety Leadership Principles seminar Sept. 19 and 20 in Indianapolis. The seminar will focus on helping attendees improve their skills related to worksite analysis, accident investigation, the impact of stress on safety, key performance indicators and employee involvement.

For more information, call or email (800) 824-6885 or events@indianachamber.com.

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Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

EV charging sites are expanding rapidly

By KYLE STOCK
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

On April 16, piloting an electric vehicle through the north of North Dakota became far less fraught. That's when a new fast-charging station switched on at a Simonson Station Store gas station in Minot, close to a Red Wing boot shop.

Zero-emission drivers around El Paso, Texas, can also rest easier thanks to two new stations up the road in Deming, New Mexico. So can anyone heading down the Gulf Coast by Mobile, Alabama, where a new bank of chargers started pumping electrons May 2 in Robertsdale, down the street from Buster's Southern Pit BBQ.

America's EV charger deserts continued to vanish in the second quarter, as a motley array of networks switched on 704 new, public fast-charging stations, an increase of 9% in three months, according to a Bloomberg Green analysis of Department of Energy data. There are now nearly 9,000 public, fast-charging sites in the U.S.

At the current pace, public fast-charging sites will outnumber gas stations in the U.S. in about eight years — but charger momentum is only expected to accelerate. North American operators will spend a collective \$6.1 billion on charging infrastructure this year, nearly double their 2023 investment, according to BloombergNEF estimates. That annual spend is expected to double again by 2030.

"We're seeing demand for fast charging skyrocket," said Sara Rafalson, executive vice president at EVgo Inc., which operates almost 1,000 stations in the U.S. "We're continuing to build bigger and bigger stations because we need to keep up with that demand."

EV cords are increasingly being added by retailers eager to attract the nearly 10% of U.S. car buyers who are plugging into battery-powered vehicles. Gas station operators, in particular, are jumping on the electron bandwagon. In the second quarter, Shell debuted 30 new charging stations, while Enel opened 11, Pilot Travel Centers opened

eight and another seven showed up at Flying J rest stops, according to the federal tally.

"We're getting past a turning point where fueling stations and convenience stores are really seeing the value proposition," said Sam Houston, senior vehicles analyst at the Union of Concerned Scientists. "It's a very welcome turn from how they were behaving in the regulatory space even as recently as a couple years ago."

U.S. Bank also sees EV charging as business development: It switched on chargers at 39 branches in California in the second quarter. Meanwhile, Waffle House added charging cords to the parking lots at two of its Florida restaurants.

While much has been made of a slowdown in EV demand in the U.S., retailers have good reason to consider chargers a customer magnet: More and more drivers are going electric. In April, the International Energy Agency estimated that U.S. sales of fully electric vehicles will soar to 2.5 million in 2025, from 1.1 million last year.



General Motors/Tribune News Service

General Motors Co.'s new Plug and Charge service allows electric-vehicle drivers to plug in their vehicle as a DC fast-charging station and automatically be charged to the owner's EVgo account. At the current pace, public fast-charging sites will outnumber gas stations in the U.S. in about eight years — but charger momentum is only expected to accelerate.

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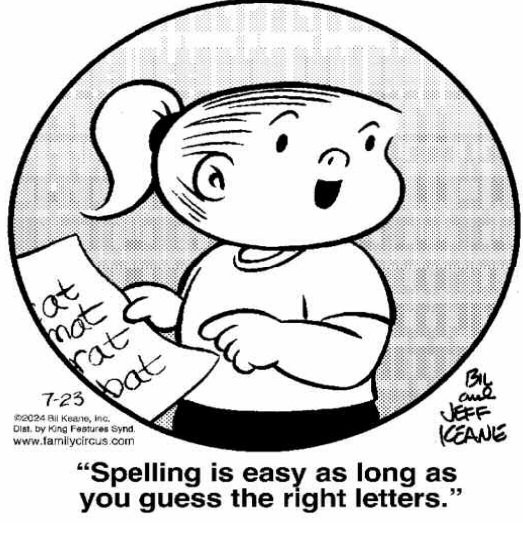
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"Spelling is easy as long as you guess the right letters."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Auditory interception

West dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: A J 4, 9 6 5 3 2, A 5 2, 9 4. WEST: 10 8 7 3, K Q 4, K Q 7, A Q 6. EAST: 9 5 2, 10 9 8 6 4 3, 8 7 3 2. SOUTH: K Q 6, A J 10 8 7, J, K J 10 5.

The bidding: West 1 NT, North Pass, East 2 of spades, South 2 of hearts. Opening lead - king of diamonds.

bid, and sometimes they can put this knowledge to very good use. That's exactly what happened in this deal where South reached four hearts as shown. When dummy came down, declarer realized immediately that West had all of the missing high-card points.

