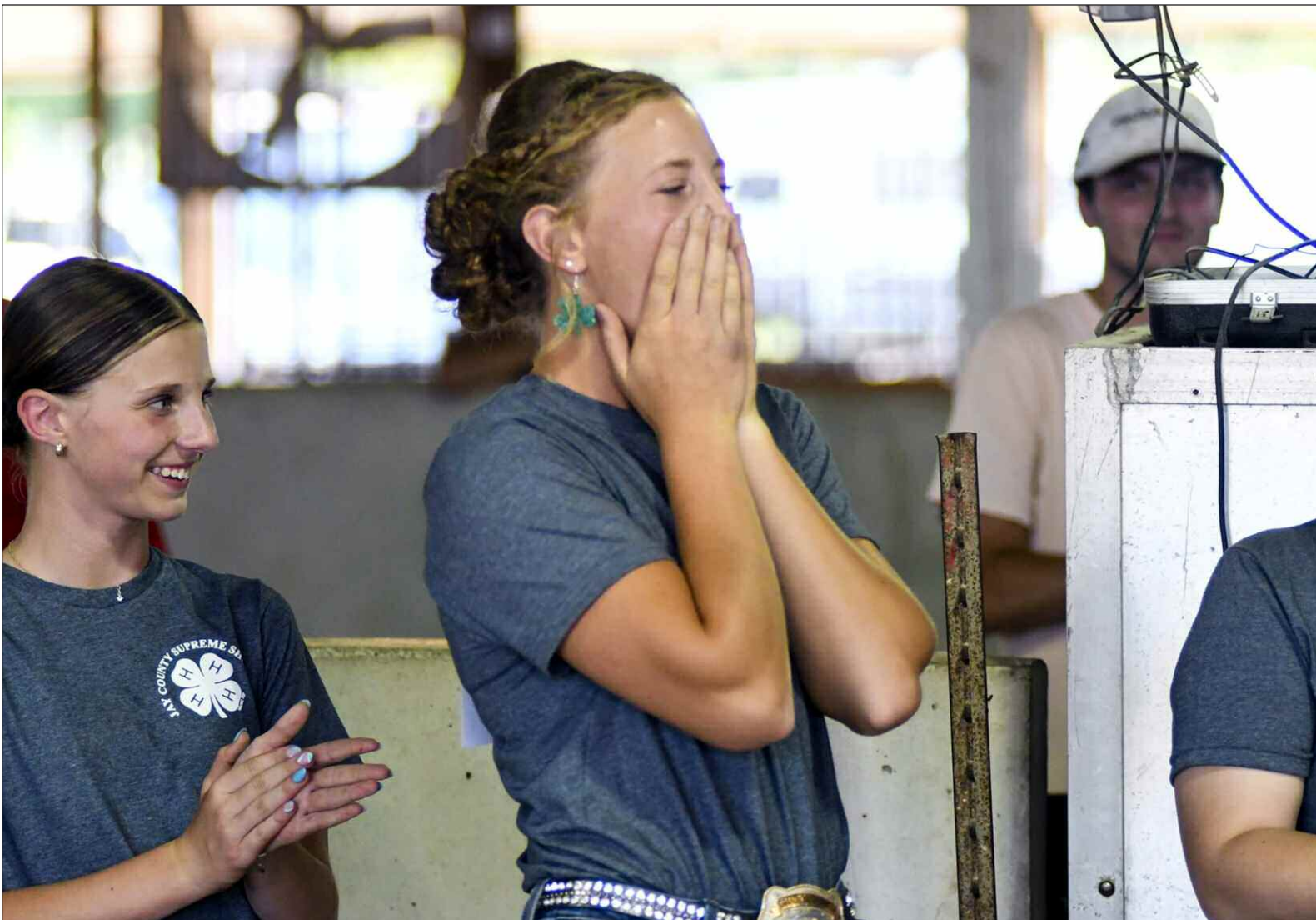


2025 Jay County Fair



Maria Hemmelgarn reacts early Wednesday evening after she was announced as the winner of the Jay County 4-H large animal supreme showmanship competition. The nine-year 4-H member represented dairy beef, advancing to the supreme showmanship competition for the first time.

Smooth victory

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

Calm.  
Consistent.  
Confident.  
No matter the species, no matter the animal's temperament, Maria Hemmelgarn kept those qualities in mind.  
They were key to winning her the trophy.  
Hemmelgarn, a nine-year 4-H member, captured the Jay County 4-H large animal supreme showmanship trophy during Wednesday's competition at the Jay County Fair.

Hemmelgarn stays calm en route to competition win

Her jaw dropped after her name was called.  
"I've always wanted to be in this competition just because my sisters have been in it," Hemmelgarn said. "They've never won though, so I was like, 'I need to win this. I need to do the best I can.'  
"So just hearing my name called was just that overwhelming feeling of, 'I did it.'"

Hemmelgarn, who represented dairy beef, earned the trophy on her first try.  
The supreme showmanship competition pits the advanced showmanship winners from each species against each other. They must show each of the species except the one from which they advanced. The animals to be shown are distributed via a blind draw.  
Often, that leads to challenges.  
Competitors will run into a rambunctious animal.  
See Smooth page 5

Seven honored in Cincinnatus ceremony

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A lifetime of service to the community doesn't go unrecognized.  
Cincinnatus League of Jay County inducted seven individuals into its Hall of Fame Wednesday at the Jay County Fair.  
This year's group included Kathy and Rock Fuqua, Bill Hinkle, Ron Laux, Becky Matchett, Kip Robinette and Jane Ann Spencer.  
"The reason we're here today is to honor these nominees, who have given up themselves throughout their lifetimes to provide service for our community, and so we'd like to thank them, and honor them, and recognize them," said Cincinnatus League of Jay County president Drew Houck.  
Cincinnatus League's Jay County Hall of Fame honors those 65 or older who have made a significant impact volunteering in the local community.  
Rock Fuqua, who was a member of the first



Becky Matchett grins after teasing her husband amid speaking about her community efforts Wednesday during the Jay County Hall of Fame ceremony at the Farmer's Building. She was one of seven honorees to be recognized during the event at the Jay County Fair.

class to graduate from Jay County High School, earned a bachelor's degree from Ball State University. He and wife Kathy owned and operated Fuqua Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram in Dunkirk for 47 years. The Fuquas have purchased and renovated various downtown Dunkirk buildings with a goal of finding entrepreneurs to fill the space.  
The Fuquas are the first couple to be inducted

ed into the Hall of Fame together, noted Houck.  
Rock Fuqua talked about how he and others in the community started Dunkirk Investment Group (DIG) in 2008 with a goal of fixing up buildings. After it disbanded, the Fuquas took on the project themselves.  
"It just became an obsession," he said. "We've done a bunch of buildings, but the thing we enjoy the most is to get new, young entrepreneurs into town and see them live the American dream, you know, of being in business and just making it in this world."  
"It's just, all these old buildings, especially in our small towns, communities, need some lovin', and I think that's what Rock and I wanted to do, is bring life to these buildings, and bring ... people into a business where they can thrive and maybe their dreams can come true," added Kathy Fuqua.  
See Honored page 2

State issues new RFPs

Secretary of State has faced scrutiny

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com  
Following months of scrutiny over millions in no-bid contracts, the Indiana Secretary of State's Office has quietly started issuing formal requests for proposals (RFPs).  
The move also comes on the heels of a new law adopted by the General Assembly earlier this year to increase transparency requirements around state contracting.  
As of July, nearly a dozen RFPs were listed on the Secretary of State's (SOS) "contracting opportunities" webpage. They include requests for vendors to handle call center services, maintain and modernize cloud-hosted software platforms, and redesign division websites.  
Most of the RFPs were posted in late May with submission deadlines in early to mid-July.  
One RFP calls for a third-party call center to manage tens of thousands of calls annually across the agency's Business Services and Auto Dealer Services divisions, including responding to 6,500 to 11,000 monthly customer calls; escalating complex cases; and storing call recordings that include sensitive personal data. The vendor would be expected to meet daily performance benchmarks and provide regular reporting to the state, according to the RFP.  
Multiple proposals also seek vendors to maintain and upgrade "critical" software systems that run key parts of the office's work — ranging from business filings and notary applications to securities oversight.

