

Village council reviews levy options

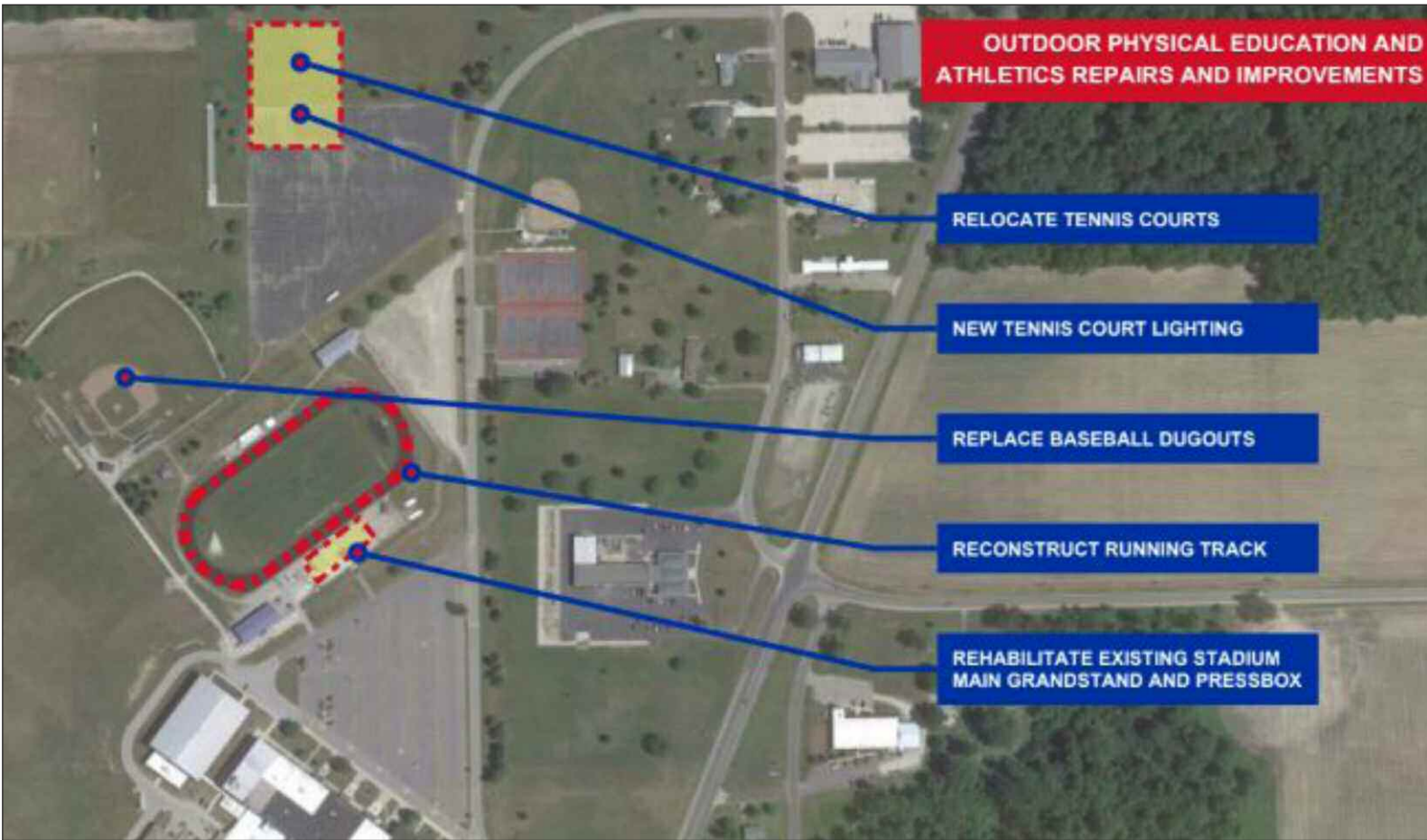
Leaders plan to continue to look at renewal and income levy

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review FORT RECOVERY — One of the village's tax levies is up for renewal. Fort Recovery Village Council discussed Monday whether to continue with the levy or look into an income tax levy in lieu of its current real estate tax levies. Village administrator Randy Diller explained the village's 2.5 mill — in Ohio, property taxes are charged as mills (millage), with one mill equal to one-tenth of a cent — five-year general expense tax levy is up for renewal in the fall. Fort Recovery currently has four real estate tax levies on the books, he noted, with three at 2.5 mill and one at 2.3 mill.

"We've ran them as renewals for a long, long time, so they aren't collecting at 2.5, they're probably collecting at 1.5 or something in that range because we've reached assessment over the years, maybe less than that," he said. The current levies generate about \$286,000 annually for the village in different areas, including the general, storm, wastewater and street funds. Diller recalled discussion in the past about rolling over to an increased income tax and doing away with real estate tax levies. "Now I know that the real estate taxes are definitely a hot button right now, but so are income taxes in a lot of ways with people starting to feel a little stress on their budgets," he said.

See Levy page 5

Another step



Graphic from Barton Coe Vilamaa

The above graphic shows the planned new location of the Jay County High School tennis courts as part of a proposed capital improvement project. Jay School Board held a public hearing on the project Monday and heard updates about its scope. It is now estimated at \$17.44 million. Another public hearing is slated for June 16.

