

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Double second

Patriot squads both finish as runners-up at state fair

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
INDIANAPOLIS — The Patriots made their return to the state fair last year with a second-place finish.

They were oh so close Saturday to climbing to No. 1 in their second year back.

Jay County High School's cheerleading squad was the runner-up again Saturday in the Indiana State Fair competition, finishing just one tenth of a point behind champion Tri-West.

The Bruins scored 203.2 points to the Patriots' 203.1 out of the three schools in the small varsity no music division.

"I told the girls, regardless, beforehand, however it fell, we did well," said JCHS coach Lindsey Peterson. "We had a clean routine."

Jay County's junior high squad also finished in second place, making the leap from fourth a year ago. The patriots scored 186.7 points to trail only Fall Creek, which dominated the field of five squads with 212.1 points. Tri-West was third at 181.3.

"I feel good," said junior high coach Brea McClain. "I'm very proud of the girls. It's very exciting. We haven't had second place in a long time."

It marked the highest finish for Jay County since the junior highs combined into a single school.

The varsity Patriots, who returned to the state fair last season for the first time since 2015, had their highest score from each judge in synchronization at 9.5, 9.2 and 9.1 out of a possible 10 points. It also fared well in crowd appeal (27 out of a possible 30 points including a 9.4 from one judge) and motions (26.6).

See **Double** page 6



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School's varsity cheerleaders hit a stunt during their Indiana State Fair routine Saturday. The Patriots scored 203.1 points, falling just one tenth of a point behind Tri-West to finish as second in the state fair field of three squads in the small varsity no music division.

Police seeking suspect in chase

Pursuit resulted in damage, injury

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Police are looking for a Muncie man who they chased around Jay County last week, resulting in one injury and damage to two county vehicles and a Portland police vehicle.

Officers started following 44-year-old Matthew E. Waters near the intersection of county roads 100 East and 100 North about 11:26 a.m. July 30, traveling northwest then generally southwest through the county before passing through several streets on the northwest side of Dunkirk. Waters then began driving southbound on Indiana 167 with police behind him.

Indiana State Police Pendleton Post released a report Monday detailing a crash that resulted from the pursuit while on the highway about noon July 30. According to the report, Jay County Sheriff's Office captain Patrick Wells, Portland police officer Brandon McDavid and Jay County Sheriff's Office lieutenant Tony Lennartz were following Waters' 2004 Chevrolet Avalanche.

Lennartz told police Waters slammed on his brakes, causing Wells' vehicle to crash into the back of Waters' car. McDavid swerved off the west side of the road to avoid hitting Wells' vehicle, causing him to crash into an Albany sign. Lennartz told police Waters performed a U-turn at the highway's intersection with county road 900 North, driving off the northeast side of the road and striking a stop sign and road sign before getting back onto the road.

Waters, then northbound on Indiana 167, drove toward Lennartz's vehicle. Waters' back tire struck the front corner of Lennartz's vehicle.

Wells sustained a bruised wrist from the collision. He was treated at IU Health Jay.

See **Seeking** page 6

Iran seeks to retaliate, avoid all-out war

By ARSALAN SHAHLA and PATRICK SYKES

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Iran signaled it wants to avoid all-out war with Israel, even as it threatened to retaliate for last week's assassination of a leading Hamas figure in its capital.

Tehran, which had already vowed revenge for the killing of Ismail Haniyeh, said it aimed to deter Israel from repeating similar moves. Israel's neither confirmed nor denied being responsible.

"Reinforcing stability and security in the region will be achieved by punishing the aggressor and creating deterrence against Israel and its adventurism," a spokesperson for Iran's foreign ministry told

reporters on Monday in Tehran.

The Islamic Republic has the right, within the framework of international law, to punish Israel but does not want to escalate tensions in the Middle East, the spokesperson, Nasser Kanaani, said.

The Israeli shekel fell for a sixth day on Monday to around 3.82 per dollar, its weakest level on a closing basis since November. Israeli stocks steadied after Iran's latest comments but are still down heavily in the last three trading sessions. Part of the fall in the shekel and equities may be down to a rout across global stock markets on Monday.

Israel's in a "multi-front war against Iran's axis of evil," Prime Minister Benjamin

Netanyahu said on Sunday. "We are striking every one of its arms with great force. We are prepared for any scenario — both offensively and defensively."

The U.S., which is moving a fighter jet squadron to the region and keeping an aircraft carrier nearby to help Israel, is pressing Netanyahu to redouble efforts to reach a cease-fire deal with Hamas over their war in Gaza. The U.S. and Arab states believe an end to fighting in the Palestinian territory would calm the region.

Group of Seven foreign ministers spoke on Sunday about the risks of a regional war. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said their was an "urgent need for de-escalation." See **Iran** page 2



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Anwar Amro

Members of the Palestinian Joint Action Committee hold a rally Friday and a symbolic funeral for late Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh, in Beirut. Hundreds of people gathered at a mosque in Qatar to farewell slain Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh after his killing in Tehran, an attack blamed on Israel that deepened fears of a regional war.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Sunday. The low was 66.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 60s with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour and

a 40% chance of rain. Skies will be partly cloudy Wednesday with a high in the upper 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will partner for a free food tailgate at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Income verification is not required.

Coming up

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

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls golf team in the Belmont Invitational.

Friday — Results from the FRHS girls golf team in the Gary Broering tournament.



Iran ...

Continued from page 1
Blinken told his G-7 counterparts that an attack on Israel by Iran and Hezbollah could begin as early as Monday, Axios reported.
Haniyeh was killed just hours after a deadly airstrike in Beirut against Fuad Shukur, a senior Hezbollah commander. Israel said it was responsible for that hit and blamed Shukur for organizing a rocket attack on the Israeli-controlled

Golan Heights that killed 12 children and teenagers playing football.
Hezbollah, which has been exchanging fire with Israel across Lebanon's border since the war in Gaza started in October, has also threatened to retaliate against the Jewish state. The Shiite group may act in coordination with Iran, its sponsor.
Iran and Israel exchanged fire in April when Tehran

accused its arch enemy of striking a consulate building in Syria. Iran launched 300 drones and missiles at Israel. Yet it effectively telegraphed the move in advance, helping Israel and its allies intercept almost all the projectiles and ensuring they caused little damage. Israel, under pressure from the U.S. and Europe not to respond aggressively, launched a limited strike on an Iranian airbase.

This time, Iran's revenge may be more fierce, given the sheer embarrassment of having a foreign dignitary assassinated in the heart of its capital. Its options range from another direct assault on Israel to getting its proxies to step up attacks on the country to hitting Israeli targets across the world.
 Hamas and Hezbollah are both designated terrorist organizations by the U.S. and

are part of what's often called Iran's 'Axis of Resistance,' a group of anti-Israel and anti-U.S. militias in the Middle East.
The war in Gaza erupted when Hamas fighters swarmed into southern Israel on Oct. 7, killing 1,200 people and taking 250 hostage. Israel's subsequent offensive on Gaza has killed around 40,000 Palestinians, according to the Hamas-run health ministry there.

CR almanac

| Wednesday 8/7 | Thursday 8/8 | Friday 8/9 | Saturday 8/10 | Sunday 8/11 |
|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | | | |
| 77/59 | 80/61 | 81/59 | 77/57 | 76/55 |
| There's a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, windy with gusts reaching up to 20 mph. | Sunny skies are in the forecast for Thursday, when the high will be around 80 degrees. | Another day of sunny skies on Friday. Temperatures will be in the low 80s. | Saturday's forecast shows more sunny skies with temperatures in the upper 70s. | More sun is expected Sunday, with the high sitting in the mid to upper 70s. |

Lotteries

| | |
|---|---|
| Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$174 million | 58-59-62-63-65-66-74 Cash 5: 12-15-28-30-33 Estimated jackpot: \$255,500 |
| Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$374 million | Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 6-9-1 Pick 4: 1-0-4-9 Pick 5: 2-4-5-3-5 Evening Pick 3: 8-4-8 Pick 4: 7-5-7-9 Pick 5: 3-3-7-1-6 Rolling Cash 5: 8-13-15-19-34 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000 |
| Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 5-6-1 Daily Four: 5-1-6-7 Evening Daily Three: 9-5-2 Daily Four: 0-0-3-1 Quick Draw: 3-7-17-22-25-27-29-30-35-40-41-49-54 | |

