

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Third at Archway

Snare drummer Erin Aker of the Jay County High School Marching Patriots plays Saturday evening during the Centerville Archway Classic. JCHS finished in third place in its first competition of the year, scoring 53 points. The host Blue Regiment won with 55.625 points and Richmond finished second with 54.95.

Extension is approved

Commissioners OK change to agreements with Hodson

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A proposed solar farm will take an additional year to begin construction. Jay County Commissioners agreed Monday to amend an economic development agreement with Hodson Energy on its New Jay Solar farm, adjusting the timeline to factor in new requirements. Jay County Council approved the timeline amendment on the economic development agreement — it requires joint approval from commissioners and council — and tax abatement at its meeting Wednesday. Hodson Energy is plan-

ning a 311-acre farm in Richland Township, just east of Dunkirk. It plans to invest around \$67.5 million into the facility, which is expected to produce up to 39 megawatts of energy and employ one to two full-time solar technicians on site. Hodson Energy is one of four renewable energy companies planning solar farms in Jay County. It's also the latest of the group to seek a timeline change, with the county approving amendments to construction date timelines on agreements with Scout Clean Energy, Leeward Renewable Energy and Invenergy in 2024. The company signed economic development, road use and decommissioning agreements with the county as well as a development plan and 10-year tax abatement last year. Hodson Energy will provide \$2.516 million to Jay County over four years, per the economic development agreement. See **Extension** page 2

Hoosiers lose millions to fraud

Imposter scams are most common in Indiana

By JOSEPH S. PETE
The Times (Munster)
Tribune News Service

Fraud, such as investment and real estate schemes that often target the elderly, cost Hoosiers more than \$115 million last year. Indiana residents reported 34,854 cases of fraud in 2024 with an average loss of \$380, according to the U.S. Federal Trade Commission. Imposter scams were the most com-

mon with 11,851 reported across the state. Hoosiers reported 9,306 cases of fraud in the first quarter, with losses of \$2.96 million or \$279 per person. A 75-year-old LaPorte County resident reported in February that she lost \$200 after someone posing as a friend from out of state emailed her to request Amazon gift cards, according to a police report. "The best tips are to not provide anyone information on bank account and not to provide payment for anything via gift cards. If they believe they are getting contacted from a relative or friend, confirm it is them prior to sending any money," said LaPorte County Sheriff's Office Captain Andrew Hynek. See **Fraud** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

175th anniversary

A member of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of Indiana reads from a Bible at Jay Lodge No. 87 in Portland on Saturday. Members of the state and local organizations celebrated Jay Lodge's 175th anniversary with a rededication ceremony, inviting the public to attend and join for lodge tours, community cookout and outdoor activities, including free popcorn, a bounce house and dunk tank.

More than 58,000 killed

Health ministry estimates around 50 died in attacks Sunday

By CINDY RIECHAU and EMAD DRIMLY
dpa
Tribune News Service

TEL AVIV, Israel — More than 58,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza since Israeli attacks began in October 2023, health officials in the largely demolished region have said following the latest reports of strikes on a family home and water distribution site. Figures from Gaza's Health Ministry, controlled by the Islamist group Hamas, do not distinguish between civilians and fighters and cannot be independently verified, however international organizations such as the U.N. consider them to be largely credible. Around 50 people were killed in Israeli attacks in the Gaza Strip on Sunday alone, the Palestinian news agency WAFA reported, citing medical sources. Ten people were killed in the bombing of a family home in Nuseirat, central

Gaza, WAFA reported, without providing further details on the identities of the victims. When asked, the Israeli military said it would investigate the report. The al-Awda Hospital in northern Gaza reported an Israeli airstrike on a water distribution site in Nuseirat in the morning, killing eight people, including six minors. At least 16 people were injured in the attack, according to the hospital. WAFA, citing the hospital, reported at least 10 killed in the strike. The Israeli military said upon request it had been targeting a member of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad organization in central Gaza, but that a technical error had led to its munition falling "dozens of meters from the target." It said it was aware of casualties as a result of the incident, which was being examined. The military emphasized that its attacks target Hamas and other terrorist groups in Gaza, and said it is taking measures to protect civilians and regrets any suffering caused to uninvolved civilians. However, Israel faces accusations of ethnic cleansing and a "disregard for human life" from U.N. officials, while the International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for war crimes and crimes against humanity in Gaza. See **Killed** page 2