Proposed Jay County Junior-Senior High School improvement project moves forward with hearing

By RAY COONEY The Commercial Review A major capital improvement project for Jay County Junior-Senior High School took another step forward Monday. Jay School Board held its preliminary determination hearing on a proposed \$17.44 million renovation project for the junior-senior high that has been in discussion for months. A second public hearing and decision is planned for the board's regular meeting on June 16. Monday's hearing passed without comment from the public. Brian Bohlender of engineering and architecture firm Barton Coe Vilamma provided an update on the scope of the project following changes made through discussions with the

project committee and feedback from a community survey. Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Guley noted that the board received 146 comments from the public on the project. Most of the big-ticket items for the project remain the same, including upgrading the heating, ventilation and cooling system controls; replacing pool treatment equipment, the dehumidification unit and the roof; updating food service equipment, utilities and flooring; rehabilitating the grandstand at Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium; and replacing the building's main electrical service panel. The most significant change to the project discussed Monday involves a change in location of the tennis courts. Rather than rehabilitating them or reconstructing them in

place, as had previously been discussed, plans are now to construct new courts at the northwest corner of the driving range parking lot. Bohlender explained that constructing new courts, whether in place or a different location, provides the longest life. Board members had also previously indicated that it would be beneficial to move the courts away from the softball field to improve safety. Also part of the proposed project are the following items: •Reconstructing the track at Harold E. Schutz Memorial Stadium •Modernizing the band and choir areas •Replacing water mains, making sidewalk repairs and paving parking lots (as funding allows) •Painting exterior steel,

repair cracks and replacing exterior wall panels •Repairing the greenhouse roof •Expanding the wrestling practice area •Replacing stage curtains in auditorium and installing Americans with Disabilities Act compliant handrails in adjacent hallways •Converting the TV studio into instructional space •Making security and technology updates •Replacing baseball dugouts The updated overall cost of the project of \$17.44 million breaks down to \$5.3 million in mechanical upgrades, \$3.47 million for outdoor athletics, \$2.44 million in functional improvements, \$2.12 million for electrical service and \$1.8 million for architectural changes. See Step page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Diploma day

Diplomas sit stacked on a table Sunday early in the commencement ceremony at Jay County High School. This year marked the 50th graduating class of the school that opened in 1975.

Braun replaces trustees

Governor previously indicated he would not remove elected members

By WHITNEY DOWARD Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com The three elected members of the Indiana University Board of Trustees have been removed by Gov. Mike Braun — roughly a month after indicating he wouldn't. The governor instead on Monday tapped three new members — two notable conservatives — along with reappointing a sitting trustee. "I am confident that these appointees, who are all Indiana University alumni, will serve in the best interest of the univer-

sity and will help guide IU back in the right direction as a premier flagship university in our state," Braun said in a statement. The new members include Sage Steele, a sports anchor known for controversial comments on race and vaccines; James Bopp, Jr., an anti-abortion attorney; and Brian Eagle, an Indianapolis estate attorney. Eagle will serve until 2027 while Steele and Bopp have terms that go until 2028. Bopp held a high-ranking position on the non-

profit working alongside Braun's campaign team. He also penned a letter warning about the "serious threat" now-Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith posed to Braun's candidacy. W. Quinn Buckner currently sits on the board as its chair and had his term extended by one year to 2026 by Braun. "I'm grateful for the opportunity to continue serving my alma mater, which has given me so much," Buckner said in a statement from Indiana University. "As chair, I welcome my new colleagues to the board and am excited to collaborate as a team to continue propelling IU to new heights." A recent change to the law governing the board explicitly prohibits board members from serving a fourth term and Buckner has already served three. See Trustees page 2

Deaths

Donald Cooke Sr., 77, Portland  
Peter Schwartz, 76, rural Geneva  
Arlyn Hendricks, 73, Berne  
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Monday. The low was 42.  
Expect hazy skies Wednesday followed by mostly sunny conditions with winds gusting to 30 mph and a high in the mid 80s. There is a 50% chance of rain.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library and Jay Community Center are partnering to host Jump Rope Warrior Shows at 3:30 and 5:30 p.m. Thursday, June 5, at the community center. The show will feature David Fisher, who holds the Guinness World Record for most "rump jumps" in one minute at 56.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from Fort Recovery's baseball regional semifinal game.  
  
Saturday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.

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# FR graduates earn awards

Fort Recovery High School seniors received a variety of awards and scholarships at the end of the school year.

Kennedy Muhlenkamp earned the title of valedictorian, and Anna Roessner received the salutatorian title. Gavin Evers and Joelle Kaup received the Boys Athletic Key and Girls Athletic Key, respectively, for athletic participation. Activity Keys — they're awarded based on a point system to determine the most active boy and girl in the senior class — were awarded to Zach Schoenlein and Ava Englehardt.

Scholarships and other awards were presented as follows:

**Jordyn Aisenbrey**  
•Thanks to Our Yanks Military Grant  
•Braun Military Enlistment Grant

**Drew Backs**  
•Wabash Mutual  
•Midwest Electric  
•Midmark Foundation  
•FR Chamber of Commerce/Merchants Association  
•WSU Green & Gold  
•Wright Start  
•Jordan Moller  
•Cargill Agriculture  
•R&C Sharp Estate  
•FR Alumni Assn.  
•Carl & Margaret Althoff Memorial  
•Arnold & Eugenia Beumer  
•Travis Fullenkamp Memorial  
•Walter & Kathleen Hemmelgarn  
•Linus & Juletta Huelkamp  
•Virginia Baker-Franke Music  
•Dr. James Vaughn Memorial  
•WoW Super Raffle

**Alivia Bergman**  
•Cooper Farms  
•Coldwater Young Farmers Assn  
•FRHS Vocational

**Layla Bihn**  
•WSU Green & Gold  
•Cooper Farms  
•WOEF Precision Strip  
•John and Doris Cheeseman Endowed

**Tucker Brockman**  
•Cooper Farms

**Kaleb Coleman**  
•Tri Star Skills Grant

**Saidy DeRoo**  
•Tiffin Merit  
•Tiffin Athletic (Bowling)  
•Jeff Reynolds Memorial  
•Coldwater K of C (track)

**Mason Diller**  
•Trine Distinguished  
•Tuition Incentive Grant  
•Allen Engineering Scholastic Award  
•Trine Opportunity Award  
•Park National Bank  
•Cy LeFevre Memorial  
•Tri Star Skills Grant  
•HAAS Foundation

**Amber Dirksen**  
•Fort Recovery Alumni Association  
•Wright Start  
•WOEF R&C Sharp Estate Scholar

**Kassidy Dues**  
•WSU Green & Gold  
•WOEF Academic Excellence  
•WOEF Rockford FOE HS  
•Cooper Farms  
•Carl & Margaret Althoff Memorial  
•Staugler-Cooper

**Ava Englehardt**  
•Park National Bank

**Evan Evers**  
•FR Chamber of Commerce/Merchant's Assn.  
•Cooper Farms  
•Blessed Pier Giorgio Frassati Leadership Award  
•Ball State Provost  
•Jeff Reynolds Memorial  
•Psi Iota Xi Sorority  
•Carl & Margaret Althoff Memorial