The office is requesting applications from firms with experience in cloud-based architecture, cybersecurity, workflow automation and artificial intelligence to help reengineer its existing tools and build new ones with an emphasis on performance and user accessibility.  
Another RFP asks for help creating content for a redesigned INBiz portal, while others seek outside firms to evaluate and strengthen the office's IT security protocols; develop website infrastructure; manage project compliance; and monitor contract execution.  
The new listings follow reporting by the Indiana Capital Chronicle in December that revealed Secretary of State Diego Morales had awarded more than \$3.3 million in contracts without a competitive bidding process. Some of those contracts went to politically connected vendors who gave tens of thousands of dollars to Morales' reelection campaign.  
See RFPs page 2

**Weather**

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Wednesday. The low was 62.  
Today's forecast calls for a high in the lower 90s. The low will be in the lower 70s.  
Highs will be in the lower 90s Sunday and upper 80s Monday.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

**In review**

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon today in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamonina Fire Station.

**At the fair**

**Today**  
Noon — Hot dog eating contest in the Farmer's Building  
1:30 p.m. — Jay County High School show choirs in the Farmer's Building  
4 p.m. — A Touch of Mexico in the Farmer's Building  
6 p.m. — Demolition derby at the grandstand






**Coming up**

**Tuesday** — Coverage of Fort Recovery Village Council's Independence Day meeting.  
**Wednesday** — Coverage of next week's Portland City Council meeting.  
**Thursday** — Results from the Portland Rockets' game against the Fort Wayne Jackers.





CR almanac

Sunday 7/6	Monday 7/7	Tuesday 7/8	Wednesday 7/9	Thursday 7/10
				
<b>91/70</b> Mostly sunny on Sunday, with highs in the lower 90s. Slight chance of rain.	<b>86/66</b> Monday's weather looks like mostly sunny skies with the possibility of showers.	<b>87/68</b> Mostly sunny on Tuesday when there's a slight chance of rain.	<b>86/66</b> Wednesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a chance of thunderstorms.	<b>84/66</b> Thursday has a 50% chance of thunderstorms throughout the day.

Lotteries

<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 6-5-8 Daily Four: 2-6-9-1 Quick Draw: 1-7-12-18-21-27-38-41-44-48-49-59-65-68-71-72-76-77-79-80	Pick 3: 6-3-4 Pick 4: 4-2-7-5 Pick 5: 4-0-6-3-8
<b>Ohio</b> Midday	<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$190 million  <b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.68 Aug. corn .....4.80 Sept. corn .....4.75	Aug. beans.....10.13 Wheat .....5.27
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.66 Oct./Nov. corn .....4.24 Dec. corn .....4.36	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.48 Aug. corn .....4.46 Beans .....10.43 Aug. beans.....10.33 Wheat .....4.26
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.55 Aug. corn .....4.02 Beans .....10.55	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.60 Aug. corn .....4.60 Beans .....10.33 Aug. beans.....9.93 Wheat .....5.05

Today in history

In 1810, P.T. Barnum, who entered into a partnership with circus manager James Bailey in 1880 after developing a traveling show featuring circus acts, animals, exhibits and novelties over the previous decade, was born in Bethel, Connecticut.

In 1852, abolitionist Frederick Douglass delivered his speech, “What to the Slave Is the Fourth of July?” at the Ladies’ Anti-Slavery Society in Rochester.

In 1935, Franklin D. Roosevelt signed the United States National Labor Relations Act, with the legislation to go into effect the next day.

In 1937, Joe Dimaggio of the New York Yankees hit his 20th home run of the season and first career grand slam, leading to an 8-4 win against the Boston Red Sox.

In 1946, French engineer Louis Réard debuted his design for the first bikini in Paris.

In 1950, Israel’s Law of Return passed, allowing Jews to immigrate to Israel and immediately receive citizenship.

In 1954, the BBC broadcasted its first television news bulletin.

In 1971, the 26th Amendment to the U.S.

Constitution was certified. It granted voting rights to citizens 18 and older.

In 1989, the first episode of “Seinfeld” aired on NBC. The show became a hallmark of American pop culture at the time.

In 1996, scientists successfully cloned a mammal for the first time when female Finn Dorset sheep Dolly was born near Edinburgh, Scotland.

In 2005, Portland City Council approved a loan of \$200,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT) funds to rural Portland residents Glynn and Julie Barber for work related to XPLEX Extreme Competition Park. The facility hosted a handful of events but was closed in 2006 and never reopened.

In 2009, Swiss tennis player Roger Federer won the 15th Grand Slam singles title against Andy Roddick in the Wimbledon Championships. Federer’s victory set a new record in the event.

In 2016, Portland City Council approved adding a ninth full-time firefighter to the city’s fire department.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

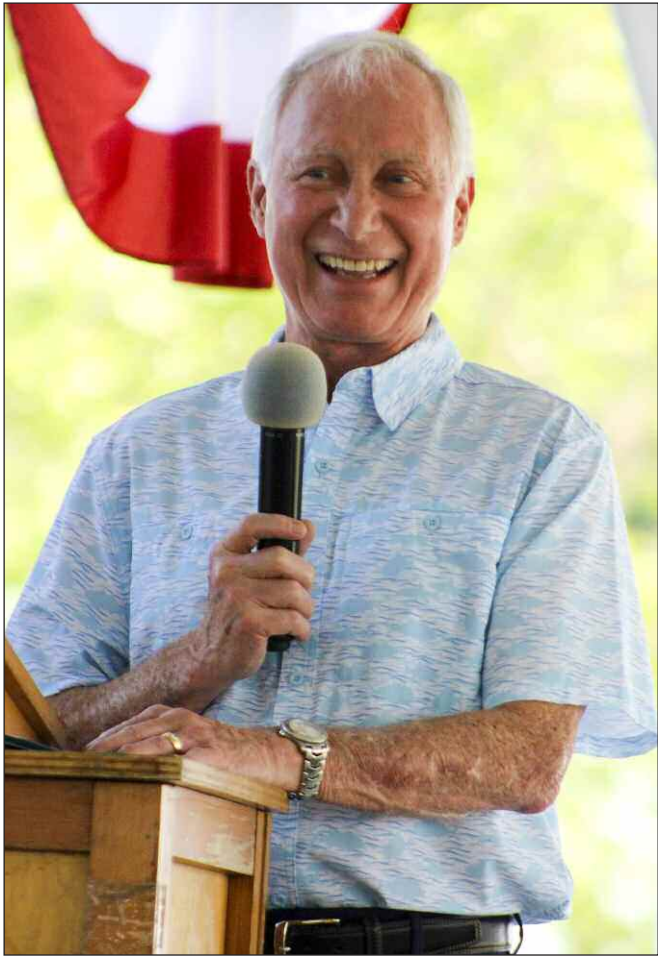
<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	<b>July 14</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library, community room, public library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.
<b>Tuesday</b> 6 p.m. — Ridgeville Town Council, fire department, 302 N. Walnut St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.	
<b>Wednesday</b> 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	

2025 Jay County Fair Honored ...

Continued from page 1

Hinkle, a 1964 Portland High School graduate, received a bachelor’s degree in history and his law degree from Indiana University before returning to practice law with his father in Jay County. A veteran of the United States Air Force, he served at Andrews Air Force Base from 1971 to 1972. He’s been involved in various community organizations over the years, having served in leadership roles for several groups, including Jay County United Way, Jay Community Center (then known as Jay County Boys Club), The Portland Foundation, Jay County Hospital and Jay County Public Library.

He talked about his time on the library’s board of trustees in the 1990s, recalling the former Carnegie Library and work that went into constructing the current building on Ship Street in Portland.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Bill Hinkle laughs Wednesday during the Jay County Hall of Fame ceremony. A longtime attorney in Jay County, Hinkle also served on Jay County Public Library and Jay County Hospital boards.

Hinkle also discussed his involvement with the hospital as it transitioned to IU Health Jay in 2017.

“You’ll find we have a very high quality facility that provides a lot of services to the community,” he said.

Spencer, a lifelong Jay County resident, has written eight history books, including “When There Were Eight,” a book about the eight former high schools in Jay County. She has co-authored the monthly Jay County Journal for the last 20 years. Known by some in the community as “Mrs. History,” according to Houck, her dedication to historical preservation includes her work with Jay County Historical Society and Indiana State Historical Society, as well as her time teaching fourth and fifth grade at Jay schools.

“They didn’t have a book on Jay County history,” she recalled of her time in education, explaining how

she and fourth grade teacher Jan Arnold wrote a local history book and orchestrated an elementary history tour.

She retired from teaching after 18 years to assist her husband, Don Spencer, at Williamson-Spencer Funeral Home.

Spencer is currently working on securing a historical marker for Jay County, pointing out Jay is the only county in Indiana without one.

Matchett moved to Indiana in 1954 with her parents and attended Trinity Parochial School. She became a licensed hairdresser in 1966 and later opened her shop, Beck’s Hair’em. She retired after

47 years in the business. Matchett served on the Planned Parenthood Board. She actively supported the Jay County 4-H auction. After her battle with cancer nearly 10 years ago, Matchett joined Jay County Cancer Society as a board member and volunteer. She recalled her experience as a cancer patient seeking help from the local organization and encouraged participation.