Deaths

Sandra Ritter-Butz, 59, Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 88 degrees Sunday. The low was 72. Tonight's low will be in the lower 70s and there is a 30% chance of rain. Showers and thunderstorms are expected Wednesday. Conditions will be humid with a high in the mid 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Public Library will host an "End of Summer Bluey Party" from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday. Bluey will be in attendance for pictures and there will also be an obstacle course, crafts, snacks and other activities. The library is located at 315 N. Ship St., Portland.

Coming up

Wednesday — Details from next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the Portland Rockets game against the Muncie Chiefs.

Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.



Fraud ...

Continued from page 1

The Federal Trade Commission estimates that elderly Americans lost \$354.9 million to fraud in the first quarter of this year. About 29% of Americans between the ages of 60 years old and 69 years old ended up losing money to scams in the first quarter. Investment scams cost seniors an average of \$20,000 per report.

The National Sheriff's Association adopted a resolution this week asking for more resources to help police shield consumers from financial scams that cost Americans billions of dollars a year, such as by posing as police, debt collectors or romantic interests. The resolution calls for more resources for scam monitoring, consumer educa-

tion, detection and prosecution, as well as for stronger penalties.

"Sheriffs all over the country are dealing with increases in both the number of scams and amount of money these criminals are stealing from Americans," said National Sheriff's Association 2nd Vice President and Collin County Texas Sheriff Jim Skinner.

Skinner said scams often target the elderly and involve identity deception. Currently, the most common scam is for callers to pose as law enforcement officers, telling people they missed jury duty and there's been a warrant issued for their arrest. They give them a choice of turning themselves in or paying the fine, which they often request through Bitcoin.

"It's an epidemic," Skinner said. The Collin County Sheriff's Office aggressively pursues such cases regardless of where the perpetrator lives and has recovered more than \$1 million so far.

"Law enforcement would never ask you for money," Skinner said. "If callers ask you for money, you need to hang up now."

Investment scams cost seniors nationwide an average of \$158.6 million in the first quarter, according to the Federal Trade Commission. About 77.5% of the 2,329 seniors who reported being targeted for investment scams lost money.

The Indiana Secretary of State's Office warns about several common investment schemes,

including affinity fraud that preys on trust in which con artists sell fraudulent investments to groups like churches or communities of new immigrants, hedge funds that issue private offerings that are not registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission and oil and gas ventures that capitalize off the rising cost of gas.

Other common investment scams include Ponzi or pyramid schemes that rob Peter to pay Paul by taking money from new investors to repay previous investors, unregistered securities and viatical investments in which an investor buys life insurance policy benefits for less than face value to receive the full policy amount when they die.

Obituaries

Sandra "Sandi" Christine Ritter-Butz, Geneva, Dec. 14, 1965-July 10, 2025. Services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday, at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac				
Wednesday 7/16	Thursday 7/17	Friday 7/18	Saturday 7/19	Sunday 7/20
85/74 There's a 70% chance of thunderstorms Wednesday.	84/69 Thursday's forecast also shows rain with a 70% chance of showers.	82/67 Friday has a 50% chance of thunderstorms. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	84/71 There's a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly sunny.	84/67 Mostly sunny skies on Sunday when there's a 40% chance of showers.