**Gavin Evers**  
•WSU Green & Gold  
•WOEF Wayne Trail  
•Rachel "Ruu" Brackman  
•Norb Metzger Memorial  
•Verla Marie Gagle Helping Hand  
•WoW Super Raffle  
•Tri Star Skills Grant  
•Tri Star Eternal

**Marlee Fiely**  
•USF Catholic  
•USF Trustees  
•Women's Track/Cross Country  
•USF Merit  
•Assisi Discipleship and Leadership  
•Stella Maris Grant  
•Jeff Reynolds Memorial  
•Joe S. Meiring  
•Fort Recovery Education Association

**Jacob Foote**  
•WoW Super Raffle  
•Cooper Farms  
•Linus & Juletta Huelkamp

**Ava Grisez**  
•Thompson Working Families  
•University Academic Freshman  
•Cleveland Bakers' Local 19, CER Fund  
•Joe S. Meiring  
•Mary Alice Bruns

Additional scholarship and award recipients will be published at a later date.

# Couple suffering loss of grandchild

DEAR ABBY: We recently suffered the loss of our first grandchild. She was only 24 and taken far too soon. My partner and I are working through our grief, which is challenging as we are in different stages. He also struggles with multiple mental health issues. They make things even more difficult, as I need to help him through some outbursts while I am feeling crushed by this tragedy. Counseling will likely happen in the near future.

My issue right now is that my daughter and I have chosen to get memorial jewelry. In my case, it will be a small raindrop pendant that will hold some of my granddaughter's ashes. I told my partner I was doing this, as surprises don't go over well with him and it's best to give him a lot of warning. He now has concerns that if I wear the necklace, it will continually remind him of the loss.

I want to keep my granddaughter as close to my heart as I can. I'm not sure I can compromise on this, short of wearing it only when he's not around. But he is retired, and I mostly work from home, so he's around all the time. I don't want to continually upset him by reminding him, so I am at a loss. Any advice would be greatly appreciated. — REMEMBERING IN CANADA

**DEAR REMEMBERING:** Please accept my sympathy for the untimely loss of your granddaughter. Clearly, you are dealing with a lot right now. The fact that your partner suffers from mental illness only adds to it. That you want to keep some part of your granddaughter close to you is understandable. However, if seeing you wearing the raindrop pendant would set him back, consider having it made but not wearing

Dear Abby



it until he's further along in the grieving process. I hope he receives his much-needed counseling soon.

DEAR ABBY: I have many reasons not to trust my husband. We have been together going on six years, married for 3 1/2 of them. I recently found out he texted his ex-live-in girlfriend to wish her "Happy Birthday." When I asked him why, he said he always has done this. I don't understand the need. They don't keep in touch otherwise as far as I know. He never deletes old messages, so there's usually a trail and there really isn't one with her.

He got mad at me (as usual) and couldn't understand my point of view. I also know he has consulted a lawyer in the last few months to inquire about how our things would be divided in a case of divorce. Should I be concerned? Isn't it disrespectful for him to text his ex? — CONFLICTED IN MAINE

**DEAR CONFLICTED:** You have focused on the wrong problem. Rather than fight with your husband because he sent a former girlfriend birthday wishes, you should be HYPER-concerned about why he has been consulting a divorce lawyer. (!!) I don't know how emotionally distanced the two of you have become, but from where I sit, it's time to enlist the aid of a marriage and family counselor.

# Community Calendar

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

## 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.

**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 - BRI-**

**ANNA'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.

**PORTLAND LIONS CLUB** — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

**FORGET-ME-NOT** — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

## 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. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

**SOFT SHOULDERS** — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

**CINCINNATUS LEAGUE** — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, June 6, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

## Saturday

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland.

# Sudoku



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

Level: Intermediate

## Tuesday's Solution

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

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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## The Commercial Review



# Cluelessness is widespread issue

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from June 2, 2005. Jack and his family noticed a characteristic of many of the folks they ran into during their frequent trips to a festival in Canada. Turns out, it wasn't just limited to the crowd at Stratford.*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

You've probably heard of the "Stockholm Syndrome." That's a psychological effect which occurs when people who have been taken hostage start to identify with and side with the very people who took them hostage. At our house, we keep track of the "Stratford Syndrome." I think Sally's the one who gave it that name, but all of us have recognized it. For 15 years now, our family has intermittently made the trek north to Stratford, Ontario, for its theater festival.

## Back in the Saddle



The Shakespeare performances are world-class, and all of the productions are first-rate. We don't go every year. It's a seven-hour drive from Jay County to Stratford. But we've made nine to 10 trips over the years. And in those trips, we've encountered the "Stratford Syndrome." Stratford, as a place, is particularly well-suited to this particular quirk of human nature. It's a pretty ordinary small city, with a population of about 30,000. Its flat landscape is reminiscent of Indiana, and its farm-

ing-and-manufacturing economy is familiar as well. But it's a different country at the same time, with different currency, Celsius instead of Fahrenheit on the thermometer and an accent all its own. So, to an American visitor, it can sometimes have a dream-like quality, simultaneously familiar and unfamiliar. Add to that the fact that Stratford attracts large numbers of tour groups from two different but oddly similar segments of the population: Students and retirees. Their differences are obvious, but they also represent the two most self-absorbed demographic groups imaginable. What does that have to do with the "Stratford Syndrome"? Everything. Those who are afflicted are in their own little world, but at the same time they are in a crowd. And their own little world can literally get in the way. How do you spot a person beset by the "Stratford Syndrome"? Easy. They're the folks who step out of the exit and immediately stop, oblivious to the fact that hundreds of people behind them are also trying to exit. They're the ones who decide the best place to wait for their friends is in the middle of the doorway. They're the ones whose first movement at intermission is into the aisle, where they then stop to collect their thoughts while others wait. To be fair, of course, this isn't limited to Stratford. Nor is it limited to students and retirees — though I'd swear they suffer in greater numbers. You've seen the same behavior yourself even if you've

never been to Stratford and can't imagine going there. You've seen it at the top of the escalator — or the bottom — during the rush of Christmas shopping, when someone decides that's the perfect place to hold a conference about Grandpa's sweater size. You've seen it in the bleachers of high school basketball games, when excited fans have stood up — and remained standing long after the excitement has passed — blocking the view of the folks behind them. You've seen it at concession stands when the line is suddenly invisible, even though you've been waiting five minutes. Maybe "Stratford Syndrome" is an unfair name. Stockholm gets a bad rap from "Stockholm Syndrome." Let's just call it what it is: Cluelessness.