“We work very hard to be able to be able to give money to patients,” she said. “Please don’t be too proud or feel like you don’t deserve (it), that’s why we work so hard, so we have the money to give to cancer patients.”

Laux retired from Jay County REMC after 36 years. His workplace led him to dedicate his time to local service.

“That became my life,” he said. “That’s how I became so involved in community, different community boards, because my workplace encouraged strong community involvement. Because what did REMC do? Serve the entire community.”

He has served as a Jay School Board member and currently serves as its president. He’s also been involved in the Portland Area Chamber of Commerce, Jay County Leadership Academy Board, The Portland Foundation, Jay County Development Corporation and the Portland Christmas decorating committee.

Robinette, a Pennville High School graduate, earned his bachelor’s degree in education from Ball State University. A United States Army and National Guard veteran, he served as Jay County Sheriff for eight years. Robinette described one of his major accomplishments to be implementing Jay County’s new 911 address system. He’s also been involved in Pennville and Portland Lions Clubs, Pennville Fire Department and Youth Service Bureau. He is also a former Portland City Council member. Robinette is currently serving as financial officer and honor guard member of Portland American Legion Post 211.

Cincinnatus League has recognized 196 senior citizens with the Hall of Fame award since 1993.

Houck noted the group started with the intent to give opportunities to men and women to serve. Its noon meetings also gave an alternative to other clubs that met in the evenings.

“We’re still delighted to be serving the community,” he said.

RFPs ...

Continued from page 1

Morales and his office have defended those arrangements, previously telling the Capital Chronicle that the agency “opted to pursue vendors with strong track records, and commercially competitive proposals in lieu of public bidding.”

The new listings follow reporting by the Indiana Capital Chronicle in December that revealed Secretary of State Diego Morales had awarded more than \$3.3 million in contracts without a competitive bidding process. Some of those contracts went to politically connected vendors who gave tens of thousands of dollars to Morales’ reelection campaign.

Morales and his office have defended those arrangements, previously telling the Capital Chronicle that the agency “opted to pursue vendors with strong track records, and commercially competitive proposals in lieu of public bidding.”

Following passage of Senate Enrolled Act 5 —

a new law that bans non-public, no-bid state contracts and increases oversight of agency spending — the secretary of state said the agency is overhauling its internal processes to ensure compliance.

The bulk of the agency’s latest funding request, nearly \$8.2 million, is earmarked for technology and security improvements.

**SERVICES**

Monday

**King, Delores:** 2 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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# Celebrate community heroes Thursday

Superheroes are closer than you may think. Jay County Public Library will celebrate community heroes from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday.

The program will give families a chance to meet local first responders and see their vehicles. Those attending include representatives of Museum of the Soldier, Portland Police Department and Portland Fire Department, as well as local health providers, in the library's parking lot. Jay County Farm Bureau will also provide a Taste of Jay County experience in the Community Room, celebrating local farming

heroes and giving the opportunity to test foods produced in Jay County.

Also, families may enjoy an outdoor superhero training camp with themed games and activities and visit a petting zoo.

Other activities slated for this month at the library include:

•Interactive "Stranger Things" scavenger hunt experience starting at 5 p.m. Monday. Participants will navigate through a "Stranger Things" scavenger hunt and escape room with elements of Dungeons and Dragons also mixed in. Registration is required for the

event, which is available to folks at least 13 years old. Time slots are limited.

•Enchanted book gardens from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. or 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. July 15. The event, intended for third graders and older, will offer resources to turn a book into a miniature

magical habitat similar to a fairy garden. Registration is required.

•End of the summer "Bluey" party from 5 to 7 p.m. July 17. Come celebrate all things Bluey at the library with themed activities and snacks. Bluey will also be available for pictures.

# Widow ready for a second chance at love

DEAR ABBY: In a few days, the second anniversary of my husband's death will be here. We were together for 40 years. They weren't easy years; he had many issues, both physical and mental. I was isolated because I didn't want others to know the extent of what I lived with every day. I cared deeply for him, and as his wife, it was for better or worse.

It has been hard, but I felt I was coping pretty well. I'm 63, and I thought my life was over. Now, I don't know what my body is doing, but I am experiencing intense feelings that I thought were long dead. Taking care of my husband for so many years, I let myself (my weight and appearance) go. But now I'm eating healthy, I have lost a few pounds and I am trying to work on my appearance. I don't understand why my body at this age has decided to come back to life.

I live in a rural area, and I have no idea how to go about meeting

Dear Abby



any older men. I spent a lot of lonely years I thought had killed all hope and love, but suddenly I realize that isn't true. I am so mixed up. I tell myself I'm being silly, but my body won't listen. I hope you don't think I'm nuts because this is a real problem. Thank you for any advice. — REAWAKENED IN OKLAHOMA

**DEAR REAWAKENED: You have been through a difficult time. Being a full-time caregiver is wearing as well as stressful. After those years caring for your sick husband, it isn't surprising you forgot to**

**take care of yourself. Well, that burden is now lifted, and you have a lot of life ahead of you. The good news is that for someone who takes care of herself — who exercises regularly and eats healthfully — your life is filled with possibilities and far from over. This is what your body is trying to tell you. Start exploring activities that enable you to meet people and make new friends. If you do, you may very well meet someone and couple up again.**

.....

DEAR ABBY: I owe nearly \$200,000 in student loans for my graduate school education. I'm a middle-aged female who has health issues. My income is marginal, as is my career. I had hoped years ago to be earning a six-figure income, own a home, have a family and enjoy some stability by this point. Obviously, that hasn't panned out, nor do I consider my situation likely to change.

I am single, educated and still poor. I slave more than 40 hours a week for no benefits, no long-term stability, no home and only marginal survival. How should I explain all this if I did start to date someone? When should I mention my indebtedness to any prospect before watching him flee to the nearest exit? — MONEY WOES IN THE EAST

**DEAR MONEY WOES: If you should be lucky enough to meet someone you think is special, the first words out of your mouth should NOT have anything to do with your bank balance. Get to know the person. Let him get to know you before divulging anything about your financial situation. At this point, many people of both sexes are worried about their financial futures. You are far from alone having these concerns.**

.....

DEAR ABBY: I have a male

friend (attorney) who is married to a dermatologist. Nearly every time this friend interacts with a medical provider, he is dissatisfied and feels he is being ripped off. He attests that doctors order unnecessary tests and deliberately overcharge. He does this vociferously and repeatedly.

I'm a retired medical professional and consumer of health services myself, so I am certainly aware that many parts of our health care system are a mess. I do not know how to stop his rants. I try to change the subject, but nearly every conversation is the same. — TIRED OF LISTENING

**DEAR TIRED: You are not a hostage. The next time this friend raises the subject, tell him you have heard his complaints, there is nothing you can do about them, you would prefer to discuss something positive when you're together and CHANGE THE SUBJECT.**

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

**Today**

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

**ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

**MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER** — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is [museumofthesoldier.com](http://museumofthesoldier.com).

**Sunday**

**A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland.

Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

**Monday**

**PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS** — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

**PING PONG** — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

**CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP** — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

**EUCHRE** — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

**TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS)** — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

**PREGNANCY CARE CENTER** — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more informa-

tion or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

**BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL** — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.

**NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

**Tuesday**

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

**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.

the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

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

**JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE** — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

**PORTLAND EAGLES** — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian St., Portland.

**AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP** — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

**A BETTER LIFE – 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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

8	5	1	3	4	2	7	6	9
3	9	2	1	7	6	8	5	4
4	7	6	8	5	9	3	2	1
1	8	5	7	9	4	2	3	6
9	6	7	2	3	8	4	1	5
2	3	4	5	6	1	9	8	7
6	2	8	9	1	7	5	4	3
5	4	9	6	8	3	1	7	2
7	1	3	4	2	5	6	9	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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# Our religious freedoms are fragile

Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

As Christianity declines in the West, the faith is flourishing in sub-Saharan Africa, which is seeing the fastest growth in Christianity the world over. By 2060, more than 4 in 10 Christians worldwide are expected to live in sub-Saharan Africa, compared with just 1 in 10 in 1970, according to Pew Research.

But this growth is coming at a cost. Unlike their counterparts in the U.S., African Christians increasingly risk violent death for their beliefs.

Nigeria, home to one of Africa's largest and fastest-growing Christian populations, has also become one of the world's deadliest places to practice the faith. On June 13, about 200 Christians were massacred by a group of jihadists in Yelwata, a

## Guest Editorial

town located in Benue State, which is almost entirely Christian. Most of the victims were internally displaced people sheltering at a nearby Catholic mission, many of them women and children.