Lotteries	
Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$248 million	20-25-26-31-32-34-35-38-39-42-44-49-62-67-69-73-79 Cash 5: 14-26-28-40-45 Estimated jackpot: \$95,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$90 million	
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 6-3-4 Daily Four: 3-5-6-4 Quick Draw: 3-5-6-8-11-19-21-30-34-37-40-41-42-45-48-49-53-60-65-72 Evening Daily Three: 4-9-5 Daily Four: 7-8-0-4 Quick Draw: 5-10-16-	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 7-0-9 Pick 4: 1-4-2-1 Pick 5: 5-1-0-1-9 Evening Pick 3: 0-3-9 Pick 4: 0-2-6-4 Pick 5: 2-5-9-0-3 Rolling Cash 5: 3-10-18-19-37 Estimated jackpot: \$150,000

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.50 Aug. corn4.57 Sept. corn4.52	July beans.....9.70 Wheat5.09
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.52 Aug. corn4.47 Sept. corn4.37	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.27 Aug. corn4.25 Beans.....10.10 Aug. beans.....9.90 Wheat5.09
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.39 July corn.....3.95 Beans10.12	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.42 Aug. corn4.42 Beans.....9.90 Oct. beans9.50 Wheat4.84

Today in history

In 1099, Christian forces captured the city of Jerusalem during the First Crusade.

In 1948, U.S. Army Gen. John J. Pershing died. He led the American Expeditionary Forces during World War I and became the first general to be named General of the Armies of the United States since George Washington.

In 2010, Addison Pijppels and Tina Whiting were found guilty of murder and robbery in connection with the September 2008 death of Portland resident Shawn Buckner. They were the last of five defendants in the case, as Michael Hefern was also found guilty while Thomas Smith and Roderick Berry each pleaded guilty.

In 2021, Chloe Campbell and Rachel Heitkamp won the large animal and small animal supreme showmanship contests, respectively, at the Jay County Fair. Both had showmanship in their blood, as Chloe's sister Alli won the large animal trophy in 2017 and Heitkamp's sister Sarah, mom Linda and aunt Janet Davidson were all previous small animal champions.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar	
Today 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council public forum, Cooper Brothers Community Pavilion, Community Park, 401 W. Milligan St.	session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
Wednesday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	July 21 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
Friday 5:30 p.m. — Redkey Town Council executive	

The Commercial Review/Lindy Mercer

Trail opens

South Adams Trails, Inc hosted the grand opening celebration for the Canoper Trail on Saturday in Berne. Laura Schwartz, South Adams Trails president, and Doug Milligan, South Adams Trails board member, performed the ribbon cutting to establish the trail's opening. The Canoper Trail has been nearly 20 years in the making, and now serves as a connection between the Geneva and Berne communities.

Extension ...

Continued from page 1

The company's original timeline as approved on county agreements set construction to begin no later than June 30, 2026, with the facility to begin generating electricity by Dec. 31, 2027. That timeline has now shifted, with a completion date no later than Dec. 31, 2028.

Another change to the agreement, similar to those approved with other solar companies, requires Hodson Energy to make its first economic development payment to

the county at the start of construction.

Hodson Energy chief development officer Kyle West explained new requirements through regional transmission organization PJM interconnection surrounding procurement of major equipment and sourcing of that equipment have led to setbacks for the project.

Responding to a question from Jay County Redevelopment Commission president Carl Walker, West confirmed his

company will be breaking ground on the project in the near future.

"Many millions of dollars have already been spent on this project, so there is no way we're not going forward," said West. "To be able to procure the equipment and get it on site in the time that we need, we need an additional year."

West also added that a timeline extension wouldn't normally be in his company's best interest.

"This is not what we

want, as a developer, we make money when we build projects, and time is not our friend," West said. "We don't want to be asking for this extension, but this is a situation that's just out of our control, just like the other projects."

Commissioners Chad Aker, Doug Horn and Duane Monroe then approved the amended agreement.

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For more from the commissioners' meeting, see Wednesday's newspaper.

Felony arrests

Drug possession

A Portland man was arrested Thursday for drug possession.

Dylan T. Baughman, 31, 820 W. High St., was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia and a Class B misdemeanor for visiting a common nuisance.

He was being held on a \$50,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Dealing drugs

Two Jay County residents were arrested Thursday for dealing drugs.