# More trade school \$ is welcome idea

The Detroit News  
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump is threatening to strip Harvard of \$3 billion in critical research dollars and redirect the money to trade schools unless the university complies with his executive orders dealing with campus policies and practices.

It's a bully tactic that puts at risk both scientific progress and free speech, and one the the president should end. But the second part of his threat, to shift more federal grant money to trade schools throughout the country, is a solid idea, and one that could be implemented without weakening the nation's leadership position in science and research.

Just as the nation needs scientists and doctors, it needs carpenters, technicians, truck drivers, high-tech manufacturing workers and medical support staff. The bloated federal education budget could be easily cut to create funding to support both priorities. The skilled labor market in the United States is facing incredible pressure, and Michigan is ground zero for the crisis. There are roughly 725,000 job openings for skilled tradesmen in the United States, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics. That number has remained consistent since the disruption of the pandemic.

The scarcity of trained workers has heightened the competition for talent. The sectors' average wages have increased by more than 20% since the first quarter of 2020, according to a 2024 McKinsey & Co. report.

An aging workforce is adding to the shortage. By 2027, the ratio of post-working-age individuals to those of working age will have risen by about 75% — to 3.5 individuals out of every 10 people from 2 out of every 10.

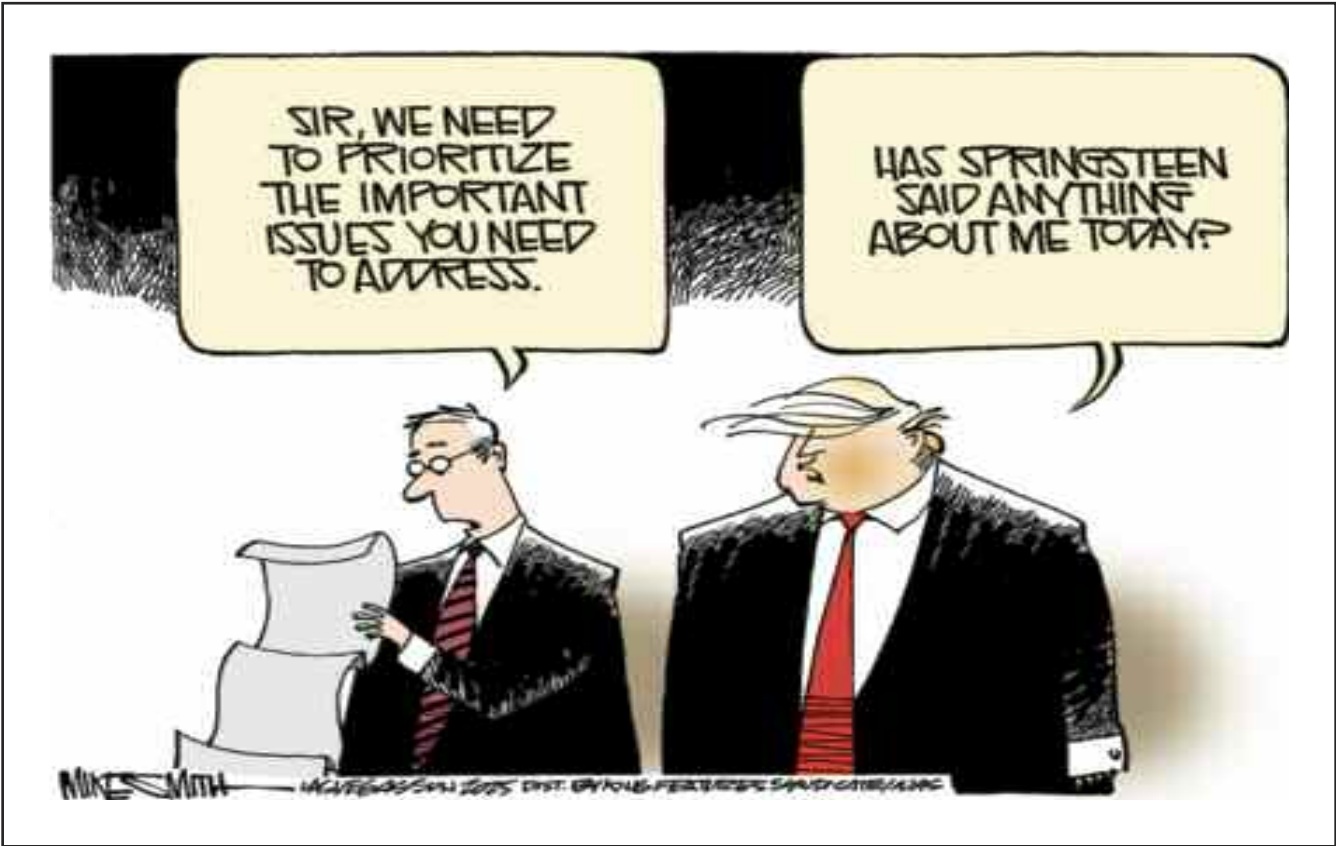
In Michigan, businesses need highly skilled workers in nearly every industry, from agriculture to construction, but particularly in manufacturing. There is an enormous dearth of talent to fill critical positions in the state's key industries. Skilled trades are expected to account for 47,000 annual job openings a year in Michigan through 2028, according to the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Opportunity.

And yet Michigan's

## Guest Editorial

*Just as the nation needs scientists and doctors, it needs carpenters, technicians, truck drivers, high-tech manufacturing workers and medical support staff. The bloated federal education budget could be easily cut to create funding to support both priorities.*

unemployment rate is the second-highest in the nation at 5.5% — up from 4.2% year-over-year. Clearly there is a mismatch between the individuals in the workforce and the type of skilled workers so many businesses need — particularly in Michigan. Both the state and the nation must rapidly train skilled workers. Bolstering trade schools, community colleges and apprenticeships will help achieve the goal. Meeting this urgent need shouldn't get caught up in Trump's petty war with Harvard and other universities. To keep pace with other nations in an increasingly competitive world economy, the U.S. must aggressively fund both the quest for scientific breakthroughs and the training of workers to build the laboratories where they are hatched.