This tragically is not unusual in Nigeria. During Holy Week, more than 150 Christians were killed in targeted attacks across central Nigeria. Some watchdog groups estimate that more than 50,000 Nigerian Christians have been killed by Islamist extremists since 2009. The State Depart-

ment reports that fatal attacks in Nigeria are ongoing.

Moreover, in this violent region, the atrocities aren't limited to Christians. Innocents of all faiths fall victim to militants, including members of the Muslim faith, which is also growing rapidly in sub-Saharan Africa. Some reports estimate that tens of thousands of moderate Muslims also have been killed by extremists in Nigeria, reflecting the broader toll of militant violence.

Bishop Wilfred Chikpa Anagbe, a Catholic leader in Benue State where the atrocities occurred, testified in March before the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, pleading with officials to take notice of what's happening. He described his home as "one of the most dangerous and insecure places for Christians," and his

testimony came months before the June 13 attack. He noted that villagers sometimes are warned in advance of attacks and that even if they contact police for protection, no help comes and the slaughters happen anyway.

"Constitutionally, we are a secular country, but our unity has been fragile," he said. "We live in fear because at any point, it can be our turn to be killed. But to remain silent is to die twice, so I have chosen to speak."

Pope Leo offered a timely prayer for Nigeria during a June 15 address in St. Peter's Square. "I pray that security, justice and peace prevail in Nigeria, a beloved country that has suffered various forms of violence," he said.

We do not know the sort of fear of which Bishop Anagbe spoke because we live in a country that

believes in the right to religious freedom.

It's why we find alleged hate crimes such as the May slaying of a young Jewish couple, Yaron Lischinsky and Sarah Milgrim, in Washington, D.C., so devastating. We feel as if we are shielded from the sectarian violence that afflicts other parts of the globe by virtue simply of being American and when hate-based violence occurs here, that confidence is undermined.

The First Amendment protects all our religious freedoms, hardly limited to the three great Abrahamic religions, but it doesn't guarantee them. We write this not only to spotlight the horrors others face for expressing their faith, but to remind ourselves that America's religious liberty is rare, fragile and worth protecting.

# It's clear that we must regulate AI

By SONALI KOLHATKAR

Other Words

Everywhere we look, AI is treated like an inevitability.

AI companies like ChatGPT and Open AI are expanding rapidly, and many Americans rely on AI assistants such as Alexa and Siri in their day-to-day lives. For some college students, not relying on AI can feel like a disadvantage.

Critics might be soothed by the idea that AI can be put to good use — such as in data modeling to better predict our changing climate, an idea that's generated a lot of enthusiasm. But using AI to tackle climate change is like bombing a country in the name of peace.

AI is a driver of climate change, not a solution. According to the United Nations Environment Program, rapidly proliferating AI data centers "use massive amounts of electricity, spurring the emission of planet-warming greenhouse gases," as well as consuming enormous quantities of water and minerals.

ChatGPT is hardly worth the climate impact. One analyst, Sophie McLean, writing for Earth.org, explains, "For a simple conversation of 20-50 questions [to Chat GPT], the water consumed is equivalent to a 500ml bottle." Spread across "billions of users," that's a "substantial" footprint.

AI is spreading so fast, we've hardly had an opportunity to consider its impact. Even the world's most popular search engine, Google, started using AI by default. Each time you do a simple search, Google uses generative AI to offer an "AI overview" before listing its results.

AI services like ChatGPT gobble up and regurgitate the work of humans. If plagiarism weren't bad enough, they're notorious for generating misinformation in fields such as medicine and computer programming.

Even for simple queries like searching for citations, AI programs often make up references that don't exist. Experts are worried the technology's propensity to "hallucinate" is so severe, it will never achieve high levels of accuracy.

Setting aside the prospect of massive job losses from AI and the troubling realization that AI models lie and proliferate misinformation, do we

Sonali Kolhatkar



really want to push our climate to the brink because of a technology that offers convenience? AI is a technology foisted upon a society that doesn't need it, and that faces very real harm because of it.

What's needed at minimum is strict regulation, not only to protect information and jobs, but also people and the planet.

But as soon as he took office, President Donald Trump began dismantling the few, very modest government checks on AI. And the GOP's so-called "Big Beautiful Bill" included, alongside massive tax breaks for the wealthiest Americans, a ban on states being able to regulate AI. (That provision was scrapped, but it may well return in another form.)

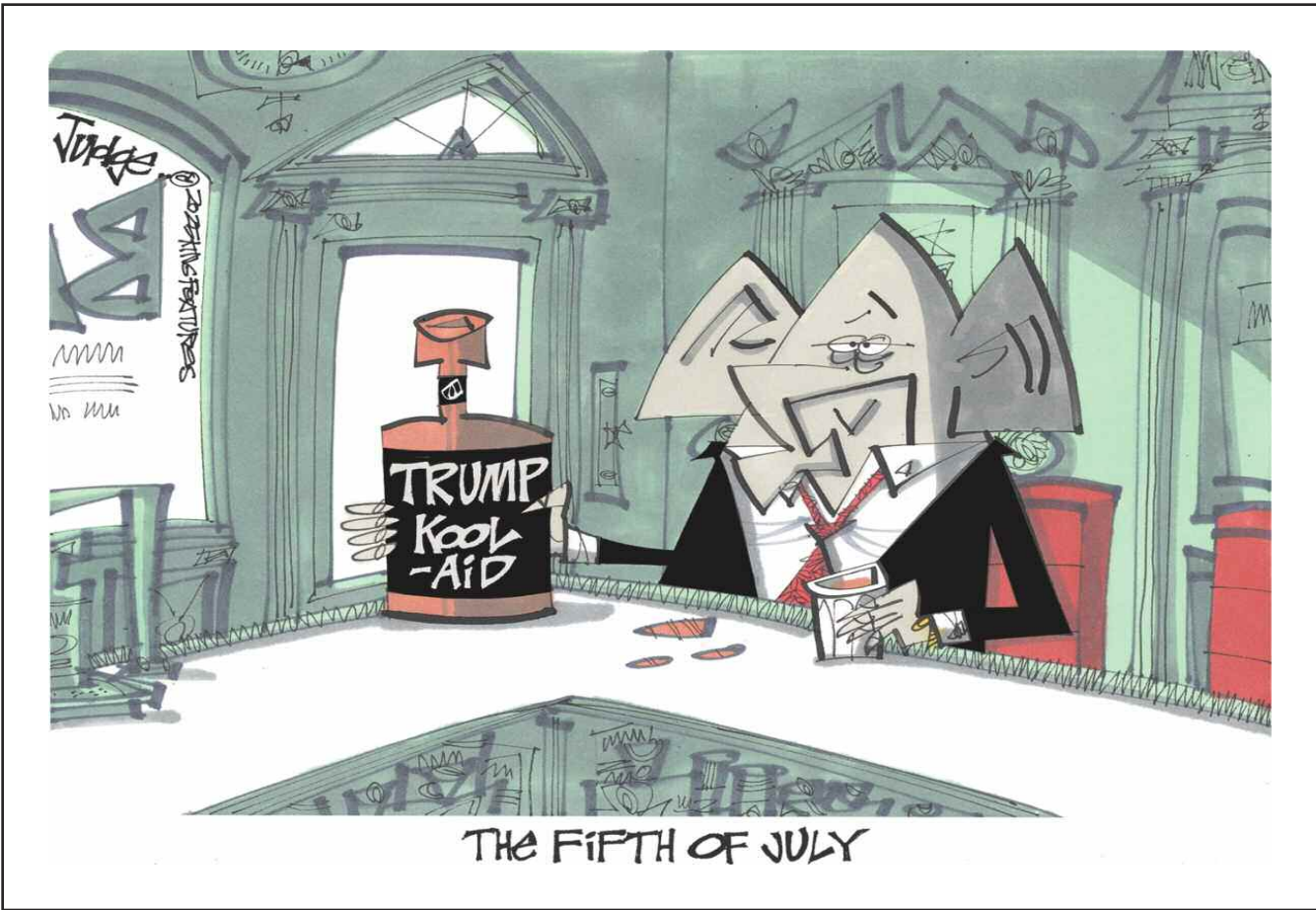
We need to demand better. Technology analysts Paul Scharre and Vivek Chilkuri argue for "a principles-based approach to regulation, instead of fixed technical standards that could be outdated before the ink dries." They suggest an independent agency dedicated to this powerful technology.