Markets

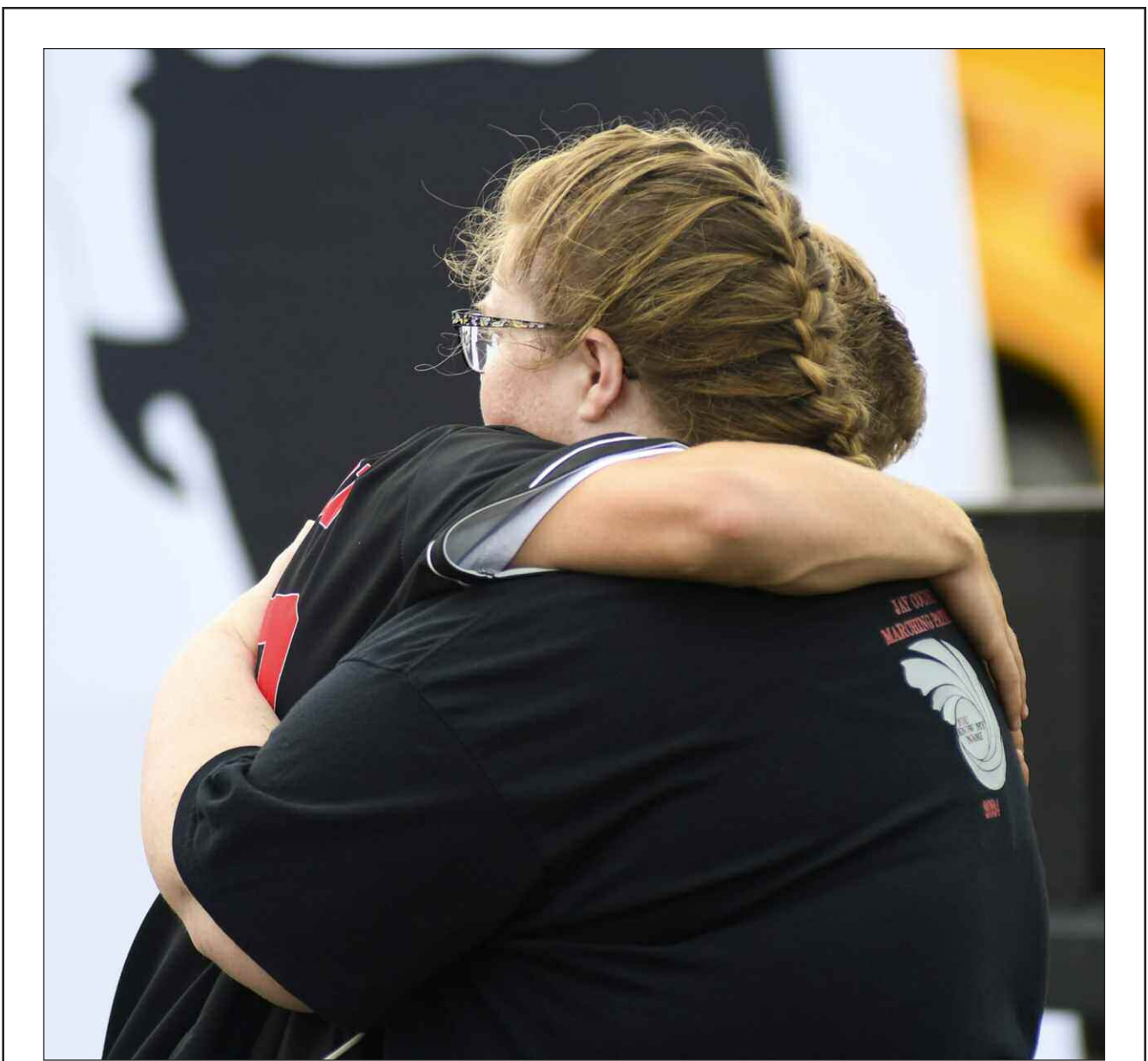
| | |
|--|---|
| Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....3.73 Sept. corn.....3.76 Wheat4.64 | Sept. beans9.88 Wheat 4.84 |
| POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....3.74 Sept. corn3.72 Oct. corn3.74 | ADM Montpelier Corn.....3.59 Sept. corn3.57 Beans10.67 Sept. beans10.32 Wheat4.91 |
| The Andersons Richland Township Corn3.68 Sept. corn3.68 Beans10.63 | Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....3.68 Sept. corn3.70 Beans10.28 Sept. beans9.73 Wheat4.64 |

Today in history

In 1661, Portugal purchased New Holland (Brazil) from the Dutch Republic as part of The Treaty of the Hague.
In 1806, the Holy Roman Empire officially came to an end.
In 1825, Bolivia declared its independence from Spain.
In 1848, Susie King Taylor, the only African American woman to write a Civil War memoir, was born on a plantation in Georgia.
In 1881, bacteriologist Alexander Fleming was born in Ayrshire, Scotland. He is best known for discovering penicillin.
In 1890, Cy Young pitched his first professional game, leading the Cleveland Spiders to a victory over the Chicago Colts. In a 22-year career, he won 511 games. He was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame in 1937.
In 1911, actress and comedian Lucille Ball was born in Jamestown, New York. Her hit television series "I Love Lucy" launched in 1951.
In 1926, New Yorker Gertrude Ederle became the first woman to swim the English Channel. She was 19.
In 1928, artist and filmmaker Andy Warhol was born in Pittsburgh. He was an initiator of the Pop art movement of the 1960s. His 1961 piece "Coca-Cola [2]" is considered pivota in his career and he made his series of Campbell's soup cans in 1962.
In 1972, Jerry Landess of Portland drove Good Luck Girl to victory, winning the \$1.50 filly pace stake for 2-year-olds at the Shelby County Fair.
In 2022, the Jay County Junior High School cheerleading squad placed third out of eight teams in the junior high division at the Indiana State Fair competition.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

| | |
|---|--|
| Today 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, | 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. Friday 8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. |
|---|--|



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

State embrace

Jay County High School Marching Patriots drum major Gabe Pinkerton gets a hug from his mom Catherine following the band's preliminary performance Friday at the Indiana State Fair in Indianapolis. JCHS advanced to the Sweet 16 and closed the evening with a fifth-place finish.

Seeking ...

Continued from page 1
Lennartz and Wells visited Waters' home Wednesday but weren't able to make contact with the suspect.
As of noon Monday, police had warrants for Waters' arrest but had not yet located him. He is preliminarily charged with two Level 5 felonies for resisting law enforcement with a prior conviction

and battery by means of a deadly weapon, as well as a Level 6 felony for criminal recklessness committed with a deadly weapon.
The vehicles driven by Wells and McDavid — they are registered to Jay County Commissioners and Portland Police Department, respectively — were towed from the scene. Damage is estimated at more than \$100,000.

Governors to highlight

Indiana Capital Chronicle
Indiana's current and former living governors will unite Aug. 14 for "The Art of Leadership with Four Gubernatorial Hoosiers."
Gov. Eric Holcomb and former governors Mike Pence, Mitch Daniels and Evan Bayh will keynote the 2024 Harvest Dinner at this year's Indiana State Fair. The Indiana State Fair Foundation is hosting the evening, which includes a reception and dinner.

SERVICES

Monday

Patterson, Margaret: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Mail service has changed drastically

By JAMES FULKS

Recently, the “forever” stamps again increased in value.

The cost of mailing a first class United States Postal Service Letter is now 73 cents, up from 68 cents.

One thing you really didn't hear was a lot of complaining about it from folks.

I guess this is because few people still use it on a regular basis like we used to.

Paying bills and most communication has transitioned to social media

**Fulksy
Mayhem**



and email connections. Of course, this is the precise reason why the Postal Service had to raise the rates, because of less and less usage of the service.

To properly put this 73 cents in perspective I found this interesting.

As it progresses

through what remains to this day as pretty much barren wasteland in Nevada and Utah, U.S. 50 is named “The Loneliest Road In America” for good reason.

This was the original route of The Overland Stage and the short-lived Pony Express. Here one can still see ruins of the original stage stops and facilities that were built to provide fresh horses for riders on The Pony Express. The stops were placed roughly every 10 miles from St. Joseph, Missouri, to the end of the trail in Sacramento,

California. If you complain about the cost of mailing a letter now, bear this fact in mind. In 1860, a one-half ounce letter carried by The Pony Express cost a whopping \$5. An astronomical amount of money in 1860 dollars, that amounts to almost \$190 in today's money.

The mounts cost \$200 each and the riders for The Pony Express were salaried at \$100 a month at a time when an average blue-collar worker earned a wage of between 45 cents and \$1 a day depending on the

skill of their labor. After 19 months, The Pony Express faded into history after the completion of a transcontinental telegraph line that was established by Western Union.

Eventually Wells Fargo and The Overland Stage Company, and later The Union Pacific Railroad's eventual completion, rendered The Pony Express obsolete.

The Pony Express settled up at a final run of roughly 35,000 pieces of mail delivered in its 19-month run, had sales revenues of \$90,000 and costs

of \$200,000, making it a profit-and-loss loser in the end.

At its peak, The Pony Express was able to deliver a letter from the East Coast to California in a mere 10 days, which was widely considered to be an impossible feat at that time.

The record was seven days and seven hours to get the news to California from Washington, D.C., announcing the election of Abraham Lincoln as president in 1860.

It was an incredible feat with the technology available at the time.

Online romance comes with serious questions

DEAR ABBY: I met a man from another country through the internet last year. In the beginning, we talked everyday via video chat. We share much in common. We never have a problem keeping our conversations going, and we pick up on each other's emotions and needs without even trying.

Our communication is less frequent now that our relationship is maturing. With this newfound freedom from the phone, I'm starting to question how wise it is to continue pursuing a future together. Although we have never met in person, I feel he is trustworthy and absolutely wonderful, and I would even go so far as to say he's my soulmate.