# There are alternatives to animal testing

By F.D. FLAM  
Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

There's one area of surprising agreement in the often adversarial relationship between conservatives and the scientific community: the need to phase out animal testing in biomedical research. The new leaders of both the National Institutes of Health and the Food and Drug Administration have said they plan to reduce their use in federally funded research, continuing an effort started in the Biden administration. Technology is helping bring about change with advances that allow scientists to create structures from human cells that can mimic our organs. In some contexts, those cells work better for studying diseases and drug side effects than traditional experiments that lead to the deaths of millions of rodents, dogs and primates every year. The primary argument for using animals in research has been their biological similarity to humans, which allows scientists to observe diseases and treatments that are not easily replicated with other methods. Animal safety testing is sometimes required before human trials can begin. Traditional opponents of such testing have been animal rights activists and others whom critics have sometimes labeled as anti-science. But raising ethical concerns about such research isn't anti-science. In fact, failing to acknowledge them ignores what science has shown us about animals' emotional complexity, including altruism among rodents and evidence that they are sentient and experience pain, suffering and fear just as we do. We have an ethical imperative to find alternatives. "If you read through the animal ethics literature, half the citations are to science articles about the structure of animals' brains," said Jonathan Kimmelman, a profes-

sor of biomedical ethics at McGill University. We don't allow experiments on prison inmates, for example, even if it would benefit science. Kimmelman said there's evidence that some alternatives maintain or even improve the quality of research and save money. There's still much work to be done to ensure the alternatives work as well as the traditional methods. Then, more research is needed to standardize and scale them for widespread use. Two of the more promising approaches involve tools known as "organs-on-a-chip" and organoids. Organs-on-a-chip are miniature devices that use human cells to mimic organs. Harvard bioengineer Donald Ingber and his colleagues demonstrated that cells configured into a liver-on-a-chip, for example, were far better than lab mice in predicting the toxicity of a variety of drugs. Ingber said these chips are so named because the first ones borrowed miniaturization techniques from the computer chip industry. He is also developing them for the lungs, intestines, lymph nodes and women's reproductive organs. They can also be modeled to represent infections and tumors — even rare diseases, he said. In 2014, he founded the biotech Emulate Inc. to scale up the technology. Ingber, founding director of Harvard's Wyss Institute, said he was ordered to stop work on several projects soon after the Trump administration escalated its attacks on the university for refusing to cede to the president's demands. He had grants from NASA and the Biomedical



Advanced Research and Development Authority to use the chips to study the health effects of radiation on organs. "We were making great progress" before the stop work orders came in, he said. Lena Smirnova, an assistant professor in engineering and public health at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, is using human cells configured into structures called organoids. Scientists start with stem cells — usually adult cells that are programmed to revert to an embryonic stage. The cells are prompted to develop into organs. "Even if it's not an entire organism, they will still better recapitulate certain aspects of human physiology than animals will do," Smirnova said. Her lab focuses on the development of brain organoids, which can be created from cells obtained from healthy individuals or those with autism, Alzheimer's disease, or other conditions. They can mimic not just brain cells but aspects of brain architecture. They're even figuring out how to simulate learning and memory by using electrical stimulation of the organoids and reading their EEG patterns. She's using the technology to answer questions about the effects of pesticides, flame retardants, lead and other heavy metals and environmental hazards on brain development. Kimmelman, the ethicist, said he thinks the broad agreement on the need to reduce animal testing is similar to the moral evolution that turned workplace sexual harassment from something that was mostly tolerated to unacceptable. As long as this evolution happens gradually and society commits to developing alternatives, the change could eventually improve the quality of science. However, research and development require funding, and now is the time for increased support for science, not less.

.....  
*Flam is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering science.*

# The Commercial Review



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HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus  
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Court declines gun case

By DAVID G. SAVAGE  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — A closely divided Supreme Court refused Monday to hear a 2nd Amendment challenge to the bans on semi-automatic rifles in Maryland, California and eight other blue states.

Gun rights advocates say these AR-15s are owned by millions of Americans, and they argue the 2nd Amendment protects weapons that are “in common use by law-abiding citizens.”

But they fell one vote short of winning a hearing on the question before the Supreme Court.

Three conservatives — Justices Clarence Thomas, Samuel A. Alito and Neil M. Gorsuch — voted to hear the 2nd Amendment challenge.

But Justice Brett M. Kavanaugh refused for now to cast the key fourth vote. He called the lower court ruling upholding Maryland’s ban “questionable,” but agreed with the majority in turning down the appeal for now.

“In my view, this court should and presumably will address the AR-15 issue soon, in the next Term or two,” Kavanaugh said.

The closely watched appeal had been pending since December, and the outcome suggests that the majority, including Chief Justice John G. Roberts, is not ready to strike down state laws that restrict semi-automatic guns.

Monday’s no-comment orders let stand laws in Maryland and Rhode Island that forbid the sale or possession of “assault weapons” and large-capacity magazines.

California adopted the nation’s first ban on assault weapons in 1989. Since then, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois, Massachusetts, New Jersey, New York and Washington have enacted similar laws, all of which would have been struck down if Maryland’s law were ruled unconstitutional.



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Barbara Davidson

Gunsmith, Frank Cobet, of the Get Loaded gun store in Chino, California, shows a customer an AR-15 rifle on Tuesday, Dec. 8, 2015. The FBI struggles to complete hundreds of gun background checks each year because of a deadline that requires it to purge them from its computers, according to data.

Lawmakers in California and nine other Democratic-led states say these rapid-fire weapons are especially dangerous and not needed for self-defense.

Maryland said its ban applies to “certain highly dangerous, military-style assault weapons of the sort used in a series of highly publicized mass shootings.”

The case tested the reach of the 2nd Amendment and its “right to keep and bear arms.”