In the meantime, we as individuals should avoid using programs like ChatGPT. Not only does it diminish our own capabilities — researchers at MIT recently found that an overreliance on programs such as ChatGPT significantly lowers brain activity — but because it actively fuels climate change.

Think of AI avoidance as mental exercise in the same way you might choose to walk instead of drive for physical well being.

Consider turning off Google's AI Overviews. The tech company doesn't make it easy for most people to figure out how to do it — and of course, it offers an AI overview that may or may not be accurate when you search for how to turn it off. After some digging, I found a human-generated answer that actually works.

If we want a safer world, protected from the dumbing down and waste associated with AI, we have to begin programming ourselves and our world to make choices that center human wellbeing.



# The revolution never stops

By JOHN KRULL

TheStatehouseFile.com

Thomas Jefferson listened in anguish as the other members of the Continental Congress edited his draft of the Declaration of Independence.

Jefferson was so upset that Benjamin Franklin had to comfort him. Franklin did so by telling a convoluted tale of a haberdasher who wanted to put a longwinded sign advertising the hats he sold outside his business.

When the hatter's friends finished offering editing suggestions, the resulting sign just bore the haberdasher's name and an image of a hat.

Franklin's story didn't do much to ease Jefferson's anxiety. The author of our first charter as a free nation continued to fret over the changes to his draft.

Nor did Jefferson's displeasure dissipate with time. Through the remainder of his long life — he was only in his early 30s when he penned the declaration and lived for another half-century — he continued to send friends and admirers copies of his original draft, even after the finished and signed declaration had become one of the most famous and admired documents in the world.

Jefferson's vexation wasn't just a question of vanity, although he was proud of his prose.

No, the alterations that irked him the most were substantive ones.

They dealt with slavery. Jefferson's original draft laid the blame for the evil institution of human bondage at the foot of the British crown. He argued, tortuously and not convincingly, that the king had allowed for the introduction of slavery into the American colonies and thus bore the moral responsibility for oppressing the enslaved and corrupting those who asserted ownership over them.

The other delegates to the Continental Congress disagreed — for at least two overarching reasons.

The first and more palatable dis-

John Krull



agreement with Jefferson's draft was that the delegates didn't think they could abdicate moral responsibility for America's original sin. People who had profited from owning and abusing other human beings, they contended, had no right to shift culpability to the king.

If the colonists were going to demand liberty and autonomy, they had no right — moral or otherwise — to expect any monarch to save them from themselves. A free people's salvation is a free people's responsibility — and no one else's.

The much less palatable objection to Jefferson's argument was that there were many delegates who did not think of slavery as evil and therefore a source of oppression and corruption.

Because they considered enslaving men and women as a benefit to society, they thought Jefferson's criticism of the king as one who aided and abetted slavery to be completely wrongheaded.

Thus, the fundamental debate that would nearly tear this nation apart in the 1860s and still divides us today took root.

It's not surprising that it was Jefferson who forced America and Americans to face, however ineffectually, this supreme moral blight on our national character just as our nation was being born.

The contradictions in his character mirror those in our national character.

Jefferson, who has been called "the apostle of liberty," delivered some of the most impassioned criticisms of

slavery in the days before Frederick Douglass, William Lloyd Garrison, Harriet Beecher Stowe and Abraham Lincoln emerged to speak for abolition.

"Indeed I tremble for my country when I reflect that God is just: that his justice cannot sleep for ever," Jefferson wrote about slavery in his classic "Notes on the State of Virginia."

And yet ... he was a slaveowner himself. Overwhelming evidence also suggests that he had a long relationship with a slave woman — the half-sister of his dead wife — who bore several of his children.

She also, of course, was in no way positioned or empowered to ever reject his advances.

Jefferson's anguish over the elimination of his absurd argument in his declaration that the British king owned responsibility for our wrongs reflects our ongoing national uneasiness with confronting an essential truth.

That truth?

Free people can use their freedom to do evil as well as good.

This is why the American Revolution is never a finished process or an accomplished fact. If our national purpose is to liberate both human beings and the human spirit, that work never ends.

Voices 250 years ago struggled even to acknowledge that wrong was wrong and evil was evil. Many still struggle to do so now.

The struggle to confront the wrongs we have done and do is at the heart of the American experience.

Because our revolution never ends. And the truth keeps marching on.

\*\*\*\*\*

Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Statehouse and publisher of TheStatehouseFile.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.

# The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

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The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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VOLUME 151-NUMBER 46  
SATURDAY, JULY 5, 2025

[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

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

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2025 Jay County Fair



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Sweet rides

Whether along the midway, during the truck and tractor pull in front of the grandstand, during a pedal pull or on horses, there were plenty of great rides to be had Wednesday at the Jay County Fair.

Pictured, clockwise from left:

• Jenna Pitman and Kathleen Pitman, 6, laugh while going around the Hot Rods ride on the midway.

• Eve Taylor, 4, sticks her tongue out while driving in Jay County Farm Bureau's pedal pull races Wednesday at the fairgrounds.

• Ramzey Huftel and 17-year-old Sydney Huftel keep ahold of one another Wednesday during the ribbon races in the Jay County 4-H Horse Show.

• The front wheels of a truck leave the ground during truck & tractor pull at the grandstand on Wednesday.

For more photos, visit [thejr.com](http://thejr.com).



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Smooth ...

Continued from page 1  
Or they'll struggle with a species with which they are unfamiliar.

That simply wasn't the case for Hemmelgarn on Wednesday. She was smooth throughout the competition, calmly leading her animals through their paces.

At one point — after the judge had completed evaluation — she was gently stroking the underside of a cow's neck, the animal leaning into her like a puppy.

Hemmelgarn said she felt comfortable all the way.

"I was waiting for that moment where I'm like, 'Man, I know I did not do good there,'" she said. "But I had practiced so much in advance and just tried to make sure I could do everything to the best of my ability, to where once I went through it I thought I did it to the best of my ability."

That comfort came from working with fellow 4-H members, including some of her competitors, through the course of the week. She mentioned Nick Laux (beef), Elizabeth Brunswick (swine), Kamzy Johnson (horse), Corey Emery (dairy) and Ella Stockton (meat goat), all of whom were also in the supreme showmanship competition. (Other competitors were Elizabeth Link

representing sheep and Levi Willman representing dairy goat.)

Hemmelgarn also picked up some tips on sheep showing from Luke Fugiett.

"Luke was out here practicing in the show ring, so I just stole one of his sheep and said, 'Luke, I'm practicing,'" she said. "So I just walked around the ring for him and he was giving me pointers."

She snagged his sheep again Wednesday morning for more prep work.

The only species she did not get her hands on prior to the competition was dairy goats, but it didn't seem to matter.

"I try to just stay as level-headed and just think through everything — try to prepare myself each time I went in," Hemmelgarn said. "Because it's a new animal, I need to go in and do the best I can with this one. The last one's done."

Hemmelgarn shows beef and dairy beef for her 4-H projects. During her first year, she also showed swine.

Outside of 4-H, she is also involved in Jay County FFA and CYO at Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. She plays volleyball and runs track for Jay County High School.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Maria Hemmelgarn shows during the Jay County 4-H large animal supreme showmanship competition on Wednesday. "I try to just stay as level-headed and just think through everything — try to prepare myself each time I went in," she said.



7-5 CRYPTOQUIP

NI B YZMA AI ZVVIDLZME EIR  
AI AGK XBUUKWA AIYM IM  
GZYZBB'W XBU BWTZMN? EIR  
GZN DK ZA "GBTI."  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHICH GAME DO YOU  
SUPPOSE WOULD BE THE MOST APT TO PLAY  
ON INDEPENDENCE DAY? FLAG FOOTBALL.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: B equals I

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to swimming.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 1 = R)

A. 23 12 1 1 11 13 17  
Clue: Movement of water

B. 21 25 9 16  
Clue: Swimming length

C. 16 17 1 18 10 11  
Clue: Method of swimming

D. 15 1 11 25 17 6  
Clue: Air flow into lungs

Answers: A. current B. laps C. stroke D. breath

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to swimming.

SICKK

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born in New York on July 2, 1986. I began my professional career as a Ford model at the age of 3. I rose to fame in a remake of a movie about twins separated shortly after birth, and later starred in a movie about unfriendly girls at school.

Answer: Lindsay Lohan



Holiday FACT:

What are the names of the two holidays that celebrate Canadian and American sovereignty?

Answer: Canada Day and Independence Day

How they say that in...