To deal with this possibility, declarer adopted a line of play that had a good chance of succeeding even if West had the K-Q of trump. He won the opening diamond lead with the ace, ruffed a diamond, led a low spade to the ace and ruffed dummy's last diamond.

West won with the queen but had no recourse. He could not afford to return a trump, which would cost him his second trump trick, nor could he lead a spade, which would allow South to discard a club from dummy as he ruffed in his hand.

In most current partnerships, a player who opens with one notrump announces that he has no fewer than 15 high-card points and no more than 17, plus notrump distribution and honor cards in at least three suits.

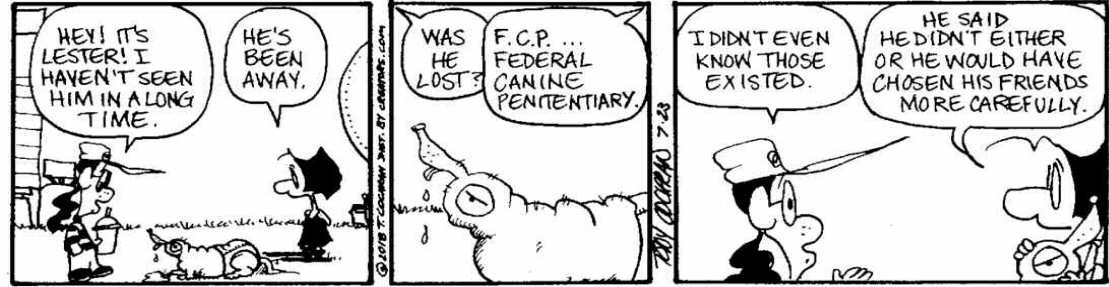
Peanuts



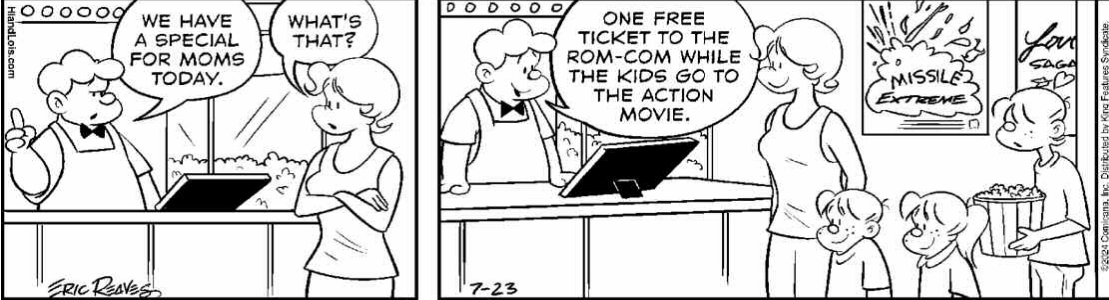
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



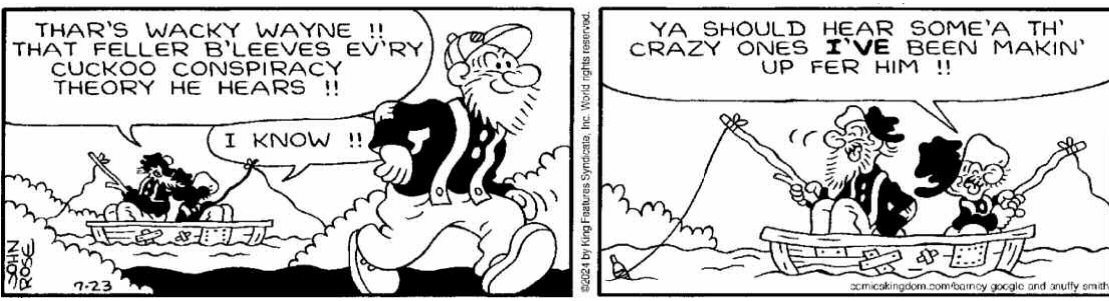
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



7-23

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ZQQ E BTC VZR DGTOPS. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PREHISTORIC FLYING REPTILES THAT HAD A PROPENSITY TO USE FORTUNETELLING CARDS: TAROT-DACTYLS. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals G