The questions that are always in the back of my mind, though, are: Am I crazy for

**Dear
Abby**



his country, which will give you the opportunity to meet his family and friends and observe his living situation. If he is genuine, he should welcome it. If he is hesitant, however, regard it as a significant red flag.

DEAR ABBY: My older sister and I are educated professionals in our late 40s. We reside in different states. Our father's cognitive function and mobility are deteriorating, so my parents sold their large home in another state to downsize and move to a senior community near me. The area in which I live is affordable. Living near me is a logical choice, since I am attentive and reliable, and I have often assisted them and my in-laws in the past.

My sister has chosen to view

my parents' move as their choosing me over her. Initially, she stopped speaking to me. When I texted and asked why I hadn't heard from her, she said my texts “weren't high on her list of priorities.” In another exchange, she told me she hoped my husband, who is being treated for a heart condition, dies before he can vote. Then, she stopped speaking to our parents. During their last email exchange, she told my mother to cry on the shoulder of the “daughter she chose.”

My sister has treated me similarly in the past, but she has never before shut out our parents. She used to call them often, and they miss talking to her. I'm not sure reconciling is an option, but it is difficult to witness her being so cruel during this time of extreme stress.

What are your thoughts? — SIBLING DRAMA IN GEORGIA

DEAR DRAMA: Your sister's attempts to punish you and your parents for the decision they made has only reinforced that they made the correct one. I am sorry she has been so successful in inflicting pain on all of you because none of you deserve her over-the-top reaction. By shunning you, she has succeeded only in isolating herself from those who care for her.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeane 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

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call

Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

Wednesday

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

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

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

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of

each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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.

ALANON 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 - 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. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

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.

INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.

JAY COUNTY TRAILS

CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

Friday

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

LOCAL'S MARKET — Will be held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in June through October in the parking lot at Jay Community Center in Portland.

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Sudoku

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| 8 | 3 | | | | | | 4 | 7 |
| 5 | 4 | | | 8 | 7 | | 6 | 1 |
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| | 6 | 5 | | | | | | |
| | 7 | | | 2 | 1 | | 5 | 4 |
| | | | 8 | | | | | |
| 4 | 8 | | 2 | | | | | |
| 6 | | 3 | 4 | | 5 | | 7 | 2 |
| 2 | | 7 | 6 | | | | 3 | |

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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

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Dream of democracy fading away

The Miami Herald
Tribune News Service

The hopes of thousands of Venezuelans in South Florida that Nicolás Maduro's oppressive regime could finally end were dashed after last week's presidential elections — at least for now.

The U.S. and its allies in Latin America know that Maduro's announced victory smells like a dictator's dirty old trick. The country's opposition leader María Corina Machado said her team had gathered final vote counts to prove Maduro overwhelmingly lost, the Herald reported.

The question is whether the international community can exert enough pressure on the South American country to come forward with information to prove its elections were fair and free of fraud, which they don't seem to be. And, if they weren't, can the U.S. force out a

Guest Editorial

regime that has survived Republican and Democratic White House administrations?

It's now up to the Biden Administration, who some criticize for giving Venezuela too many concessions leading up to the election, to lead the charge. The U.S. cannot do it alone.

A U.S. National Security Council spokesman called on Maduro to provide "the full, detailed tabulation of votes" to prove that he defeated opposition candidate Edmundo González Urrutia 51.2% to 44.2%, as announced by the Maduro-controlled National Electoral Council. The

Venezuela opposition demanded the government hand over scanned printouts of all voting records instead of just the numbers shown on the government's website.

But pressure should also come from within Latin America and Maduro's regional allies. It says a lot that among the countries that congratulated Maduro are Russia, China, Iran and Cuba, where democracy and fair elections are non-existent. Others so far have been hesitant. Maduro expelled diplomats from Latin American countries that questioned his reelection.

Brazil's top foreign affairs advisor said he is cautious about the results and that Venezuela must show how it reached them. Brazilian media reported that diplomats from Brazil, Colombia and Mexico — all countries that have been aligned with Maduro —

met to discuss demanding that the regime provide ballot reports to the Carter Center, one of the few election monitoring groups allowed in Venezuela.

That's progress but if Maduro refuses to turn over any more information, then what?

The U.S. will find itself in a conundrum. Up until now, the Biden Administration has tried to cajole the South American country to allow democratic changes by lifting some oil sanctions and releasing prisoners.

If the election turns out to be stolen, what will the course of action be — more harsh sanctions like the ones the Trump Administration imposed but that failed to spur regime change? Another Maduro term — and, possibly, a new round of sanctions — could fuel another wave of migration at the Southern Border as desperate Venezuelans escape poverty and lose any remaining hope that

their country could return to free democratic rule.

In an election year, that's a calculation that President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris, the expected Democratic presidential nominee, will have to make.

Anyone who has watched Maduro deploy dirty electoral tricks to stay in power isn't surprised by the election. Leading up to the election, polls showed González Urrutia leading by wide margins and exit polling found he won twice as many votes as Maduro.

As Chile's leftist president, Gabriel Boric, said: "Maduro's regime must understand that the results are hard to believe," Reuters reported.

The presidential elections should have signaled a new era for Venezuela — and South Florida's diaspora. It didn't. Again, the dream of a Venezuelan democracy might slip through our fingers.

Deal sets a poor precedent

By DEBRA J. SAUNDERS
Las Vegas Review-Journal
Tribune News Service

National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan fought to hold back tears Thursday as he talked about watching President Joe Biden on the phone informing the families of American hostages held in Russia that their loved ones would be free after a prisoner swap. It was a joyous occasion, topped only by the return of the hostages.

It was, Sullivan offered, "a feat of diplomacy that honestly could only be achieved by a leader like Joe Biden."

Forgive Sullivan for injecting campaign politics into the moment. He was heralding a deal that freed 16 political prisoners from seven countries in exchange for the release of eight Russians who had been detained in the United States, Germany, Norway, Poland and Slovenia.

Sullivan wasn't the only person who was joyous. Russian President Vladimir Putin seemed especially pleased to welcome home assassin Vadim Krasikov, who was serving time in Germany for the 2019 Berlin killing of a former Chechen fighter.

Krasikov's release was a painful concession that Biden nonetheless made because Putin had made it clear there would be no deal with Russia without the hit man's release.

Among the 16 released hostages were American journalists Evan Gershkovich and Alsu Kurmasheva, green-card holder and Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Vladimir Kara-Murza, and former U.S. Marine Paul Whelan.

"All four have been imprisoned unjustly in Russia," Biden announced. "Russian authorities arrested them, convicted them in show trials, and sentenced them to long prison terms with absolutely no legitimate reason whatsoever," he added.

When a reporter asked Biden about former President Donald Trump's claim that he could have negotiated a prisoner swap that produced better terms, Biden countered, "Why didn't he do it when he was president?"

The answer, of course, is

Debra J. Saunders



that Russia did not detain Kara-Murza until 2022 or Gershkovich and Kurmasheva until 2023. Only Whelan, who was arrested in 2018, was behind Russian bars when Biden took the oath of office on Jan. 20, 2021.

Team Biden wants you to believe that Biden was able to cut this deal because, unlike Trump, the president enjoys warm, personal relationships with other world leaders. Or, as Biden put it, "All politics is personal."

Biden, we know, had to press a reluctant Germany to release assassin Krasikov. According to news reports, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told Biden in February, "For you, I will do this."

The president's remark about politics being personal was a not subtle dig at Trump's history of elbowing allies and needling fellow NATO leaders when a little glad-handing might deliver more good will.

Trump hit back Friday when he told Fox Business Network's Maria Bartiromo the exchange was "a win for Putin," but he wouldn't challenge the decision because of the result.

On Truth Social, Trump argued that Biden set a "bad precedent for the future" that could encourage more hostage taking.