Eric L. Phillips, 46, 943 W. High St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for dealing methamphetamine and two Class A misdemeanors for visiting a common nuisance and possession of

paraphernalia. He was being held on a \$12,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Dustin S. Stephen, 35, 623 N. Alexander St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony for dealing methamphetamine, two Level 6 felonies for dealing cocaine or a narcotic drug and maintaining a common nuisance, and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. Stephen was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$50,000 bond.

Killed ...

Continued from page 1

The Israeli military also said it had carried out more than 150 airstrikes on targets in Gaza on Saturday.

WAFA also reported casualties from Israeli attacks in northern and southern Gaza.

SERVICES

Thursday

Ritter-Butz, Sandra: 7 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by

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Old, weathered piano carries history

By JAMES FULKES

The Commercial Review

Covered by a glass case in The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame in Cleveland sits an old, plain and well-used Starck upright piano.

It's far from a beautiful concert stage piece.

Those are almost always massive ebony black grand pianos with names like Steinway and Sons, Bosendorfer, Baldwin, Estonia, Yamaha and are the finest pianos on the planet.

For those unfamiliar, the full market value of a Steinway and Sons full grand

Fulkys
Mayhem



So, why is this plain, old, weathered upright piano given such an honorary place of prominence as The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame?

Many years ago, a father literally pawned his house to obtain the then-new piano to give his son an instrument to learn to play.

He had help and carried it into their modest Louisiana home and his son got busy practicing, and practicing and practicing how to play it. Two cousins who lived close by came around and waited their turns to practice on

that Starck upright piano.

The son was Jerry Lee Lewis. Yep, "The Killer" himself got his childhood start pounding away on that plain, old upright.

The cousins came around, and Jimmy Swaggart took his playing on it into a gospel music direction. The last cousin who came around was timid and shy and Jimmy taught him a few chords. Mickey Gilley took his playing in a more country theme.

Yes indeed, the same old, plain Jane upright piano was the catalyst for three

different, yet extremely influential and lucratively successful music careers.

Jerry Lee Lewis in rock and roll in its infancy, a career that influenced countless rock acts for decades.

Jimmy Swaggart in gospel music and televangelism that spanned the globe at the height of its success, based out of Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Mickey Gilley, who took his brand of silky smooth country into movie theaters and nightclubs with successful music sound-

tracks and even more successful nightclubs in Pasadena, Texas, and Branson, Missouri. All three got their start in the humble beginnings of an old upright piano that a house was pawned to obtain.

All three went on to vast wealth and success.

One piano. Three stellar careers.

That plain, old, unrestored Starck, donated by the family of the late, great Jerry Lee Lewis is exactly where it needs to be, under glass in The Rock & Roll Hall of Fame.

Friend's denial tears large hole in relationship

DEAR ABBY: I'm struggling with the end of a friendship that has meant the world to me for most of my life. My best friend of 25 years recently married someone she had known for only a few months. I was surprised how quickly things moved, but I respected her decision and was genuinely happy for her.

During one of our last meaningful conversations, she assured me she would let me know when a

Dear
Abby



wedding date was set because she wanted me there. A few weeks later, I discovered that not only

had a date been chosen, but there is also a wedding website — clearly showing the event was planned and confirmed. I was not invited.

When I brought it up gently, she flat-out denied that anything had been finalized. I felt hurt, confused and dismissed. The dishonesty and secrecy feel like a betrayal after everything we've shared over the past 25 years. Being excluded from such a major life event and then lied to about it

feels like the final straw. I'm torn between mourning the friendship and wondering if I'm overreacting. Is there any coming back from this kind of hurt? Or is it time to accept that our relationship is over? — LEFT BEHIND IN THE EAST

DEAR LEFT BEHIND: You are not overreacting. It appears your friend's "little white lie" turned into a whopper. I can't blame you for feel-

ing hurt at the way you were treated. There could be several reasons why you were left off the guest list. Not knowing your old friend, I can't guess which. Neither can you, since she chose to lie instead of level with you. Whether this should end your long relationship is up to you. Certainly, you need to rethink anything she tells you in the future, if there even is a future.

Community Calendar

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

Today

JAY COUNTY PAS-TORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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.