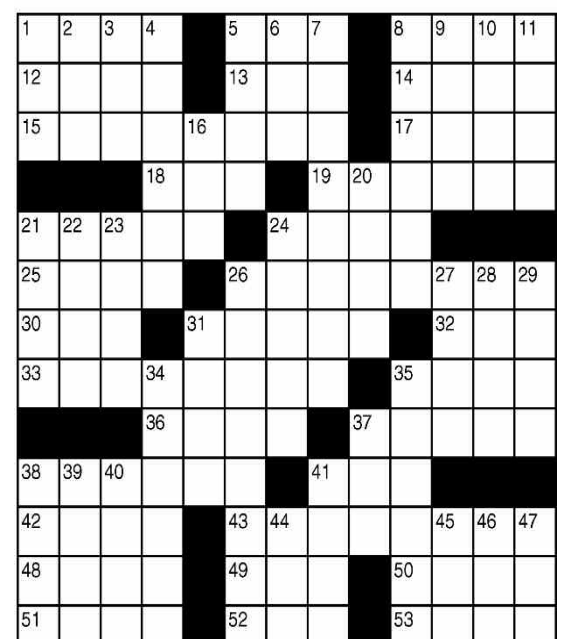
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- ACROSS: 1 Datum, 5 "Jeopardy!" champion Buttrey, 8 Painter Holbein, 12 Baseball's Tommie, 13 Diner dessert, 14 Opera solo, 15 Bama fan's cheer, 17 "Phooey!", 18 Long. crosser, 19 Cafe furniture, 21 Propelled a scull, 24 Hawaiian city, 25 Swerve, 26 Landlord's log, 30 Before, 31 Europe's longest river, 32 Soccer's Hamm, 33 Quaint desk styles, 35 See to, 36 Moon-landing vehicles, 37 Forehead fringe, 38 Moses of the NBA, 41 Sailor, 42 "Hey, sailor!", 43 Sushi bar order, 48 Shipping dept. stamp, 49 Capote nickname, 50 Footnote abbr., 51 Dec. holiday, 52 Golf's Ernie, 53 Moves rapidly, DOWN: 1 Distant hand, 2 In the past, 3 Cartoon frame, 4 Bank worker, 5 Skewer, 6 Assist, 7 Get-togethers, 8 Marina locale, 9 Asia's - Sea, 10 Evening, in an ad, 11 Back talk, 16 Smidgen, 20 Utah ski resort, 21 Done with, 22 Plane-related, 23 Stagger, 24 Lends a hand, 26 Sleeping-car area, 27 Warning sign, 28 TV journalist, 29 Young fellows, 31 Powerful auto engine, 34 London insurer, 35 City in Iran, 37 Fluffy neck-piece, "Das Kapital" author, 39 Throat clearer, 40 "Livin' La Vida -", 41 Wildebeests, 44 Web address, 45 Japanese sash, 46 Balm target, 47 Mormon church, for short

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Sports

Rockets take Carrington Red championship

FORT WAYNE — The opening game of the tournament resulted in a forfeit before the weekend started off strong for the Rockets as the offense was firing on all cylinders.

As the Rockets started to work through the opposition, their offense began to wane, but good defense and pitching kept them going.

All of it came together for a three-run win in the championship against the Kekionga.

The Portland Rockets went 4-0 over the weekend to claim the 2024 Carrington Red Tournament with a 5-2 victory over Northeast Kekionga in the championship game.

The Rockets (17-14) passed the opening round on Friday night after the Fort Wayne Blues didn't have enough players to compete.

They finally got into action on Saturday with a 7-4 win over the Fort Wayne Renegades. A four-run fourth inning made the difference.

Sam Dunalvy got hit by a pitch to get the first runner on base before back-to-back singles by Noah McEl-downey and Dylan Brammer loaded the bases. Kenny Bailey added his own base hit that scored two runs. Bailey swiped second base and Brammer scored on a throwing error. The final run of the inning crossed via a sacrifice fly by Joel Kennedy.

Camden LaFuze earned the win after tossing 6 1/2 innings giving up three earned runs on five hits

and five walks. He also struck out eight batters.

The next two games were a lot closer as Portland took down the South Bend Royals 2-0 on Saturday afternoon and the Fort Wayne Jackers 1-0 Sunday morning.

The Rockets' first run against the Royals came in the second inning on an infield hit by LaFuze. They added a second when Mitch Waters' single to the right half plated Bailey.

Brammer earned the win with the complete game. He only gave up one hit and two walks while striking out batters 13 times.

Garrison Brege delivered the pitching gem for Portland's victory over the Jackers. He only gave up two hits and two walks while going the distance.

His only offensive support came in the second inning when LaFuze again delivered an infield single to score a run.

After going down 1-0 to the Kekionga in the third inning, the Rockets stormed back with a four-run fifth.