English: Parade  
Spanish: Desfile  
Italian: Corteo  
French: Parade  
German: Parade

7-7 CRYPTOQUIP

ZCYN QCXS QFXS LT V GNIQCX  
DUC SNXNIVZZT UVHNQ LVHUQ  
VXB QUCDNIQ: "QCVGZNQQZT  
BNYCHNB HC TCF."  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: DO I WANT TO  
ACCOMPANY YOU TO THE BIGGEST TOWN ON  
HAWAII'S BIG ISLAND? YOU HAD ME AT "HILO."  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals H

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20.  
The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right.  
The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

	9	14	43
1		7	19
5	3		10
26	23	23	

Solution

2	5
7	1
9	6
0	0

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

1608: Quebec City is founded by Samuel de Champlain.

1819: The first savings bank in the United States opens. It is the Bank for Savings in the City of New-York.

1973: David Bowie retires his stage persona "Ziggy Stardust."

NEW WORD

CITIZEN

a legally recognized subject of a state or commonwealth

SWIM TEAM WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

BACKSTROKE  
BREASTSTROKE  
BUTTERFLY  
CAP  
COURSE  
DECK  
DISTANCE  
DIVING  
DRILL  
FLIP  
FLOAT  
FREESTYLE  
GOGGLES  
KICK  
LANE  
LAP  
PACE  
PADDLE  
POOL  
SWIMMING  
TEAM  
TIMED  
TURN  
WADE

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

REORWSKIF PSIDYLA

Answer: Fireworks display

Did You Know?

Fireworks are mainly made of black powder and metal salts that create different colors when burned. Flash powder also is used to give bright flashes and loud booms.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Barbecue skewers

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Scare-crow stuffing  
6 Vain person  
12 Moolah  
13 "Ed Wood" star  
14 Dayton denizen  
15 Moocher  
16 Heath  
17 Duel tool  
19 Enter-prise letters  
20 Mentor  
22 Puppet eagle  
24 Airline to Sweden  
27 Burnsian turn-downs  
29 Life story?  
32 Summer luncheon holders  
35 Gratis  
36 Model Heidi  
37 Genre for Post Malone

38 Mosquito barrier  
40 Burden  
42 — glance  
44 Compass point  
46 Actress Jessica  
50 Mount —, Israel  
52 Legally prevent  
54 Foolish talk  
55 Logic  
56 Appropri-ates  
57 "— alive!"

DOWN

1 London district  
2 Small combo  
3 Corp. shake-up  
4 Docs' org.  
5 Somme-lier's  
6 Choice organizer  
7 Stares word  
8 Musician stupidly  
9 Security Yoko  
10 Droops digits  
11 Calendar abbr.  
12 Monk's title  
18 Adobe dwellings  
21 Numeri-cal prefix  
23 Fine, to NASA  
24 Suntan lotion  
25 Balloon filler  
26 Plot outline  
28 Ambles  
30 "Give — rest!"  
31 Recipe abbr.  
33 Formerly known as  
34 Dallas sch.  
39 Social media post  
41 Game show  
42 Outlet letters  
43 Tropical tuber  
45 Right angles  
47 Mis-place  
48 Life stories  
49 Raggedy doll  
51 Super Bowl VIP  
53 PBS supporter

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-5

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

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Detective work works well

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH  
♦ J 7 5  
♥ 9 7 6 4 3  
♦ Q 9  
♣ Q 8 2

WEST  
♥ 9 8 6 4  
♦ 10 2  
♥ 7 4 2  
♣ J 10 6 3

EAST  
♠ K 10 2  
♥ A K Q J 8  
♦ 8 5 3  
♣ 9 5

South  
♠ A 3  
♥ A K 7 4

The bidding:  
East 1♥ South Dble West Pass North 1♠  
Pass 3♦ Pass 4♦  
Pass 5♦

Opening lead — ten of hearts.

You can't see the opposing hands when you're declarer, but as the play proceeds it often becomes possible to visualize them perfectly, enabling you to achieve the optimal result.

Here is a simple case that shows how it's done. South becomes declarer at five diamonds after East opens one heart, and West leads the heart ten. East wins with the jack and continues with the ace.

South ruffs high, crosses to dummy with a trump and leads a low spade to the queen. As expected, the finesse succeeds, and declarer then cashes his three remaining trumps to produce this position:

North  
♦ 17  
♥ 9  
♣ Q 8 2

West  
♠ 9 8  
♥ J 10 6 3

South  
♠ A 3  
♥ A K 7 4

Declarer may hope the opposing clubs are divided 3-3, but he knows that even if they're not, he is still sure of the contract.

He cashes the A-K of clubs and plays a club to dummy's queen. East shows out on the third club and is forced to discard the heart queen in order to guard the spade king.

To this point, East has shown up with precisely five hearts, three diamonds and two clubs. East therefore started with exactly three spades and so is now known to hold the K-x of spades and king of hearts.

Accordingly, South next leads dummy's nine of hearts and discards his club loser on it. East wins, but is forced to return a spade, allowing declarer to win the last two tricks with the jack and ace of spades.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH  
♦ Q 9 8  
♥ A 10 9  
♦ 9 6 5 4 3 2  
♠ 3

WEST  
♠ K J 10 5 2  
♥ 7 6  
♦ J  
♣ Q J 8 6 5

SOUTH  
♠ A 7 6 3  
♥ 8 4 3  
♦ A K  
♣ A K 10 9

The bidding:  
East 1NT South 1♠ West 3NT North 3NT  
Pass 1NT Pass 3NT

Opening lead — six of clubs.

This deal occurred in the 1992 World Team Olympiad. It features Bob Hamman of the United States, who victimized his Estonian opponents with a typical display of card-reading and sound technique.

Hamman's one-club bid promised 17 points or more, and North's double showed modest values. The bidding thereafter was natural.

West's opening club lead rode to the ten, and Hamman played a low spade toward dummy. West put up the king and shifted to a heart, ducked to East's jack. East returned a club, taken by South's king.

Many players at this stage would have been tempted to try to estab-

lish dummy's diamonds by cashing the A-K. If the diamonds broke 3-2, declarer would cross to dummy's queen of spades and play a third diamond. The suit would then be good, with the ace of hearts as an entry.

But Hamman was virtually certain from the bidding and play to this point that West, who had over-called in spades but led a club, had started with five cards in each black suit. Hamman was also convinced that West had a doubleton heart and therefore only one diamond, which meant that the diamonds could not be established. Indeed, cashing the top diamonds would have led to defeat.

So at trick five, Hamman led a low spade toward dummy, winning West's ten with the queen. To test his theory about how the red suits were divided, he next led a low heart from dummy. East winning with the queen and returning a third club.

The opposing distribution was now an open book. After taking the club ace, Hamman cashed the ace of hearts and A-K of diamonds, leaving West with the J-5 of spades and club queen as his last three cards. Hamman then led the nine of clubs, carefully discarding dummy's nine of spades to unblock the suit as West won the trick. This forced West to lead a spade from the J-5 to Hamman's A-7, and the game was home.

Tomorrow: Pre-emptive defense.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Recipe amts.  
5 Carly — Jepsen  
8 Cato's 604  
12 Plucked instru-ment  
13 Barn bird  
14 Top-notch  
15 Okla-homa tribe  
16 Rom-com first encounter  
18 Echo  
20 Guitarist Santana  
21 "— you're told!"  
23 Physique  
24 Down-right  
28 Biopic about swim-ming great Diana  
31 Upper limit  
32 Untamed  
34 Granada gold  
35 Tibia's place  
37 Determined

39 Non-sense  
41 "— hiring!" (store sign)  
42 John of "Full House"  
45 The "M" of RAM  
49 Sled dog breed  
51 Theater award  
52 Squeezed (out)  
53 French diarist Anais  
54 PBS science show  
55 Ties the knot  
56 Retrieve  
57 Beholds