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'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 ANONY-

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

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORN-ING 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 Cen-ter for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

COMMUNITY REIN-FORCEMENT AND FAM-ILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evi-dence-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 Begin-nings, 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 infor-mation, 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

STITCH AND CHAT-TER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thurs-day of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and tell is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfin-ished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

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

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those strug-gling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feel-ings 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.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help indi-viduals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Black-ford main conference room.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

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

Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORI-CAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on

the third Friday and Sat-urday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addic-tion Support Team recov-ery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coaliti-on office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. To learn more informa-tion, please call (260) 251-3259.

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — 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.

DUNKIRK HISTORI-CAL MUSEUM — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday and Sat-urday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

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.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fel-lowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

*Rate does not apply to special sections. Ads must run in July.

Is a turning point coming soon?

The Baltimore Sun
Tribune News Service

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with President Donald Trump at the White House in a de facto Middle East summit on Monday. The two represent collectively the sole superpower in that turbulent region. Israel sports nuclear weapons and a congressionally guaranteed “qualitative” military edge over its hostile neighbors. The United States boasts multiple military bases in Arab nations, including the headquarters of the Fifth Fleet in Bahrain.

Guest Editorial

The prime minister and president recently collaborated to attack Iran and obliterate (at least provisionally) its nuclear infrastructure with impunity. Netanyahu nominated Trump for the Nobel Peace Prize for ostensibly ending the conflict in the Middle East, including Gaza. Maybe history has reached a

turning point. Maybe Iran’s mullahs will be overthrown in favor of a democracy, which the U.S. extinguished in 1953 by orchestrating a coup against secular Prime Minister Mohammed Mossadegh. Maybe Palestinians will accept a rump state without a military in Gaza under Israeli suzerainty. Maybe Syria will renounce sectarian violence and its state of war with Israel since 1948. Maybe Lebanon will forget Israel’s periodic invasions and bombings, including its September 2024 exploding pagers operation. Maybe Saudi Arabia’s

Mohammed bin Salman will speak to the Knesset with an olive branch like Egypt’s President Anwar Sadat in 1977. Maybe nations will turn swords into plowshares and make war no more. We doubt all these Panglossian dreams. The Middle East has been convulsed since Joshua entered the Promised Land to conquer the occupants by force and violence. The Sermon on the Mount was delivered on perhaps the most blood-stained territory on the planet. The nation of Israel was born of warfare in 1948 after

the British departed Palestine unable to maintain or enforce peace. The 1994 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to Yitzhak Rabin, Yasser Arafat and Shimon Peres for negotiating the 1993 Oslo Accords, which soon teetered and collapsed. Military might neither secures peace nor guarantees victory. The adage, “you can’t kill your way out of a war” has been verified repeatedly in the Middle East. Trump and Netanyahu talking to one another misses the elephants in the living room: Palestinians, Israel’s Arab neighbors and Iran.

Left should hold off glee

By JOEL MATHIS
The Kansas City Star
Tribune News Service

Let’s start with a vocabulary lesson. There’s a German word — “schadenfreude” — that doesn’t really have an English-language equivalent, but is still handy to have in your linguistic toolbox from time to time. It describes the joy one feels upon seeing somebody else suffer misfortune. The glee that half of America felt when the Kansas City Chiefs finally lost a Super Bowl earlier this year? That was schadenfreude. Great word. Not a very nice idea, though. Why bring this up? Because on Monday, The New York Times ran a story about how Kansas farmers are suffering from President Donald Trump’s policies. In just six months, the White House has gutted the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Food for Peace program and provoked a trade war with the rest of the world, all to the detriment of the agriculture sector. Farmers have been left “with swollen silos, shrinking markets and volatile prices for crops,” said The Times.

Folks, the schadenfreude was thick with this one. Why? Because farmers are about as Trump-voting a group as you’ll find. And a lot of people in the half of the country that voted against Trump figure farmers are getting exactly what they deserve. “Every farm bankruptcy that comes — and come they will — will be a direct consequence of your members voting for the guy who already hurt them once,” one writer said in a letter to Nick Levendofsky, the executive director of the Kansas Farmers Union. That’s schadenfreude. It stinks. And for Democratic-leaning voters and pundits, it’s bad politics.