Brege opened up the scoring with a solo home run to tie the game. A pair of singles by Jared Holley and L Rogers and a walk by McEl-downey loaded the bases. Brammer and Bailey both walked to drive in runs before the fourth came in on Kennedy's single.

Tyler Reynolds earned the win after giving up one earned run in six innings, before Brammer closed the game out with the save.



Photos provided

Major accomplishments

Above are the yearly awards winners for the Portland Junior League Major softball division. From left are Rookie of the Year Kendall Beaty, Co-Miss Softball Erin Aker, Co-Miss Softball Emily Young, Co-Miss Softball Jadalyn Plessinger and Sportsmanship award winner Adria Roessner. Below is regular season and tournament champions All Circuit.



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Four inducted into Baseball Hall of Fame

By PETER SBLENDRIO
New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Four more MLB greats became part of forever on Sunday afternoon in Cooperstown, New York, where Adrián Beltré, Todd Helton, Joe Mauer and Jim Leyland were officially inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame.

All four members of the Class of 2024 reflected on their stellar careers, alternating between moments of levity and emotion during their speeches at a 2.5 hour ceremony at the Clark Sports Center in upstate New York.

Beltré became a first-ballot Hall of Famer, receiving 95.1% of the votes from the Baseball Writers' Association of America to recognize a 21-season career in which he recorded 3,166 hits, 477 home runs and 1,707 RBI and won five Gold Gloves at third base.

The fun-loving Beltré spent seven seasons with the Dodgers; five with the Mariners; one with the Red Sox; and his final eight with the Rangers, with whom he is pictured with in his Hall of Fame plaque.

During his speech, Beltré recalled playing second base during his youth in the Dominican Republic, until he agreed to switch positions with his team's third baseman.

"I immediately fell in love with that position," Beltré said. "I loved every challenge of playing third base. I was hooked. Those hot shots, slow ground balls, bunt plays, I couldn't get enough of them."

A funny moment saw Beltré, who notoriously hated having his head touched, get surprised on stage by David Ortiz, who snuck behind him and touched his head.

Beltré made his MLB debut in 1998, a year after Helton played the first of his 17 seasons, all with the Rockies.

A career .316 hitter, Helton led the majors with a .372 average, 147 RBI, 59 doubles and a .698 slugging percentage in 2000 to earn the first of five All-Star selections.

The lefty-swinging Helton's 2,519 hits, 369 home runs, 1,406 RBI and 592 doubles all rank first in Rockies history. He won three Gold Gloves as a first baseman.

"My family purchased a VCR for the sole purpose of me watching this 15-minute video of Rod Carew on 'The Baseball Bunch.' He was talking about hitting the ball the other way," Helton said, referring to the 1991 HOF inductee who also hit left-handed.

"It was literally the only video we owned, and I must have watched it a million times."

Helton received 79.7% of the BBWAA votes in his sixth year on the ballot, putting him past the required 75% threshold.

Before his MLB career, Helton played quarterback at Tennessee, where he overlapped with Peyton Manning in 1994.

"Being the quarterback sandwiched between Heath Shuler and Peyton made my decision to pursue baseball easier," Helton joked.

Helton was briefly managed by Leyland, whose lone season with the Rockies came in 1999. Leyland was better known for his work with Pirates from 1986-96; the Marlins, whom he won the 1997 World Series with and also managed in 1998; and the Tigers from 2006-2013.

Leyland went 1,769-1,728 (.506) during his 22 seasons

as an MLB manager and won Manager of the Year honors three times.

Long before he became Detroit's manager toward the end of his career, Leyland spent his first 18 years in pro baseball as a minor-league player and coach in the Tigers organization.

"Managing in the minors can be tough because you have to release players and shatter their dreams of ever becoming a big leaguer, and I knew that because I was one of them," Leyland said. "On the other side of that spectrum, it is so rewarding because you get the chance to tell a player he's going to the big leagues."

The Contemporary Era Committee voted Leyland for the hall in December. Leyland is not affiliated with a specific team on his plaque.

Leyland's managerial tenure in Detroit meant sharing a division with Mauer, whose 15 MLB seasons all came with the Twins from 2004-18.

Considered among the greatest catchers in MLB history, Mauer won three batting titles, including in 2009, when he hit a career-best .365 en route to AL MVP honors.

Mauer won three Gold Gloves and hit .306 in his career. He was on 76.1% of the BBWAA ballots, making him this year's other first-ballot Hall of Famer.

"As tough as it is to get into the National Baseball Hall of Fame, it might be just as tough to sum up what this game, this honor and this moment truly mean to me," Mauer said.

CC Sabathia, Ichiro Suzuki and Felix Hernandez are among the former players set to become eligible for the first time on the 2025 ballot.