DOWN

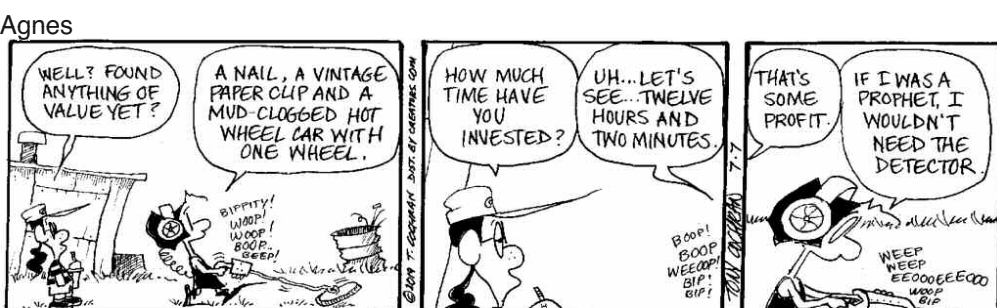
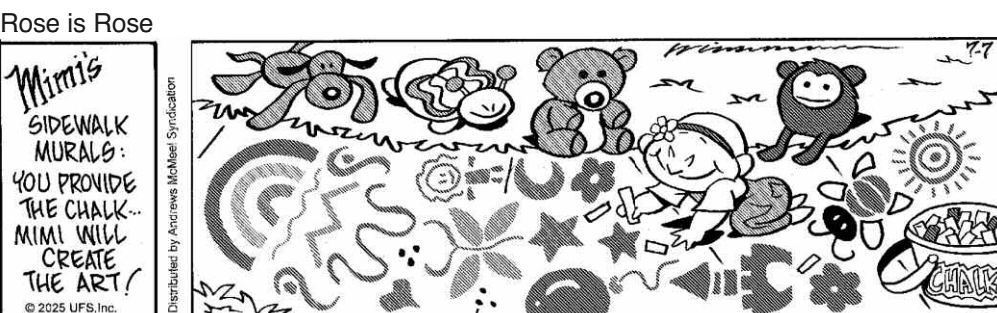
1 Thunder god  
2 Fill fully  
3 Quebec or Ontario (Abbr.)  
4 Swimsuit brand  
5 "The Joy of Cooking" author  
6 Shock partner  
7 Power co. supply  
8 Wrinkle-resistant fabric  
9 Favor-asker's plea  
10 Fasci-nated by  
11 Geese forma-tions  
17 Indent key  
19 Mas-sage deeply  
22 Scatter about  
24 Apt. coolers  
25 "Hum-bug!"  
26 Cork-screwed  
27 Right of pas-sage  
29 Curator's focus  
30 Anony-mous Jane  
33 Tradi-tional tales  
36 Wander-ers  
38 Crummy cars  
40 Baseball great Seaver  
42 Diving duck  
43 Seize  
44 Crooned  
46 Kin to a clarinet  
47 Split apart  
48 Pro votes  
50 Dead heat

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 7-7

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







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26 insertions. \$1.77/word  
Includes  
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**  
**NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT OF JAY COUNTY, INDIANA**  
**DOCKET NO. 38C01-2506-EU-000018**  
Notice is hereby given that LOU ANN ZIMMERMAN was on the 10 day of June, 2025, appointed personal representative of the estate of ROBERT N. GORDON, deceased, who died on the 2nd day of June, 2025, and was authorized to administer his estate without Court supervision. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file those claims in the office of the Clerk of the Adams Circuit Court within three (3) months after the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or those claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 11 day of June, 2025.  
Melissa Elliott  
Clerk, Jay Circuit Court  
Matthew P. Hayes  
Attorney for  
Personal Representative  
Attorney No. 32002-02  
Gordon, Adler, Hayes & Washburn, PC  
119 East Oak Forest Drive  
Bluffton, IN 46714  
(260) 824-9377  
CR 6-28,7-5-2025-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

**STATE OF INDIANA COUNTY OF JAY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 2025 TERM**  
In the Matter of the Supervised Administration of the Estate of: Bret Masters  
No. 38C01-2506-ES-000005  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that Shirley Masters was, on the 20th day of June 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Bret Masters deceased, who died on May 5, 2025. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 24th day of June, 2025.  
**HINKLE, RACSTER, SCHEMENAUR & LANDERS**  
121 W. High Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
Attorney  
Melissa Elliott  
Clerk of the Circuit Court, For Jay County, Indiana  
CR 6-28,7-5-2025-HSPAXLP

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**SUV - HOUSEHOLD GOODS - TOOLS**  
2002 Geo Tracker with 144,00 miles, Whirlpool side by side refrigerator; Amana electric range; Maytag washer; Amana dryer; twin bed; Haier air conditioner; 4 drawer chest; kneehole desk; glider rocker; leather sofa; Power XL air fryer; Bissell sweeper; electric recliner; lamp stands; coffee table; cement bird bath; cement angel; wood step ladder; and other items not listed.  
For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

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**PUBLIC AUCTION**

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**JULY 11, 2025**

**5:30 P.M.**

**REAL ESTATE**

Single story home with approximately 1036 square feet of living space situated on a 52' x 136' lot. Home features include 2 bedrooms and 1 bathroom. A new water heater was installed recently. Property also offers a 12' x 14' deck and a detached garage with approximately 720 square feet. This property will make a great starter home or rental investment property.  
Terms of Sale: 10% nonrefundable deposit day of auction and balance at closing. Closing to be no later than 45 days from date of auction. Buyer to assume taxes due and payable in May 2026 and thereafter. Sellers will furnish Warranty Deed and Sellers Title Insurance. Any inspections need to be made prior to the auction and will be at the potential buyers expense. Sale of Real Estate is subject to approval of the Jay Circuit Court. For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, Auctioneer and (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

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**Deadline for Tuesday is 12:00 pm on Friday.**

**Deadline for The News and Sun is 3:00 pm Friday.**

The Commercial Review  
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# Red Panda ...

Continued from page 10

She landed on her behind and immediately appeared to grab her left wrist.

Video footage shows her being helped to her feet and taking numerous steps with assistance before sitting back down on the court. A wheelchair was eventually brought out to help her off the floor.

Born Rong Niu in Taiyuan, China, reportedly in the early 1970s, Red Panda is a fourth-generation acrobat who was first hired to perform during halftime at an NBA game by the Los Angeles Clippers in 1993. She has since been a staple at NBA games, with her signature routine of using her feet to flip bowls onto her head while balancing high on her unicycle.

Niu suffered a broken arm more than a decade ago after falling backwards off her unicycle while practicing.

At Game 5 between the Indiana Pacers and Oklahoma City Thunder last month, Red Panda gave a quick list off the top of her head of all the NBA Finals at which she has performed. It was extensive.

“Oh my God,” she said. “I did it for L.A. I did it for Chicago Bulls — that’s many years ago for the [Michael] Jordan years. And then, I did San Antonio, I did Boston, Warriors, Detroit. ... And now I’m in OKC.”

Indiana defeated Minnesota, 74-59, to win the Commissioner’s Cup, the WNBA’s in-season tournament, for the first time. As Fever guard Sydney Colsten live-streamed the players’ locker room celebration, Clark leaned in front of the camera and wished the injured acrobat well.

“Red Panda, we love you,” said Clark, whose sentiments were echoed by several of her teammates.

# Fever ...

Continued from page 10

Minnesota made six of 29 field goals while being outscored 40-22 over the second and third quarters. They set season lows in points, shooting (34.9%), assists (13), 3-pointers attempted (16) and tied a season low with 22 made field goals.

Courtney Williams made four of 14 shots and turned the ball over six times. Napheesa Collier scored 12 points on 6-for-18 shooting with five turnovers, her frustration perhaps showing when she got in a jawing match with Aliyah Boston late in the game. Moments later, after she had scored again, Boston raised her arms to the crowd.

Indiana? Even without Clark, the Fever dominated. Natasha Howard scored 16 points with 12 rebounds. Boston scored 12 with 11 boards. Aari McDonald and Kelsey Mitchell each had 12. Off the bench, Sophie Cunningham (13 points) became the fifth Fever player in double figures.

A year ago, the Lynx won this game in New York, a victory that showed the Lynx they could be a great team. In failing to defend that title, after a game like this, the Lynx will move forward with a

jam-packed homestand with some issues to work through.

The Lynx trailed by three early in the first quarter. That changed in a hurry. Williams hit a mid-range shot and a 3 to start a 12-0 run that ended with Alanna Smith hitting a 3 and a driving layup.

By the time the quarter ended, the Lynx, up 20-12, had outscored the Fever over the last 7 1/2 minutes of the quarter and held Indiana to 5-for-18 shooting and turning their five turnovers into seven points.

A 7-2 start to the second put the Lynx up 27-14 on Shepard’s post-move.

And then the bottom

fell out on the Minnesota offense. The Lynx did not score a point over the final 8:13 of the half, going 0 for 11 with five turnovers.

The Fever, meanwhile, scored the next 18 points — Cunningham had two 3s and Mitchell four points — to take a 32-27 halftime lead. Outscored 20-7, it was Minnesota’s lowest-scoring second quarter and first half of the season.

By the time the third quarter ended, the Fever’s lead had grown to 52-42, with three Indiana players in double figures and Howard already with a double-double.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**

Portland Rockets vs. South Bend Royals in Portland Firecracker Tourney – 12 p.m.

Portland Rockets vs. Indy Orioles in Portland Firecracker Tourney – 5 p.m.

**Sunday**

Portland Rockets in Portland Firecracker Tourney – TBD

**Monday**

Jay County Summer swim vs. Yorktown – 6 p.m.

**Tuesday**

Portland Rockets at Fort Wayne Jackers – 7:15 p.m.