Who is going to feed you?

If you’ve spent any time on Kansas roads, you’ve seen the signs: “1 Kansas Farmer Feeds More Than 155 People + You!” The number has changed from time to time over the years, but the essential idea remains the same. Farmers do a tremendous amount to feed America, and the world. So I have a question for left-leaning folks who feel some glee at the misfortune of those farmers: Who the heck do you think is going to feed you if

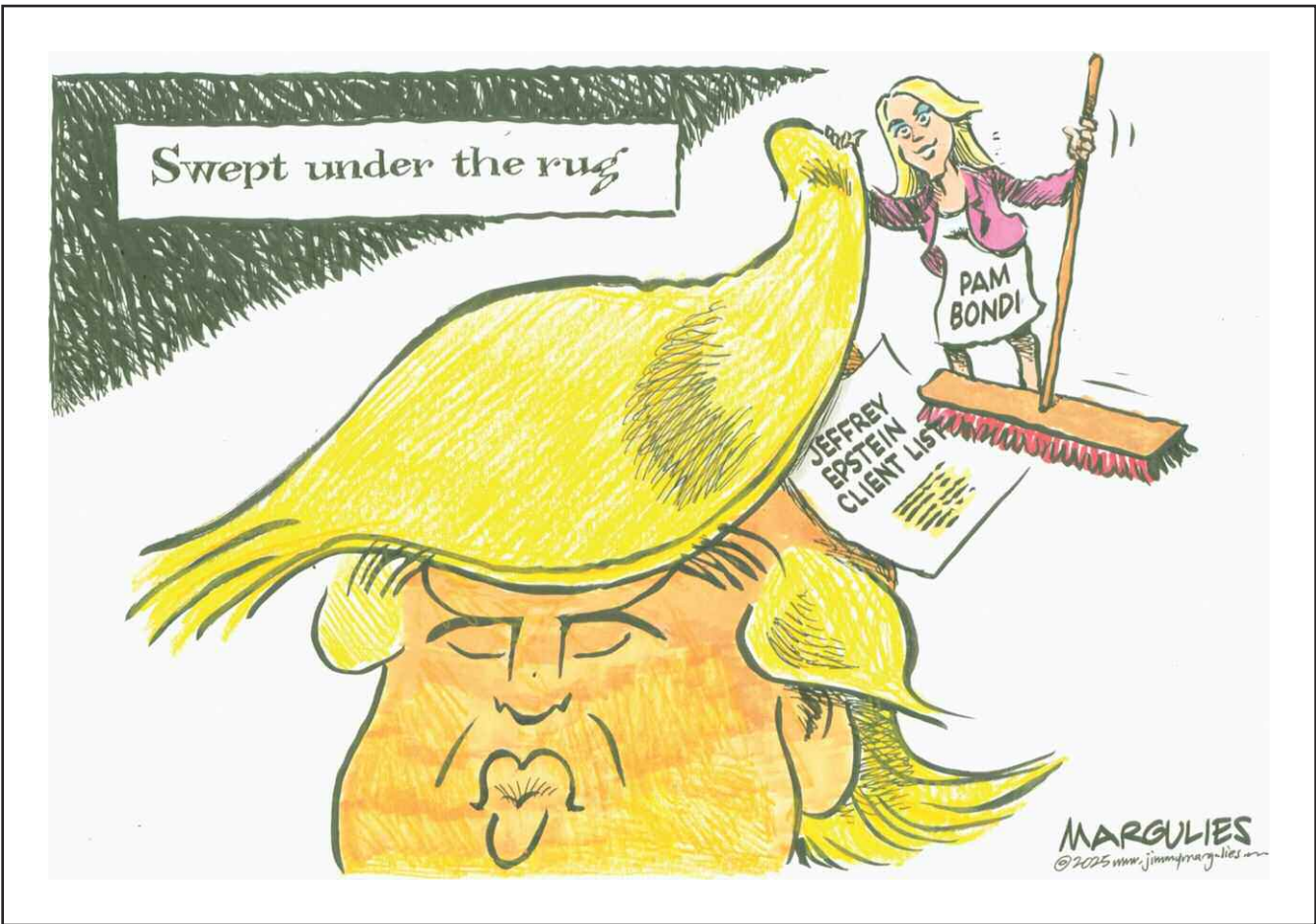
Joel Mathis



every Trump-voting farmer goes bankrupt? I’ll wait for your answer. There probably aren’t enough Democratic-voting farmers to make up the slack: More than 75% of votes in “farming-dependent counties” went to the Republican in 2024. They’re probably hurting too, anyway. And under Trump, it won’t easily be farmers in places like Mexico, who produce a lot of the produce we buy at supermarkets — but who are staring down big tariffs from the administration. It’s never a good idea to root against farmers. Even if you think they voted badly. Not if you want to keep your tummy filled.

Persuasion, not destruction

It’s not just self-interest that makes schadenfreude a bad idea. There’s also the politics. Those frustrated Trump-voting farmers? Democrats should consider that some of those folks might be gettable votes now. Maybe not most of them: A lot of folks in the ag industry are die-hard Republicans. But a few. Maybe even enough to make a difference. Alternatively, those farmers may be more willing to push back against Trump’s more destructive policies even if they don’t change parties. “We need people who are willing to speak up,” Paul Penner, a Kansan and former president of the National Association of Wheat Growers, told The Times. “I think privately they say things, but publicly, no. And I’m not sure what their pain threshold is.” Those farmers are less likely to jump across the threshold, though, if what they see on the other side is a few Democratic voices — not all, certainly, but a few — rooting for their failure. Getting out of the hole Trump is digging for all of us will require persuasion and coalition-building, including with people (like right-leaning farmers) who once voted for Trump and are now hurting because of his policies. You can’t eat schadenfreude, after all. But you sure can choke on it.



Without options, students will leave

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana’s GOP supermajorities are taking a hands-on approach to higher education. From ending diversity efforts to cracking down on tenure and making syllabi postings mandatory, conservatives are seizing more control on public universities and colleges that receive state funding. The latest move is to eliminate lesser-used degree programs. Leaders inserted language into the state budget that targets programs when the average number of students who graduate over the immediately preceding three years is fewer than:

- 10 for an associate degree program
- 15 for a bachelor’s degree program
- seven for a master’s degree program
- three for a doctorate degree program
- three for an education specialist program

The educational institution can seek an exception from the Indiana Commission for Higher Education. The mandated contraction raises a lot of questions. Yes, it could be better for the budget of the institution and therefore the state budget but isn’t part of government’s role to fund items for the public good? Public higher education is still a business and I’m concerned that customers — i.e. Hoosier students — will go elsewhere to get what they need. Is that what Indiana wants?

An initial review by higher education officials identified a stunning 408 programs to be eliminated, suspended or merged. That’s nearly 20% of the degree offerings in the state. Among those being terminated:

- A bachelor’s degree in teaching German at Ball State University
- A fine arts master’s degree in visual arts at Ball State University

Niki Kelly



- Bachelor’s degrees in education for physics, chemistry and math at Indiana University Bloomington
 - An associate’s degree of applied science in public safety at Ivy Tech Community College
 - A master’s degree in public administration at Purdue Fort Wayne
 - A master’s degree in accountancy at University of Southern Indiana
- A recent Newsweek article said Indiana’s Republican Gov. Mike Braun has called for more practical degrees that lead students into jobs, but the alterations to Hoosier higher education also come at a time when colleges across the country are coming under increasing scrutiny over funding and the programs they offer.

I have to admit, I’m torn on this one. I think I would feel better about the move if the idea was actually vetted publicly during the legislative session instead of, once again, inserting it into a bill with only a few days left and no advance notice. This type of move isn’t good for building trust in the legislative process and automatically puts people off. Ohio, for example, appears to have an almost identical measure — which means it’s being pushed nationally. Senate Bill 1 in Ohio requires public universities to eliminate undergraduate degree programs that graduate fewer than five students a year over a three-year period. On one hand, if only a handful of students are pursuing the degrees, it seems to make financial sense to assess whether these programs are worth the cost.