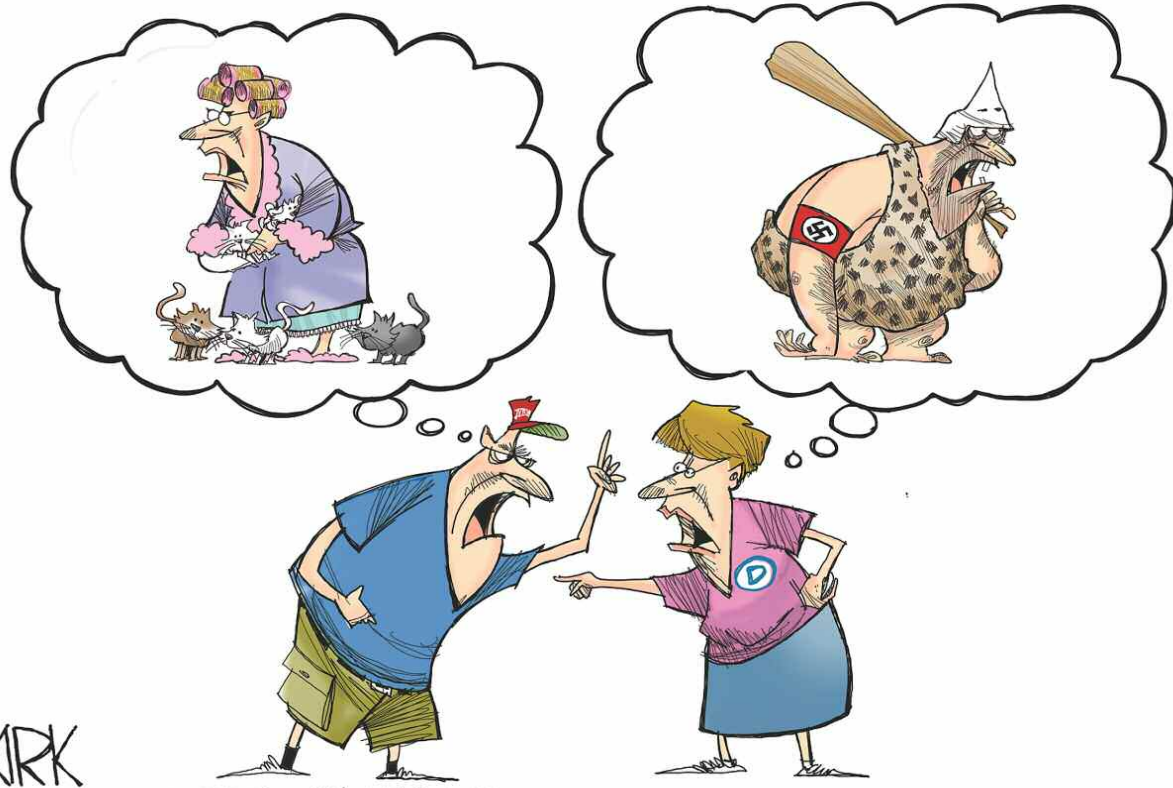
I share Trump's concern about the bad precedent every hostage deal presents, as I did when Trump negotiated similar swaps to free American hostages in 2019 and 2020.

In a podcast recorded before the release of Whelan, Gershkovich, Kurmasheva and Kara-Murza, the Foundation for Defense of Democracy President Clifford May warned against what is known as "hostage diplomacy."

"It seems to me we're normalizing and legitimizing hostage taking," May observed.

The title of the podcast: "Putin's pawns."

HATE IS EASY FOR THOSE WHO ONLY VIEW PEOPLE AS STEREOTYPES



KIRK
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Bring on property tax debate

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Now, this is what I am here for: candidates offering specific proposals, experts assessing those plans and voters learning about an issue — in this case, property taxes — as they consider how to cast their vote in November.

The primary was full of national talking points that had nothing to do with governing Indiana.

But now the race for governor is hitting its stride and I hope to see other discussions just like this on important issues like housing, education, health care and more.

Libertarian Donald Rainwater has been pushing a major property tax proposal for a while. His cap would limit property taxes to 1% of the purchase price of the property or the assessed value, whichever is lower. Additionally, residential property tax would sunset after its owners have paid a total of 1% of the purchase price or the assessed value, whichever is lower, for 7 years.

Honestly, this plan isn't realistic. At all. Property taxes pay for services that everyone uses. Much of it, by the way, goes to police officer salaries and firefighters. Other uses though are schools, libraries, health departments, zoning, the judicial system. Shall I go on?

And let me just nip this in the bud. While all governments can be more efficient, massive savings aren't realistic either. Try to cut your household spending by 10% in your head. Can I do it? Yes. Would my quality of life be the same? Absolutely not.

There is a running belief that local governments have experienced a deluge of new revenue as property

taxes have risen. So, I asked Larry Deboer of Purdue University, the state's top property tax expert.

He sent me a chart showing growth in property tax revenue from 2011 to now. While the most recent two years include growth of well above 5%, many other years are under 3%.

The gross property tax levy has grown from \$6.2 billion to \$10.5 billion. The net levy — after property tax deductions and credits — has grown from \$5.5 billion to \$8.9 billion. And let's not forget that inflation has also spiked during that decade-plus.

Now, back to Braun's plan. He has a four-prong proposal but the first two would have the biggest impact.

One part would cap how much your property tax bill could increase each year to 2% for seniors, low-income Hoosiers and families with children under the age of 18. It would cap increases at 3% for all other taxpayers. This is different than constitutional tax caps already in place, which limit what you pay based on the assessed value of your home.

The other part would increase the standard deduction that homeowners can take. This part of the plan would likely shift property taxes from one class of owner to others, such as to agriculture or business.

When it became clear that some people would see no savings from the deduction changes, mostly those in high-tax areas with more modest homes, Braun on Tuesday added a

caveat: all Hoosier homeowners' tax bills will be reset to the lower of their 2021 tax bill or the new bill based on enhanced deductions in his plan.

My biggest problem with Braun's plan so far is the campaign hasn't released an official estimate on what the proposal will cost local government. Because, for every dollar we save, that means fewer services.

I have seen a few estimates of between \$700 million and \$900 million annually, but that was before the promise to reduce property taxes to 2021 levels.

Those pushing property tax changes don't acknowledge that loss at all, which is being disingenuous.

Braun's camp would give local units the ability to pass an operating referendum during a general election to go above his new growth caps. And they note that local government has billions in untapped authority to raise local income taxes.

I am curious to see what Democrat Jennifer McCormick will have to say on property taxes.

Will she stay on the sidelines, seeing it as a natural cycle in a property tax system based on sales-related assessments? Or will she offer up some less drastic reform that could help some taxpayers but also not decimate local coffers?

And don't forget who really has the say: the Indiana General Assembly, most of whom are up for re-election also and plan to put taxes under the spotlight in the 2025 legislative session.

Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Treat tasting set for Saturday

Tractor Supply Company of Portland will host a pet treat tasting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Aug. 10.

In addition to the tasting, a dog wash will be available.

"At Tractor Supply, we believe in giving your pets a choice," said Justin Breedlove, manager of the Portland Tractor Supply store, in a press release. "From our exclusive 4health® brand to a multitude of other high-quality products, we carry a wide variety of pet food and treat options to ensure your four-legged friends stay nourished and satisfied all year long. We hope you will join us on Aug. 10, 2024, to let your pet find its treat of choice."

The store is located at 218 W. Lincoln St., Portland.

Training scheduled

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

Business roundup

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, Aug. 20.

Additional sessions are set for 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays 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.

Officer named

First Financial Bank last week named Lance Murray as its new chief information security officer.

In his new role, Murray will lead First Financial's information security team,

including overseeing computer networks and detecting cyber threats and attacks. A Cincinnati resident, he has worked in technology security for 27 years and has degrees in accounting and management information systems from The Ohio State University.

"Lance adds impressive knowledge and experience to the First Financial team, and under his leadership we will continue to place the highest priority on stewardship of the information and resources under the bank's management," said First Financial president and CEO Archie Brown in a press release.

Results positive

Eli Lilly announced Thursday that a clinical trial evaluating one of its drugs had positive results for adults with heart failure and obesity.

According to Lilly, injections of the drug tirzepatide showed statistically significant improve-

ments for reduction of risk of heart failure.

Awarded grant

The Federal Aviation Administration awarded a \$26.6 million grant recently to Indianapolis International Airport.

The facility was one of the largest to be awarded grant funding. It will be used for the reconstruction of a runway and taxiway.

"This project is a significant investment in the future of aviation operations at IND - and is crucial to maintaining the public value of the airport," said Mario Rodriguez, Indianapolis Airport Authority executive director. "It's a 10,000-foot-long runway, vital to handling cargo operations and commercial airline traffic."

The project is part of a three-phase, \$295-million plan to enhance the airport's capacity.

Changing testing

Dollar Tree will pay a

fine and has agreed to test children's projects more thoroughly via a binding resolution with Washington Attorney General Bob Ferguson.

The attorney general's investigation found that school supplies had toxic levels of lead and cadmium. Dollar tree agreed to the binding resolution in King County Superior Court in order to avoid a lawsuit.

Deal reached

Comcast and Diamond Sports have reached an agreement that has brought Bally Sports networks back to the cable service.

Bally Sports channels had not been available to Comcast subscribers since May 1 because of a contract dispute. The agreement reached last week brings the Bally channels back to Xfinity Ultimate TV subscribers.

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.

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

Chevron leaving California for Texas

By DAVID WETHE, KAREN BRESLAU and KEVIN CROWLEY
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

Chevron Corp., based in California since the days of kerosene lamps, is moving headquarters to Texas after years of fighting Golden State officials over strict environmental policies and costly regulations.

The move announced Friday will end the company's 145 years of being based in the most populous US state. The shift prompted Texas Governor Greg Abbott to welcome Chevron to its "true home," while a spokesperson for his California counterpart Gavin Newsom dismissed it as a "logical culmination" of a years-long transition by the oil giant.

Chevron already had slashed new investments in California refining, citing "adversarial" government policies in a state that has some of the most stringent environmental rules in the US. In January, refining executive Andy Walz warned that the state was playing a "dangerous game" with climate rules that threatened to spike gasoline prices.