For more than a decade, the justices have turned away gun-rights appeals that challenged local or state bans on assault weapons.

In 2008, the court ruled for the first time that the 2nd

Amendment protects an individual right to self-defense, but its constitutional rulings since then have been modest in their impact.

The justices struck down city ordinances in Washington and Chicago laws that prohibited private possession of handguns, and they ruled states may not deny law-abiding citizens a permit to carry a concealed weapon.

In opinion polls, most Americans are opposed to a ban on handgun possession but they support a ban on semi-automatic assault rifles.

Maryland passed its ban on “assault weapons” after the mass shooting at the Sandy Hook Elementary School in

2012, where 20 children and six school employees were killed.

The law was upheld last year in an opinion written by a prominent conservative judge.

Judge J. Harvie Wilkinson, a Reagan appointee who was a finalist for a Supreme Court nomination in 2005, said the AR-15, AK-47 and similar rapid-fire rifles are not protected by the 2nd Amendment.

“They are military-style weapons designed for sustained combat operations that are ill-suited and disproportionate to the need for self-defense,” he wrote in a 9-5 decision by the 4th Circuit Court of Appeals.

# Russia, Ukraine agree on swap

By HENRY MEYER  
and OLESIA SAFRONOVA  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Russia and Ukraine wrapped up a second round of talks in Istanbul that failed to bring the two sides closer to ending the war, but laid the groundwork for a new exchange of prisoners.

The Russian delegation handed over peace proposals that include Kyiv surrendering control of territory it still holds in four partially occupied regions, a Ukrainian official said.

Kyiv demanded an unconditional truce, said Ukrainian Defense Minister Rustem Umerov, the country’s chief negotiator. Russia in turn proposed a ceasefire for two-to-three days along certain parts of the front to allow the evacuation of war dead, the head of the Russian delegation, presidential aide Vladimir Medinsky, said. Moscow also presented a two-part memorandum with conditions for a permanent ceasefire and peace agreement, he said.

The two ex-Soviet neighbors agreed to prepare for a new exchange of all heavily wounded POWs, young soldiers under 25 years of age as well as 6,000 bodies. Ukraine also suggested another meeting later this month.

The latest direct peace talks in Istanbul lasted only about an hour and came a day after Kyiv staged one of its boldest aerial attacks inside Russia, destroying long-range bombers and other aircraft. The previous round in mid-May in the Turkish commercial capital ended after nearly two hours with no progress except for a prisoner swap. Monday’s meeting marks only the second time the two warring sides have held public negotiations since the early days of the conflict.

Prospects for peace remain distant despite months of high-profile efforts by U.S. President Donald Trump, who has grown increasingly frustrated with the lack of progress. Moscow has so far resisted a U.S. proposal for a 30-day ceasefire and has laid out maximalist demands to end its invasion, now in its fourth year. While Trump has threatened to impose more sanctions on Russia, he’s held off on taking that step.

The Russian demands stipulate neutral status for Ukraine, with a 30-day ceasefire starting from the moment Ukrainian forces withdraw from regions that Russia claims as its own, Interfax reported, citing the document.

# Levy ...

Continued from page 1

Diller noted a ballot issue being pursued right now that would eliminate all real estate taxes in the state of Ohio, which he pointed out would not be feasible without replacement revenue, referencing school and community budgets.

Diller suggested council not renew its other levies if it were to pursue an income tax levy. He said he’s looking into whether the village could repeal the other levies.

Answering a question from council member Luke Knapke, Diller said the village is the only community in its surrounding area at a 1% income tax, with other entities at 1.5% or higher.

Village council will need to make a decision next month and approve related legislation by August. Diller asked council if they would like him to look into more details about pursuing an income tax levy.

Council member Cliff Wendel said he felt like the village should at least learn more about it.

“I would say we’ve got to hear more, at least understand more about the whole situation, and how it impacts the Fort Recovery residents that we have,” he said.

“From my perspective, nobody here at the table probably wants to increase it, but the fact that everybody else is 1.5% or higher, or at least the majority ...

we have to seriously entertain it and do our due diligence on that,” Wendel added.

Diller said he would look into details for council to discuss in July.

Council also approved a \$499,201.71 bill from Tom’s Construction for Butler Street reconstruction work. Diller explained the project is mostly finished with the exception of traffic signals, which won’t arrive until early August. There are temporary stop signs set up at the intersection of Butler and Wayne streets in the interim.

Also Monday, council approved a \$406,103.85 bill from Caldwell Tanks for work completed on the second water tower in the vil-

lage. Diller pointed out the tower is nearly complete, with electrical and other final work to be completed before it goes into service by July.

In other business, council:

- Heard village representatives hosted a committee meeting prior to council’s meeting Monday to discuss potentially enacting Community Reinvestment Area tax exemptions. Diller shared plans to look into more information on the matter, which would require village council’s approval. According to Ohio Department of Development’s website, the Community Reinvestment Area program is “an economic development tool adminis-

tered by municipal and county government that provides real property tax exemptions for property owners who renovate existing or construct new buildings.”

- Approved its Mercer County Solid Waste five-year plan on a third reading.

- OK’d paying a \$4,851 bill from PMG Consulting for work completed on a water plant study. Diller noted final design work for the project should be ready by the end of the month.

- Were reminded Fort Recovery Harvest Jubilee is slated for June 13 through 15, starting with the Taste of Fort Recovery at 5 p.m. June 12 along Wayne Street.



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**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**The fine art of larceny**

North dealer.  
North-South vulnerable.

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

**WEST**  
♠ 10 9 8 6 3  
♥ 9 7 5 2  
♦ A  
♣ 8 5 4

**EAST**  
♠ Q 7 4 2  
♥ 10 6 4  
♦ K 10 8  
♣ 9 7 2

**SOUTH**  
♠ K 5  
♥ A J 8 3  
♦ J 9 7 4 2  
♣ J 6

The bidding:  
North East South West  
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♦ Pass  
4 NT Pass 5 ♦ Pass  
6 ♦

Opening lead — ten of spades.

There is an open cuse still on the books at the local constabulary pertaining to this deal where South stole six diamonds but did not appear to break any laws in the process. It was a remarkable accomplishment, considering that South was missing the A-K-10-8 of trump!