## TV schedule

**Today**

6 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)

6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: British Grand Prix

(ESPN2)

8 a.m. — Tour de France: Lille Metropole (NBC)

8:30 a.m. — Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix at Mid-Ohio (FS1)

10:30 a.m. — IndyCar: Honda Indy 200 (FS1)

12 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup soccer: PSG at Bayern Munchen (TNT)

12 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Wales at Netherlands (FOX)

12:30 p.m. — Horse racing: America’s Day at the Races (FS1)

1 p.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ABC)

1 p.m. — PLL lacrosse: All-Star Game (ESPN)

1 p.m. — Pro Motocross Championship: RED-Bud National (NBC)

3 p.m. — PGA Tour: John Deere Classic (CBS)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: France at England (FOX)

4 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup soccer: Real Madrid at Borussia Dortmund (TNT)

4:05 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Philadelphia Phillies (FDSN Indiana)

4:10 p.m. — MLB: New York Yankees at New

York Mets (FS1)

6:30 p.m. — NBA summer league: Los Angeles Lakers at Golden State Warriors (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — Banana Ball World Tour (ESPN)

7 p.m. — MLS: Charlotte FC at Orlando City (FS1)

7:15 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Cleveland Guardians (FOX)

9 p.m. — NBA summer league: Philadelphia 76ers at Utah Jazz (ESPN)

10 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Oakland Roots at Detroit City (FOX)

10:10 p.m. — MLB: Pittsburgh Pirates at Seattle Mariners (FS1)

**Sunday**

6 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)

9:30 a.m. — IndyCar: Honda Indy 200 (FS1)

10 a.m. — Formula 1: British Grand Prix (ESPN2)

10:30 a.m. — Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix at Mid-Ohio (FS1)

12 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Norway at Finland (FS1)

1 p.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ABC)

1 p.m. — IndyCar: Honda Indy 200 (FOX)

1 p.m. — WNBA: Seattle Storm at New York Liberty (CBS)

1:35 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Philadelphia Phillies (FDSN Indiana)

2 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Grant Park 165 (TNT)

3 p.m. — PGA Tour: John Deere Classic (CBS)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Switzerland at Iceland (FS1)

6:10 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Chicago Cubs (ESPN)

**Monday**

6 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN2)

8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)

12 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Spain at Belgium (FS1)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Portugal at Italy (FOX)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: Tampa Bay Lightning (FS1)

7 p.m. — NBA summer league: Oklahoma City Thunder at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)

7 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited Softball: Bandits at Volts (ESPN2)

7:10 p.m. — MLB: Miami Marlins at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

**Tuesday**

8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)

12 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Germany at Denmark (FS1)

3 p.m. — UEFA Women’s Euro soccer: Poland at Sweden (FOX)

7 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited Softball: Volts at Talons (ESPN2)

7:10 p.m. — MLB: Miami Marlins at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

7:40 p.m. — MLB: Los Angeles Dodgers at Milwaukee Brewers (TBS)

8 p.m. — WNBA: Las Vegas Aces at New York Liberty (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NBA summer league: Los Angeles Lakers at San Antonio Spurs (ESPN)

.....

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2024-25 boys swim All-GPC team



Graphic Printing Company Boys Swimmer of the Year Zachary Baty Delta High School senior

Zachary Baty was selected as the inaugural Graphic Printing Company Athlete of the Year for boys swim. "It feels really good to me," said Baty. "It shows that my hard work has paid off. I mean, yeah, I've had great seasons, but it didn't come without the work that I've tried to put in." Some of that work included putting extra time at the YMCA before school during the season to pair with his regular practices and offseason workouts at an outdoor pool in Muncie. The direct result of that work was a pair of Hoosier Heritage Conference titles in the 200-yard individual medley and the 500 freestyle as well as sectional titles in the same events and the 200 medley relay. (The 200 freestyle relay team he was a part of came up 2.23 seconds of the sectional title and a trip to state.) At the IHSAA State Finals prelims, the Wabash College commit placed 20th in the individual medley with a time of 1 minute, 56.99 seconds, 22nd in the 500 freestyle in 4:47.36 and 29th as the first leg of the 200 medley relay team that combined for a time of 1:43.48. "He's by far and large the best swimmer we've had since Brady Samuels," said DHS coach Laura Seibold-Caudill. "He has done amazing. He's very versatile in everything he does and most importantly, he's quite the team leader. He's somebody that everybody always looks to for advice for direction as a team captain and leader and he's been amazing at that." While Baty found plenty of success in the water, he found the bond he built with his teammates to have been particularly impactful. "I feel like the team was really fun this year," Baty said. "We all kind of bonded really well and that just made my practices go a lot better. I feel like I got more out of my practices because I was competing with other people and it was an overall great atmosphere that I built on."

All-Graphic Printing Company first team		Honorable mention	
Elijah Brown	Brown worked as the Eagles' lead breaststroker, aiding in the 200-yard medley relay team that made it to state. He finished fifth in the sectional in the 100 breaststroke.	Carсен Fullenkamp,	senior, Fort Recovery
Cooper Glentzer	In his first year with the Patriots, Glentzer made an immediate impact. He finished second in the sectional to Delta's Zach Baty in the 500-yard freestyle.	Josiah Hotmire,	senior, Delta
Samuel Stokes	Stokes was Delta's butterfly specialist on the state-qualifying medley relay. He also tallied a pair of runner-up sectional finishes in the 100-yard butterfly and the 50 freestyle for DHS.	Owen McCormick,	sophomore, Delta
William Uggen	Uggen's eighth-place sectional finish in the 100-yard backstroke was the highest of all the Bruin swimmers. He contributed to 61.4% of the team's sectional points.	Carson Westgerdes,	freshman, Jay County

Lakers agree to terms with former Trail Blazer Deandre Ayton

By BRODERICK TURNER Los Angeles Times Tribune News Service LOS ANGELES — The Lakers finally got a center they have so desperately needed when they agreed to a deal with Deandre Ayton, according to people not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. The Lakers were able to get Ayton after he received a buyout from the Portland Trail Blazers

of his \$35-million contract, giving up about \$10 million, according to reports. That opened the door for the Lakers to get Ayton for about \$9 million this upcoming season after he cleared waivers Wednesday, according to people familiar with the deal. Ayton averaged 14.4 points and 10.2 rebounds over 30.2 minutes per game for the Trail Blazers last season. But he played in only 40 games, missing every game

after the All-Star break because of a calf injury. At 26 and 7-foot, Ayton fills a need for the Lakers because of his age, size and athleticism. After the Lakers traded Anthony Davis to the Mavericks last season for Luka Doncic, the team was left with only Jaxson Hayes at center. Hayes was inefficient in the playoffs against the Minnesota Timberwolves. When the free-agency period

started Monday afternoon, the Lakers didn't have a center on their roster, which they now have in Ayton, who has averaged 16.4 points and 10.5 rebounds in his seven-year career while making 59% of his shots. The Lakers had been linked to free-agent centers Brook Lopez, who agreed to a deal with the Clippers, and Clint Capela, who agreed to a deal with the Houston Rockets.

The Lakers had more money to spend on Ayton because Dorian Finney-Smith declined his \$15.3 million option with L.A. and agreed to a deal with the Houston Rockets for \$53 million over four years. The Lakers see Ayton as a lob threat alongside Doncic, which worked well in Phoenix when Chris Paul was throwing lobbs to Ayton when they reached the NBA Finals.

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Fever beat Lynx in Commissioner's Cup

By KENT YOUNGBLOOD Star Tribune Tribune News Service MINNEAPOLIS — The good news is that Tuesday's game, despite its national broadcast, significant hype and rather large purse, won't count in the WNBA standings. The bad news: The Lynx chose the Commissioner's Cup championship game against a 500 Indiana team playing without Caitlin Clark to play some of the

worst basketball seen at Target Center in a long, long time. In a 74-59 loss to the Fever, the Lynx held a 13-point lead with more than 8 minutes left in the first half. They didn't score another point before halftime. An 18-0 run to end the first half became a 24-2 Indiana run early in the third, and the Fever were in control for good. Because it never got better for the Lynx.

See Fever page 9

July SALE

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Red Panda suffered wrist fracture

By CHUCK SCHILKEN Los Angeles Times Tribune News Service Red Panda, the popular halftime acrobat known for balancing bowls on her head while perched high on a unicycle, fell hard to the court Tuesday night while performing at the Commissioner's Cup final between the WNBA's Indiana Fever and Minnesota Lynx in Minneapolis. Riding on her custom-made unicycle at least 7 feet off the floor, Red Panda appeared to lose her balance early in her routine, then fell forward off her seat. See Red Panda page 9