Chief Executive Officer Mike Wirth pushed back on suggestions that the relocation is being driven by politics, saying "it's really to be closer to the core epicenter of our industry."

"We've had some policy differences with California," Wirth said during a Bloomberg Television interview. "But this isn't a move about politics. It's a move about what's good for our company to compete and perform."

The announcement came as



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Justin Sullivan

A Chevron refinery on March 3, 2015, in Richmond, California. The company is moving headquarters to Texas after years of fighting Golden State officials over strict environmental policies and costly regulations.

Chevron posted disappointing second-quarter results and outlined a shake-up in the senior leadership ranks apparently aimed at improving results.

Texas is home to a vast network of resources key to Chevron's business, from equipment vendors to universities that it taps for research and recruiting talent, Wirth noted.

"Houston is the energy capital of the world," he said. "It's a natural place for companies in our industry to have their home office and headquarters."

Chevron joins a long list of California emigres that includes Oracle Corp., Hewlett Packard Enterprise Co. and Tesla Inc. While the migration among for-

mer Silicon Valley tech giants has been largely driven by tax and cost-of-living considerations, Chevron has been at loggerheads with state leaders over increasingly tough fossil-fuel rules.

Newsom ran for reelection in 2022 promising to wage war on Big Oil, calling for a special legislative session and asking lawmakers to impose a "price gouging" tax on oil companies. That was later watered down to a task force studying excess profit margins.

"This announcement is the logical culmination of a long process that has repeatedly been foreshadowed by Chevron," Alex Stack, a spokesperson for the

governor, wrote in a statement. "We're proud of California's place as the leading creator of clean energy jobs — a critical part of our diverse, innovative, and vibrant economy."

Wirth has been extolling the virtues of the Lone Star State's business climate for at least half a decade.

"The policies in California have become pretty restrictive on a lot of business fronts, not just the environment," he said during a 2019 speech in Houston.

California has long been an incongruent state for an oil company to call home. It pioneered the push to cut tailpipe emissions in the 1960s and has adopted sweeping climate measures

including a goal for California to become net zero by 2045, five years ahead of US as a whole.

Frequent droughts and wildfires mean the state is already suffering from catastrophic effects of climate change. California accounts for more than a third of the country's EV sales. And almost all of America's renewable diesel, made from vegetable oil and natural fats, is consumed in California.

California once played an important role in the US oil sector but output has been plunging for most of the past four decades while shale-rich states like Texas and New Mexico have seen crude production boom.

"Chasing jobs and employers out of California is no way to run the economy," said Jim Wunderman, president and CEO of the Bay Area Council, a business group. "It's an embarrassment."

Light taxation, business-friendly regulation and a relatively low cost of living made Texas the most desirable destination for companies relocating over the last decade, the Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas said in February. The state saw net migration of 7,232 firms and an addition of nearly 103,000 jobs between 2010 and 2019.

Chevron already has about 7,000 workers in the Houston region, compared to about 2,000 in San Ramon, California.

"We do have a big business footprint in Texas, which is now larger than our business footprint in California," Wirth said. "For many many years, that was not the case. California was our home, it was our birthplace."

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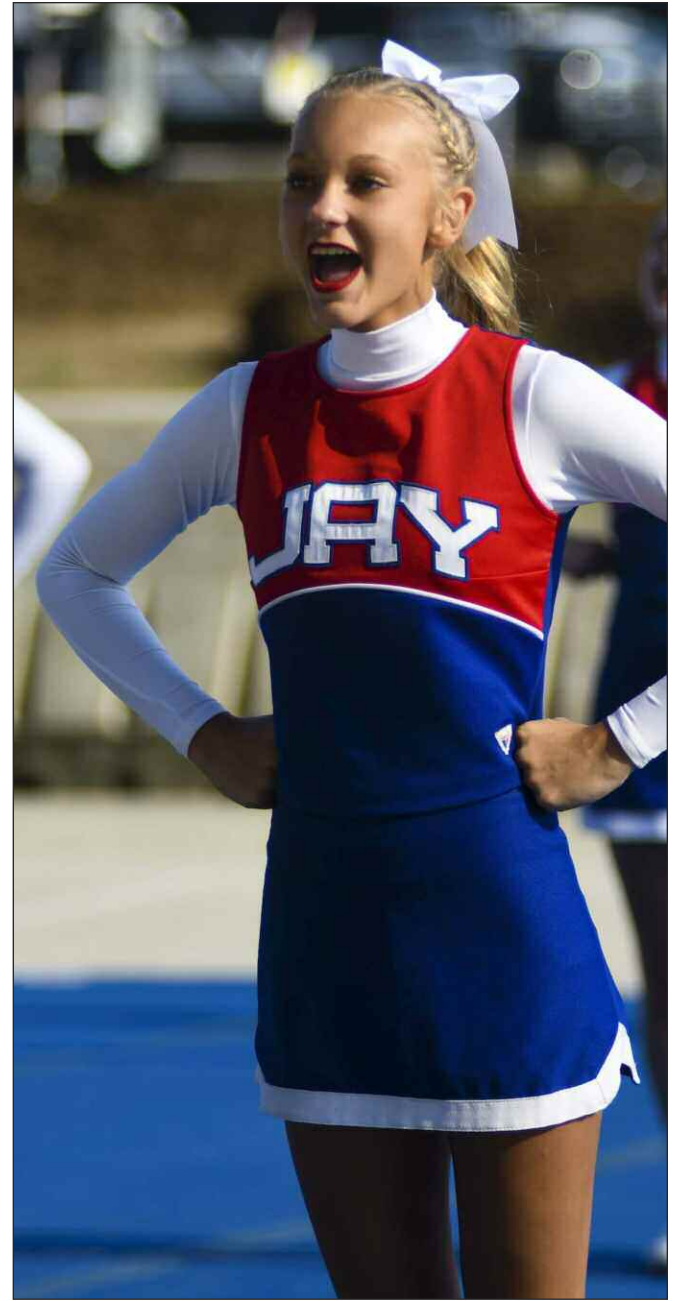
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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney



Both Jay County High School cheerleading squads finished in second place Saturday during the Indiana State Fair competition in Indianapolis.

Pictured above, Ella Roussey (left) and Leah Steed react to the announcement of the junior high squad finishing in second place. The group was fourth at the 2023 state fair.

At upper right, Emery Forthofer of the junior high squad cheers during the Patriots' routine.

At lower right, Jay County varsity cheerleaders Kayla Jetmore (center), Faith Faulkner (left) and Emma Hatzell (right) prepare to clap during the varsity routine.

Double ...

Continued from page 1
Its lower marks — still all 7 or higher — came for jumps and degree of difficulty.

Tri-West, meanwhile, had a more difficult routine overall but ran into significant issues during its stunting.

"Our skills weren't as difficult, but we nailed our skills," said Peterson. "And I still think we're better off that way."

"We were nice and clean. We hit the stunts."

The junior high squad also had high marks for crowd appeal, totaling 25 points including a 9 from one of the judges. It also earned 25 points for crowd appeal.

Looking at what she felt was key to success, McClain identified internal aspects of Saturday's competition.

"The enthusiasm and working together as a team," she said. "And the girls actually enjoying it. We've struggled the last two weeks getting into it and enjoying what we're doing. It's just been very stressful. We've had some things not working."

"They finally found their enjoyment in the routine and they were able to show that."

The junior high squad's lower marks — like the varsity, still all 7 or higher — came for tumbling and synchronization.



Paxson, Brunson, Muhlenkamp lead poultry

A new trio of winners topped the Jay County 4-H poultry show at the Jay County Fair.

Ty Paxson showed the grand champion exhibition bird while Kinley Brunson had the grand champion exhibition waterfowl and Duston Muhlenkamp had the grand champion meat pen.

Paxson also had the grand champion for egg production and won for advanced showmanship, moving on to win the small animal supreme showmanship trophy. Claire Skirvin won for junior showmanship, with Aubree McClure winning for senior showmanship.

Other results from the poultry show were as follows:

Egg shells
White
Blue ribbon: Ty Paxson
Red ribbon: Madi Paxson
Joshua Starr

Brown
Blue ribbon: Audrey Hambrock
Red ribbon: Madi Paxson
Anna Brewer, Brianna Faller, Lillian Johnson, Ty Paxson

colored
Blue ribbon: Madi Paxson
Red ribbon: Ty Paxson

Champion: Ty Paxson
Reserve champion: Audrey Hambrock

Meat production
Turkeys
Tom



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Ty Paxson had the grand champion exhibition bird during the Jay County 4-H poultry show.