There is, however, a simple explanation. To begin with, South's partner in crime was a gentleman named North, who invariably overbid his values. Where most players saw only a partscore in a given hand, North would customarily bid

a game, and where most players saw only a game, North would often press on to a slam.

And that is exactly what happened in the present case after South responded one diamond to North's opening one-club bid. The next thing South knew, he was playing in six diamonds after North found out via Blackwood that South had an ace.

Having partnered North on a number of previous occasions, South was no stranger to this type of situation and had developed a keen instinct for survival that of necessity included a strong larcenous streak. So after West led the ten of spades and dummy came down, it did not take South long to realize that there was only one slim chance for the slam. Accordingly, he won the spade with dummy's ace and led the queen of diamonds!

Now put yourself in East's shoes, looking at only the North hand, and see if you don't sympathize with what he did. He covered the queen with the king, as many of us would have done under the circumstances, and after West won with the ace, it was a simple matter to subsequently overcome East's remaining 10-8 via a finesse.

Unfortunately, while South's ingenuity enabled him to chalk up a vulnerable slam, the outcome did nothing to dissuade North from continuing his overbidding ways.

**CRYPTOQUIP**

EFJW DTJIAJML'W IRDDH FYW  
YM JMBPQAJDIH EFRPRTL  
WQBTPJEH WHWEQC. JE'W Y  
NRTP-YIYPC NRHQP.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF ACTOR BENJAMIN WERE TO JOIN A GROUP OF SUPERHEROES, WHAT NAME MIGHT HE CHOOSE? BRATT-MAN.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals B

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

40 Mag. staff  
1 Broadway flop  
5 Unruly do  
8 Tibia's place  
12 Theater award  
13 Magic, on score-boards  
14 Surfer's concern  
15 Sundae topper  
17 Mellows  
18 Go to bed  
19 Greek vowels  
21 Gridiron scores (Abbr.)  
22 Narcis-sist's obsession  
23 "Quiet!"  
26 Salt Lake athlete  
28 Bizarre  
31 Lacking slack  
33 Tolkien beast  
35 507, to Caesar  
36 Of an arm bone  
38 — Paulo

**DOWN**

20 "Ben-Hur" author  
2 Reed Wallace  
23 Trio after R  
24 "2001" computer  
25 Pursues  
27 Triage ctrs.  
29 Free (of)  
30 Insult  
32 Final part  
34 Reliable income source  
37 Genetic letters  
39 "Hmm, I guess so"  
42 Campfire leftovers  
44 Impish  
45 Clone  
46 Green land  
48 Mouth-wash flavor, often  
49 Tolkien creatures  
50 Elitist  
53 French article

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

Yesterday's answer 6-4

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11  
12 13 14  
15 16 17  
18 19 20  
21 22  
23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30  
31 32 33 34 35  
36 37 38 39 40  
41 42 43 44  
45 46 47 48 49 50  
51 52 53  
54 55 56  
57 58 59

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Slinging strikes

Alex Gaerke of the second-seeded Fort Recovery High School baseball team starts to twist his torso as he fires off a pitch during Friday's 2-1 victory over Legacy Christian in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 3 District championship game at Houston.

Trolls ...

Continued from page 8  
And in Game 1 of this year's conference finals, Haliburton did that same choke taunt after his game-tying buzzer beater capped a 17-point fourth-quarter comeback and forced overtime at the Garden.

Haliburton, 25, averaged 21.0 points, 6.0 rebounds and 10.5 assists per game in the conference finals. He finished with 21 points and 13 assists in Game 6.

The New York-born Stiller, 59, attended Knicks games, home and away, throughout this year's playoff run.

During Game 4 in Indianapolis, ESPN and WWE commentator Pat McAfee attempted to rile up Pacers fans by calling out Stiller and other high-profile Knicks fans in attendance.

"We got some bigwigs from the big city in the building," McAfee, a former Indianapolis Colts punter, said on the in-game host's microphone in an untelevised address. "Spike Lee is here. Ben Stiller is here. Timothée Chalamet is here. Let's send these sons of b— back to New York with their ears ringing!"

Stiller initially called the moment "weird," while Rock & Roll Hall of Famer John Mellencamp — an Indiana native — said he was "embarrassed" to witness it.

The moment perpetuated the "Knicks vs. Hicks" rivalry that raged between the teams during the 1990s, with the phrase

Haliburton averaged 21 points and 10.5 assists per game in the Eastern Conference Finals

being immortalized by a New York Daily News back page headline.

Stiller then invited McAfee to Game 5 at the Garden. McAfee did not attend, saying he had a scheduling conflict and that he was "not paying \$70,000 for a ticket."

Miller, meanwhile, also needed Knicks fans after the Pacers' win on Saturday. Miller, who was part of TNT's broadcast team for the series, wore all black to Game 6.

"Dressed in all black like the OMEN!!" Miller wrote on Instagram. "Congratulations to my beloved @pacers for their 2nd trip to the @nba Finals. I also want to congratulate the @nyknicks for another hard fought series, have ZERO ill will towards [that] organization."

"BUUUTTTTT, to all the fake a— NY fans and celebrities not named @officialspikelee and @tracymorgan, enjoy your nice Summer Cancun vacation."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

**Friday**  
Fort Recovery — Track state prelims at Jesse Owen's Memorial Stadium — 10 a.m.

**Saturday**  
Fort Recovery — Track state finals at Jesse Owen's Memorial Stadium — 9:30 a.m.

TV schedule

**Today**  
6 a.m. — French Open tennis (TruTV)  
7:45 a.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)

12:40 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)  
3 p.m. — UEFA Nations League: Germany at Portugal (FS1)  
7 p.m. — Major League Rugby: Houston SaberCats at Chicago Hounds (ESPN2)  
7:45 p.m. — MLB: Kansas City Royals at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)  
8 p.m. — NHL Stanley Cup: Florida Panthers at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)  
8 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament (ESPN)

**Thursday**  
6 a.m. — French Open tennis (TruTV)

3 p.m. — UEFA Nations League soccer: Spain at France (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: New York Liberty at Washington Mystics (FOX)  
7:45 p.m. — MLB: Kansas City Royals at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)  
8 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament (ESPN)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA Finals: Indiana Pacers at Oklahoma City Thunder (ABC)

Local notes

**Challenge continues**  
The Adams County Challenge continues with a pair of races in June.

The first will be held on June 7, as the Youth for Christ 5K starts at the Ceylon Covered Bridge outside of Geneva at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$20.