Red ribbon: Anna Brewer
Brianna Faller, Megan Faller, Khloe Homan, Kinze Homan, cade Muhlenkamp and Jackson Westgerdes

Commercial chickens
Broilers
Blue ribbon: Chase Ninde
Red ribbon: Jacob Monroe
Lincoln Clamme, Audrey Hambrock, Aven Hambrock, Emersyn Theurer, Alivia Toney

Roasters
Blue ribbon: Nick Lyons
Red ribbon: Kinley Brunson

Grand champion: Duston Muhlenkamp
Reserve grand champion: Chase Ninde

Egg production
White pullets
Blue ribbon: Ty Paxson

White hens
Blue ribbon: Joshua Starr

Champion: Ty Paxson
Reserve champion: Joshua Starr

Brown pullets
Blue ribbon: Maria Heitkamp
Red ribbon: Madi Paxson

Brown hens
Blue ribbon: Ty Paxson
Red ribbon: Anna Brewer
Jenna Bricker, Carter Fugiett, Paisley Fugiett

Champion: Ty Paxson
Reserve champion: Anna Brewer

Colored pullets
Blue Ribbon: Ty Paxson

Colored hens
Blue ribbon: Tuck Hemmelgarn
Red ribbon: Finn Hemmelgarn
Sawyer Hemmelgarn

Champion: Tuck Hemmelgarn
Reserve champion: Finn Hemmelgarn

Grand champion: Ty Paxson
Reserve grand champion: Tuck Hemmelgarn

Exhibition wildlife
Turkey tom
Blue ribbon: Cooper Cooke
Red ribbon: Jenna Bricker
Corbin Lothridge, Keegan Wittkamp

Turkey hen
Blue ribbon: Madi Paxson
Red ribbon: Cooper Cooke
Corbin Lothridge, Ty Paxson

Champion: Cooper Cooke
Reserve champion: Madi Paxson

Guinea
Blue ribbon: Corbin Lothridge
Red ribbon: Aubree McClure

Pigeon pair
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin
Red ribbon: Kinley Brunson

Heavy duck
Blue ribbon: Corbin Lothridge
Megan Faller, Alivia Toney

Heavy drake
Blue ribbon: Aubree McClure
Corbin Lothridge

Medium duck
Blue ribbon: Audrey Hambrock

Medium drake
Red ribbon: Jenna Bricker
Audrey Hambrock

Light duck
Blue ribbon: Brianna Faller
Red ribbon: Corbin Lothridge
Megan Faller, Ty Paxson

Light drake
Brianna Faller, Megan Faller, Corbin Lothridge, Madi Paxson

Bantam duck
Blue ribbon: Kinley Brunson
Red ribbon: Jenna Bricker
Corbin Lothridge

Bantam drake
Jenna Bricker, Kinley Brunson, Cooper Cooke, Corbin Lothridge
See Poultry page 7

Poultry ...

Continued from page 6

Heavy goose
Blue ribbon: Jenna Bricker

Medium gander
Blue ribbon: Keegan Wittkamp

Grand champion exhibition waterfowl: Kinley Brunson

Large fowl
American large
Cock
Blue ribbon: Anna Brewer

Hen
Blue ribbon: Anna Brewer
Red ribbon: Cooper Cookie
Keirstyn Lawhead

Cockerel
Blue ribbon: Audrey Hambrock

Pullet
Blue ribbon: Audrey Hambrock

Asiatic large
Cock
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin
Red ribbon: Jenna Bricker
Aubree McClure

Hen
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin
Red ribbon: Ty Paxson
Kinley Brunson, Aubree McClure

Cockerel
Blue ribbon: Ty Paxson
Red Ribbon: Madi Paxson
Aubree McClure

Pullet
Blue ribbon: Madi Paxson
Red ribbon: Cooper Cooke
Audrey Hambrock, Aubree McClure

Continental large
Hen

Blue ribbon: Madi Paxson
Red ribbon: Ty Paxson

English large
Cock
Blue ribbon: Audrey Hambrock

Hen
Blue ribbon: Audrey Hambrock

Mediterranean large
Cock
Blue ribbon: Joshua Starr

Hen
Blue ribbon: Joshua Starr

All other breeds
Cock
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin

Hen
Blue ribbon: Madi Paxson

Cockerel
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin

Large fowl breeding pen
Blue ribbon: Aubree McClure
Red ribbon: Audrey Hambrock

Grand champion: Claire Skirvin
Reserve grand champion: Madi Paxson

Exhibition
Modern game bantam
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin

Old English Game bantam
Cock
Blue ribbon: Ty Paxson
Red ribbon: Jenna Bricker
Jenna Bricker, Ty Paxson, Corbin Lothridge

Hen
Blue ribbon: Ty Paxson
Red ribbon: Jenna Bricker
Jenna Bricker, Cooper Cooke, Corbin Lothridge



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

During the Jay County 4-H poultry show last month, Duston Muhlenkamp (above) had the grand champion meat pen while Kinley Brunson (right) showed the grand champion waterfowl.



Single comb clean legged bantam
Hen
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin

Cockerel
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin

Rose comb clean legged bantam
Cock
Blue ribbon: Madi Paxson
Red ribbon: Kinley Brunson
Corbin Lothrdige

Cockerel
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin
Red ribbon: Madi Paxson

Hen
Blue ribbon: Madi Paxson
Red ribbon: Corbin Lothrdige

Pullet
Blue ribbon: Aubrey Hambrock

Feather legged bantam
Cock
Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin
Red ribbon: Jenna Bricker
Kinley Brunson, Audrey Hambrock, Kollin Lawhead, Aubree McClure

Hen
Blue ribbon: Aubree McClure
Red ribbon: Claire Skirvin
Jenna Bricker, Cooper Cooke

Cockerel
Blue ribbon: Aubree McClure

Pullet
Blue ribbon: Aubree McClure


All other combs clean legged bantam
Hen
Blue ribbon: Jenna Bricker
Red ribbon: claire Skirvin

Pullet
Blue ribbon: Audrey Hambrock

Bantam Breeding pen

Blue ribbon: Claire Skirvin
Red ribbon: Corbin Lothrdige
Jenna Bricker, Corbin Lothrdige, Aubree McClure, Madi Paxson, Ty Paxson

Grand champion: Ty Paxson
Reserve grand champion: Jenna Bricker




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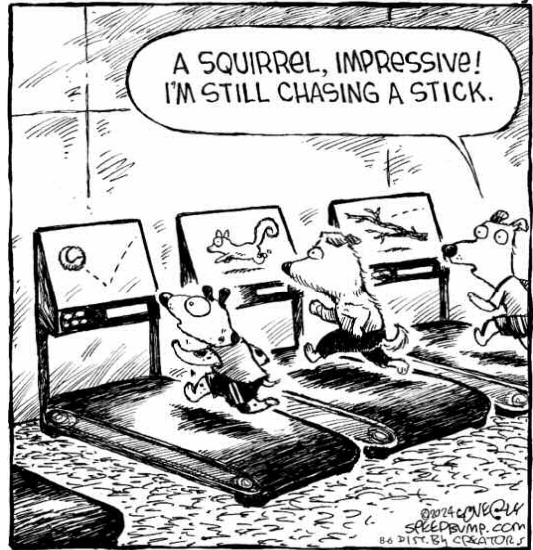
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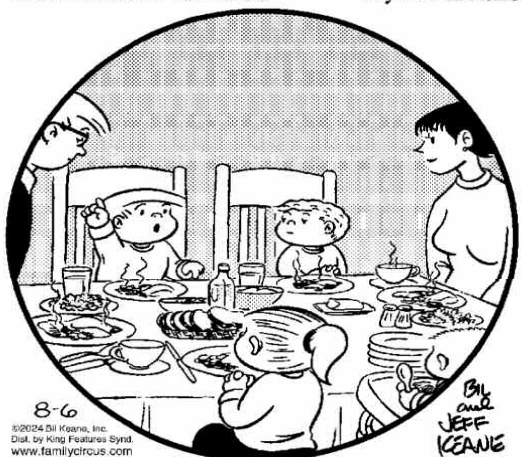
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"When we say grace, do we look up at Heaven or down at the food?"

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Decoration for valor

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

he overtook the king with the ace and returned a club. He was planning to win the first trump lead with the ace and put his partner on lead with a diamond in order to get a club ruff. The meaning of East's first two plays was not lost on South. Recognizing the danger of leading a trump at trick three, declarer instead cashed the A-K of hearts and continued with the deuce. But rather than ruff the deuce, South discarded the jack of diamonds from dummy! Superficially, this play simply swapped a diamond loser for a heart loser, but it actually did a lot more than that. East unexpectedly found himself the unhappy winner of a heart trick, and his well-conceived plan of defense came to naught. East should perhaps have gotten a Croix de Guerre for his effort, but as it was, all he had to show for it was a loss of 620 points. Ironically, he would have achieved the same result had he simply signaled with a high diamond at trick one, as a less-imaginative player might have done. But in that case, the challenge of the deal for both sides would never have materialized.

The bidding: North East South West 1 ♠ 1 ♦ 1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass 4 ♠ Opening lead - king of diamonds. It seems a pity that if both sides play a hand well, there must inevitably be a loser. Nevertheless, the fact is that justice cannot always be served, since nobody has yet figured out how both sides can emerge victorious in a given hand. Consider this deal where South was in four spades and West led the king of diamonds. East saw little chance of defeating the contract unless he could get a club ruff, so

Tomorrow: Even when you lose, you win. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

V Y C U V C K C J D G J S D C I H W A B D Q C F P D C C B C W I G B U G I J C F P A J J V I O Y W G Q F, H W A S V U U

O Q G J C W I G P A Q K C. Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF SOMEBODY TRAINS PIT BULLS AND SCOTTIES FOR CASH, I SUPPOSE THEY HAVE ALL-TERRIER MOTIVES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: O equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 38 Cereal grain 39 Mal de — 40 Lingo 43 Card game 47 Hug and kiss 49 Caspian seaport 50 Say it's so 51 Calendar abbr. 52 Laundry appliance 53 Kitten calls 54 Mimic star 55 Group of actors 21 Leading lady? 22 Inventor's monogram 23 Iraqi port city 26 Water flask 30 Comic Margaret 31 Bread spread 32 Year in Madrid 33 Cooked in sugar 36 "24" protagonist Jack 3 Astronaut Shepard 4 "Moon River" lyricist Johnny 5 Mom's brother 6 "Serpico" author Peter 7 Signing need 8 Brunch fare 9 Knitting stitch 10 To be, in Arles 11 Low-fat Legume 19 Perón of Argentina 22 Highland hat 23 Abbr. in an email DOWN 24 "Caught ya!" 25 Junior 26 Scoundrel 27 Vichy water 28 Chemical suffix 29 Hide-hair insert 31 Lustrous black 34 Blood givers 35 Shakespeare villain 36 Golfer Hogan 37 Language of Egypt 39 "Tara Road" author Binky 40 Fraud 41 Wash 42 From the top 43 Hoofbeat sound 44 Poet Teasdale 45 Boxing stats 46 Cousin's mom 48 Genetic stuff

Crossword grid with clues and solution time: 22 mins. Yesterday's answer 8-6

Crossword grid with numbers 1-55.

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Trinity Rodman's goal lifts U.S. in semifinals

By KEVIN BAXTER

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

PARIS — Trinity Rodman's left-footed curler from inside the penalty area snapped a scoreless tie in the first extra-time period Saturday, giving the U.S. women a 1-0 win over Japan at packed Parc des Princes stadium and a spot in Tuesday's semifinals of the Paris Olympics soccer tournament.

The Americans will play the winner of Saturday's late quarterfinal final between Canada and Germany.

The U.S., which saw its run through last summer's World Cup end in penalty kicks after playing Sweden to a scoreless draw, seemed headed toward penalties again when Rodman

ran onto a long diagonal ball from Crystal Dunn along the right side of the 18-yard box. She then cut back to evade Japanese defender Hikaru Kitagawa before slicing a bending shot over keeper Ayaka Yamashita and into the top netting.

The score gave Rodman, who was barely onside on the play, goals in three of the four U.S. games in France.

The U.S. made the gold-medal match in four of the first five women's Olympic tournaments, winning it four times. But the Americans haven't been back since 2012, falling in the quarterfinals eight years ago in Brazil and losing to Canada in the semifinals three years ago in Japan. It was then

eliminated from last summer's World Cup in the round of 16, its earliest exit ever.

So it was Japan who came into this game with the poise, experience and chemistry that was once the hallmark of the U.S. Nine of the 11 players Japan started in the World Cup quarterfinals last summer are on its Olympic roster, including Hinata Miyazawa, the World Cup's leading scorer. And 11 of the 18 women on the team play club soccer in Europe.

Japan also has the same coach, Futoshi Ikeda.

The U.S., meanwhile, has undergone a major overhaul since the loss in Australia. Half of the 18 players in Paris weren't with the team a year

ago, nor was coach Emma Hayes, who was about to enter her 12th season with Chelsea in the Women's Super League. Fifteen women play domestically in the National Women's Soccer League.

Yet it was the experienced, worldly Japanese who elected to bunker in, ceding possession — the U.S. had the ball for all but 10 of the first 45 minutes and for 67 of the regulation 90 minutes — and challenging the Americans to find a way through a wall of five blue-clad defenders that stretched from one end line to the other.

That neutralized a U.S. attack that was so good in group play, scoring a tournament-best nine goals, and led the uncertain Americans to

play the ball backward as often as they played it forward. As a result, the teams went to extra time having taken just one shot on goal apiece.

The game was so lacking in offense and attacking creativity, in fact, that some in the sell-out crowd began whistling in complaint just before the intermission, then again multiple times in the second half.

Early in the first extra period Sophia Smith gave the US a glimmer of hope, picking the pocket of a Japanese keeper then racing into the box with only Yamashita to beat. But she took one touch too many, allowing the keeper to cut down the angle and make the save.

Minutes later Rodman made the play moot.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Biles ...

Continued from page 10

Andrade's Cheng vault — a roundoff onto the board with a half-turn onto the table and a one-and-a-half twist in the air — regularly scores better than Biles' performance of the same skill as Andrade tends to pop more vertically off the table while Biles covers more horizontal ground.

Biles' double-flipping vault carries a competition-high 6.4 difficulty score — and that is the difference-maker for the U.S. star.

In an attempt to challenge Biles, Andrade submitted an original skill, a triple-twisting Yurchenko, which is worth six difficulty points. The upgraded element would have cut the margin of difficulty between her and Biles down to four-tenths instead of a whole point.

Andrade instead kept status quo with her two-and-a-half twisting Yurchenko for her second vault. While her Cheng outscored Biles' by 0.2 points, Andrade's average trailed Biles' by 0.344 points.

Opening drive

Jay County High School sophomore Brooklynn Bright tees off on the third hole Monday morning at Wabash Valley Golf Club during the South Adams Invite. For a full story on how the Patriots did in the season opener, see Wednesday's edition of The Commercial Review.

Richardson ...

Continued from page 10

Communication between Richardson and Steichen is among the primary areas in which the quarterback has grown since last season.

Their talks have gone to a deeper level as Richardson's understanding of the scheme has grown, and he's become more willing to offer his own ideas and potential adjustments.

It's part of the natural progression for any quarterback. As comfort and

confidence grows in the offense, a passer transitions from running the pre-programmed reads and progressions and begins adding his own flavor to the attack.

"The communication is definitely — has advanced for us," Richardson said. "Last year was more so, 'OK, follow the read. Do this.' But now it's like, 'OK, if the defense does this, now I want you to think about this right here.' And sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't.

"But it's just trying to find ways to just tweak our offense and just get comfortable with each other. But I definitely feel like there's been a huge jump from last year to this year."

Richardson's connection with second-year wide receiver Josh Downs is the most obvious example.

The two are constantly talking before, during and after practice about what they've seen from the defense and how best to

attack the look the next time it comes up.

It leads to creativity on the field and an unspoken language developing between the two young stars.

"I think that communication piece is really good, and once guys keep playing more and more and more together — I mean, I've been around some guys that have played 16 years together, and they just kind of look at each other and give a wink, and it's like, 'We know what

we're doing,'" Steichen said. "So you get to that level, it's pretty special."

Downs confirmed earlier this summer he and Richardson are well on their way to that level.

They're starting to see the same things from the defense, and they're developing additional ways to communicate at the line of scrimmage.

As the Colts look to join the NFL's most potent offenses this fall, that sort of improvisation will be welcomed and encouraged.

"I just tried to tell (Downs), 'With the route, I know we've got rules and steps to run it a certain way, but you just get open. You're going to get open. I'm going to get you the ball,'" Richardson said. "I tell that to all the receivers. I know the coaches want us to take a certain amount of steps to get a certain route open, but I just tell them, 'Get open and I'm going to try to find you the ball.' So it's just a matter of just working out chemistry and just knowing each other."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls golf at Belmont — 8 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf at Mercer County Meet — 8 a.m.; Girls golf at Union City Classic — 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday
Fort Recovery — Girls golf in Gary Broering meet — 9 a.m.; Middle school volleyball scrimmage at Parkway — 6 p.m.

TV sports

Today
4 a.m. — Olympic track and field (USA)
7 a.m. — Olympic sport climbing (USA)
1:35 p.m. — Olympic track and field (NBC)

2:15 p.m. — Olympic beach volleyball (USA)
4 p.m. — Little League softball World Series (ESPN2)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Miami Marlins (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — Club friendlies soccer: Chelsea vs. Real Madrid (ESPN2)

7:20 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Atlanta Braves (TBS)

7:30 p.m. — Leagues Cup soccer: Nashville SC at New England Revolution (FS1)

Wednesday

1:30 a.m. — Olympic track & field (USA)
6:30 a.m. — Olympic skateboarding (USA)
11 a.m. — Olympic beach volleyball (NBC)
11 a.m. — Little League baseball (ESPN)
1 p.m. — Olympic track & field (NBC)

1 p.m. — Olympic water polo (USA)
5 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited softball: Team Blue vs. Team Orange (ESPN2)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: San Diego Padres at Pittsburgh Pirates (FS1); Cincinnati Reds at Miami Marlins (Bally Indiana)

7:30 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited softball: Team Gold vs. Team Purple (ESPN2)

Local notes

Next up
The Adams Memorial/Kekionga Greenway Gallop 5K is the next race in the Adams County Challenge Series.