The Fitness Delivered Charity 5K and Fun Run will be held on June 21 at 8:30 a.m. The race will begin at Fitness Delivered located at 141 N. First St. in Decatur. Registration will cost \$20 and includes a t-shirt if done by June 1. The Fun Run is free for anyone 12 and younger.

Registration forms for both races can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

**Registration open**  
Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.

There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.

The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Bellmont High School and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.

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

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90 SALE CALENDAR

Shop Mate. Large Chicken Feeder. Several Items Not Mentioned.  
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**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
SATURDAY JUNE 7TH, 2025

TIME 10:00 A.M.  
LOCATED: 127 Rayburn Dr, Portland IN.  
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Real Estate sells at 10:00 AM.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

State of Indiana  
County of Jay  
IN The Jay Circuit Court  
Case No. 38C01-2505-MI-11  
In RE the name change of minor:  
Ashton Castillo,  
Name of Minor  
Tiana Gaucin, Petitioner  
**NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME**  
Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Tiana Gaucin, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on May 2, 2025 to change the name of Ashton Brandon Castillo to Ashton Brandon Gaucin.  
The Petition is schedule for hearing in the Circuit Court on June 26, 2025 at 8:30 am, which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date.  
May 5, 2025  
Melissa Elliott, Clerk  
CR 5-21,28,6-4, 2025-HISPAKLP





The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Back in safely

Fort Recovery High School's Keegan Muhlenkamp dives back to first base while Legacy Christian's Nathan Whitt receives a pickoff attempt at Houston High School on Friday. The Indians beat the Knights 2-1 in nine innings on a walk-off double smashed by Colson Post.

## Colts offensive tackle reflects on time as Senate intern

**By JUSTIN PAPP**  
CQ-Roll Call  
Tribune News Service

Interning in the Senate is not very much like playing professional football, but Jalen Travis has found some overlap.

"Grinders win. That's something I learned on the field first and something that was reinforced during my time on the Hill," Travis said recently, looking back on his brief stint at the Capitol. He was there only 10 weeks, but he settled into a routine.

Every morning was about football. While most of Washington slept, he'd wake up before dawn and either take a bus from his downtown apartment to the YMCA off 14th Street Northwest, or he'd get in a workout at nearby Gonzaga College High School. By 7 a.m. he was shifting into intern mode, heading to the Hill to work for Sen. Amy Klobuchar, D-Minn.

*'You have a group of guys that inevitably won't agree on a handful of things. But I have to trust them and they have to trust me when it comes to Saturday or Sunday to get the job done. It's definitely something I think broader society would benefit from.'*

— Jalen Travis, Colts OT

"I knew that August wasn't coming any slower and I had to be ready for fall camp. I was willing to do whatever it took so I could have the best of both worlds," Travis said.

Now that work ethic, paired with "God-given" ability and a nearly 6-foot-8-inch, 340-pound frame, has landed him a spot in the NFL. After his college years at Princeton and then Iowa State University, the offensive tackle was selected by the Indianapolis

Colts last month in the fourth round of the draft.

"Everybody gets the same 24 hours, and those who are willing to put in the work typically find the most success," he said.

Part of his job as an intern three summers ago was greeting guests and shepherding them to Klobuchar's office. "Even the guests were like, 'You are abnormally large for an intern,'" Travis said. "I stuck out like a sore thumb. But I worked to

embrace it."

Other athletes would notice him, Travis said. Once in the Senate subway, he ran into Sen. Cory Booker, D-N.J., a former tight end at Stanford University, who immediately dropped into a three-point stance.

For Travis, who plans to go to law school when his playing days are over, interning was a chance to serve the public and "the privilege of a lifetime," even if his boss wasn't a Princeton alum herself. "She's from that school in New Haven that we don't like to talk about too much," Travis said, though he didn't hold Klobuchar's Yale pedigree against her. A fellow Minnesotan, he grew up in Minneapolis, where he served as student body co-president of DeLaSalle High School.

He recalls interns in Klobuchar's office linking up with a cohort who worked for

Sen. Rand Paul, R-Ky., for informal Friday afternoon debates on topics ranging from gun rights to abortion.

"It was an environment where iron sharpens iron. I walked out of that summer feeling more confident, but also more confused in my beliefs as well," Travis said. "There's not anywhere on Earth, or at least in this country, where there's that high of a concentration of people who are interested in the same things you are, but for completely different reasons."

Asked how that compares to the locker room, Travis said things come up. "You have a group of guys that inevitably won't agree on a handful of things. But I have to trust them and they have to trust me when it comes to Saturday or Sunday to get the job done," Travis said. "It's definitely something I think broader society would benefit from."

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## Haliburton trolls Ben Stiller after beating New York

**By PETER SBLENDORIO**  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

Tyrese Haliburton didn't skip another chance to troll Knicks fans.

After his Indiana Pacers eliminated the Knicks in the Eastern Conference finals, Haliburton took aim at actor and Knicks superfan Ben Stiller.

Stiller had commented on a video showing Haliburton's arrival for Game 6, writing on social media, "Good thing he brought his duffel for the flight to NY."

Had the Knicks won on Saturday night, the series would have shifted back to Madison Square Garden for Game 7.

But the Pacers won, 125-108, at Gainbridge Fieldhouse in Indianapolis, setting up a response from Haliburton, who wrote to Stiller that he brought the duffel bag "to pack y'all up."

The Pacers will face the Oklahoma City Thunder in the NBA Finals, with the series set to begin Thursday night.

"Congrats," Stiller wrote back to Haliburton. "All the best in OKC."

The brief back-and-forth marked the latest instance of Haliburton taunting the Knicks.

After Indiana eliminated the Knicks in the second round last year, Haliburton wore a hoodie with an image of Reggie Miller making his infamous "choke" sign to Spike Lee during the 1994 Eastern Conference finals.

See Trolls page 7