The race will be held on Saturday, Aug. 24. It will begin at Riverside Center in Decatur at 4:30 p.m. The races costs \$20 if registered by Aug. 11, and \$25 after that date. Registration can be found

at www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com. For more information contact Linda Morris at (260) 724-2604.

Season tickets for sale

Jay County High School began selling season tickets Monday, July 22. Tickets can be purchased during office hours from 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

The Patriot Pass and Senior Patriot Pass (for those 65-and-older) cover all high school and junior high events. The former costs \$105 while the latter is \$60.

For just high school events, High School Adult Super Tickets (\$80) and Senior Super Tickets for those 65-and-older (\$45) are available. Junior High Super Tickets are available for \$60.

Also available are a Pre-Paid Sports Pass, good for 12 games at \$50, boys basketball season passes for \$50 and football season passes for \$25.

Classic set

The 11th Annual Adams Health Foundation Golf Classic is set to be held on Sept. 13 at Wabash Valley Golf Club.

Teams of four can participate for \$400, with tee times at either 7:30 a.m. or 1 p.m.

Included are an 18-hole round of golf, a best, non-alcoholic beverages, a cooler bag and lunch.

All proceeds go to school healthcare scholarships and community health. For more information, contact Kim Trombley by emailing kim.trombley@adamshealthnetwork.org or by calling (260) 724-2145 ext. 13062.

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

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Sports

2024 Fort Recovery boys golf preview

Pictured is the 2024 Fort Recovery High School boys golf team. Front row from left are Colson Post, Owen Grieshop, Drew Backs, Caleb Smith, Carter Fortkamp, Hoyt Schmitz and Will Faller. Back row are Eli Lennartz, Reed Albers, Mason Diller, Riley Grieshop, Will Westgerdes, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Garrett Diller, Reece LeFevre, Carson Fullenkamp and coach Dean Sanders. Not pictured are Hudson McAbee and assistant coach Greg LeFevre.



Photo provided

2023 season

The Indians had one of their best seasons during coach Dean Sanders' tenure, finishing with a 7-7 (5-4 Midwest Athletic Conference) record and finishing fourth in the MAC standings. Three of their four conference losses came by three strokes or less and they didn't lose to a team that finished below sixth-place in the MAC. Their season ended in the sectional after finishing three strokes short of a district appearance.

Coach Dean Sanders says

"Last year we finished fourth in the MAC and felt like we had a successful year, but obviously we're looking to expand on that success in 2024. We have a group of talented golfers this year and we're looking forward to a great season. A couple things that we are working on that will be an important part to how we play this season are our short game and reducing penalty strokes. I think that comes along with playing the course with better management.

Matches to watch

Tuesday, Aug. 6, in Mercer County Meet

Fort Recovery opens its season at the Mercer County Meet, which will give them a sense of where they are at and a taste of an 18-hole match.

Monday, Aug. 12, at Marion Local

FRHS opens conference play against the Flyers this year. Last year, MLHS edged the Indians by three strokes but ultimately fell in the conference tournament.

Thursday, Aug. 22, at Minster

The Indians were one stroke away from toppling MAC champion Minster a season ago. Picking off the reigning champs that went 8-0 would cement the Indians near the top.

Fast facts

•The Indians are 17 players deep this season, including six newcomers for the 2024 season.

•All three of Fort Recovery's Second Team All-MAC players (Keegan Muhlenkamp, Reece LeFevre and Eli Lennartz) return this year, but they lose honorable mentions Nate Jutte and Alex Dues.

•Despite finishing 0.500 on the year, the Indians had the match medalist in 10 of the 14 dual-matches in 2023.

•This will be the sixth year Dean Sanders has coached Fort Recovery.

Projected lineup

- Keegan Muhlenkamp
- Reece LeFevre
- Eli Lennartz
- Caleb Smith
- Riley Grieshop
- Colson Post
- Mason Diller
- Drew Backs

Top returners

Keegan Muhlenkamp
42.5 strokes/nine holes

Reece LeFevre

43.2 strokes/nine holes

Eli Lennartz

43.7 strokes/nines holes

Key departures

Nate Jutte
44.3 strokes/nine holes

Alex Dues

45.4 strokes/nine holes

Matthew Romer

46.7 strokes/nines holes

Boys golf

| Date | Opponent | Time |
|---|----------------------------|------------------|
| Tuesday, Aug. 6 | Mercer County Meet | 8 a.m. |
| Thursday, Aug. 8 | Mississinawa Valley | 9 a.m. |
| Friday, Aug. 9 | Houston | 9 a.m. |
| Monday, Aug. 12 | Marion Local | 3:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Aug. 13 | Tri-Village | 4 p.m. |
| Wednesday, Aug. 14 | National Trail | 4 p.m. |
| Thursday, Aug. 15 | Parkway | 4:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Aug. 19 | New Bremen | 4:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Aug. 22 | Minster | 4:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Aug. 24 | JV MAC Champ. | 9 a.m. |
| Monday, Aug. 26 | Coldwater | 4:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Aug. 29 | New Knoxville | 4:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 5 | Versailles | 4:30 p.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 9 | St. John's | 4:30 p.m. |
| Tuesday, Sept. 10 | Allen East | 4:30 p.m. |
| Thursday, Sept. 12 | St. Henry | 4:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Sept. 14 | Nate Niekamp Invite | 9 a.m. |
| Monday, Sept. 16 | Celina | 4:30 p.m. |
| Saturday, Sept. 21 | MAC Championships | 8:30 a.m. |
| Home matches (at Portland Golf Club) in bold | | |

Richardson's growth includes communication

By **GEORGE BREMER**

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)
Tribune News Service

WESTFIELD — With time running out on the game clock Friday at Grand Park Sports Campus, Anthony Richardson surveyed a rapidly collapsing pocket and air mailed a pass out of bounds along the far sideline.

The problem, as officials saw it, was no eligible receiver was in the area for the Indianapolis Colts. A flag was thrown for intentional grounding, bringing up third-and-Hamilton County as time dwindled for the first team's second two-minute drive.

On the next snap, Richardson fired a strike over the middle to veteran wide receiver Michael Pittman Jr. that recouped about half the necessary yardage and set the offense up for a long field-goal attempt.

Rookie Spencer Shrader's 55-yarder fell short, but head coach Shane Steichen was happy for the experience with his second-year quarterback.

"I mean a great situation came up there at the end," Steichen said. "There was a third-down deal, and we had an intentional grounding. So we had to move back and have a 10-second runoff or burn our time-out. So it was great that it came up."

Not all growth for Richardson will be linear.

The 22-year-old was 8-for-13 during Friday's 105-minute practice, and he threw his second interception of training camp when safety Julian Blackmon again improvised in the defensive scheme.

Blackmon has arguably been the star of this year's camp, and the ongoing chess match against the veteran defender is sharpening Richardson's skills — both physically and mentally.

"It helps me a lot," Richardson said. "The same way I feel like I help (the defense) when I'm scrambling. Most quarterbacks don't move out the back as much. So whenever I move around for the defense, it lets them know that they've got to stay true to their lanes and their gaps."

"But (Blackmon) being back there, it's like you see that guy back there — because I see him a few times, but it's like, 'OK, he's not supposed to be there. So why is he there?' It's more so learning the offense because if he's there then that means somebody else has to be open. So (it's) just trying to fine-tune certain things like that with the mental aspect of the game."

See Richardson page 7

Simone Biles captures her seventh gold medal

By **THUC NHI NGUYEN**

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

PARIS — Simone Biles craned her neck to watch the score flash across the big screen. When it flashed — 15.300 — her smile was the only thing brighter than Bercy Arena's lights.

Biles claimed her seventh Olympic gold medal and 10th Olympic medal overall by adding a vault title on Saturday.

The 27-year-old put up an untouchable 15.700 score with a Yurchenko double pike on her first vault — her eponymous skill that no other woman has attempted in competition before — then backed it up with a 14.900 on her second vault. With Biles' considerable difficulty, no woman in the competition

had a chance to match her score.

The top challenger, the reigning Olympic vault champion Rebeca Andrade of Brazil, did not attempt a new skill that could have helped her challenge Biles but executed two nearly flawless vaults to take silver with 14.966 points.

Jade Carey, who was expected to challenge for a vault medal in Tokyo but balked one of her attempts in the final, earned the bronze medal with 14.466 points.

It's the first time the United States has had two female gymnasts on the Olympic vault podium and the second time out of five event finals following Thursday's all-around final that featured Biles and Suni Lee taking home

gold and bronze, respectively.

After Thursday's all-around final during which Andrade led after two rotations before Biles came back for a nearly two-point victory, the U.S. superstar joked she could no longer handle Andrade's heat.

"I don't want to compete with Rebeca no more," Biles said. "I'm tired. She's way too close."

Andrade, Brazil's most decorated female gymnast, is respected in the gymnastics world for her combination of technique and power. The 25-year-old edged out Biles for the vault gold medal at 2023 world championships when Biles rolled backwards on her signature Yurchenko double pike.

See Biles page 7

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