But I also think students should be able to pick the degrees they want if they are spending tens of thousands of dollars on it. This move also makes it harder for students to customize their educational paths to their interests. West Lafayette Democratic Rep. Chris Campbell said when she received her master’s in audiology at Purdue it was a relatively small program. “But the size of the program didn’t matter. It was offered because students were interested, and even though the discipline is small, audiologists provide essential services,” she said. “This is an overreach of government into higher education, echoing a dangerous national trend. The majority isn’t outright controlling students’ education, but they’re restricting it, which achieves the same goal. Students should be able to study whatever they choose, especially since they’re paying hundreds of thousands of dollars for it. Programs impacted include economics, secondary education, finance and three engineering disciplines. I was especially shocked to see special education degrees on the list.” Workforce shortages have turned into a major thorn for state leaders, and this move is clearly a way to push students into specific industries and sectors that business and state leaders want to emphasize to fill open jobs in Indiana. But nothing will cause burnout and transiency in employment more than not loving what you do. And if the degree options aren’t here, young Hoosiers will go elsewhere.

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

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



Photo provided

Donated
to team

Fort Recovery Lumber Co. recently helped the Portland Rockets with construction of their new storage building at Portland Memorial Park's Runkle-Miller Field. Pictured is Brian Bubp (second from left) with Randy Fisher, Randy Miller and Dru Hall of the Rockets.

ServSafe training set for next week

ServSafe training will be available at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland. The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, July 22. The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses. Additional sessions will be held on Tuesdays Aug. 19, Sept. 23, Oct. 28 and Nov. 25. For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Office launches

The State of Indiana has launched the Office of Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Indiana Gov. Mike Braun said the office is intended to help Main Street entrepreneurs “to start, grow and scale their businesses to grow Indiana’s economy and support Hoosier workers.” Brian Schutt, co-founder of Indianapolis co-working space and startup incubator Refinery46, is leading the office. Primary directives for the office are to: •Develop and administer programs to support the growth of small business, entrepreneurship and innovation. •Direct and oversee programs and sources of funding. •Strengthen policies and programs supporting the growth of entrepreneurship. •Coordinate with state agencies and other state-funded entities to align services and programs. •Work with funded entities to measure funds reaching rural communities. •Develop and administer pro-

Business
roundup

grams to support and encourage youth entrepreneurship.

Coordinator hired

The Economic Development Alliance of Muncie-Delaware County hired Gina Caravaglia as redevelopment commission coordinator. Caravaglia joins the alliance after working as a graduate assistant with Ball State University’s Department of Political Science and Indiana’s Voting System Technical Oversight Program. She’s a BSU graduate with a bachelor’s degree in psychological science and a master’s degree in public administration. “We’re excited to welcome Gina to the Alliance team,” said Elizabeth Rowray, alliance president and CEO, in a press release. “Her background in public administration, project coordination, and civic engagement makes her an ideal fit for our organization. As we continue advancing the Vision 2027 plan, Gina’s leadership will be instrumental in aligning redevelopment efforts with our countywide goals for business growth, investment, and quality of place.”

BSU honored

The Public Media Journalists Association honored Ball State Public Media with three national awards. Indiana Public Radio took

first-place awards for news feature and newscast. Ball State PBS took second place for audience engagement. “Like public radio stations around the country, IPR’s news team takes our mission for local news seriously, especially in this time of local news deserts,” said Stephanie Wiechmann, IPR managing editor, in a press release.

Program to begin

Indiana Department of Environmental Management is launching the Indiana Pollution Prevention Toolkit Program, a free resource to help businesses implement measures to prevent pollution. The new program will launch with an information session from noon to 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 23. The webinar will cover methods for finding and detecting compressor leaks. The program offers information sheets, checklists, access to live webinars and confidential compliance assistance. For more information, or to register for the webinar, visit idem.IN.gov.

Expo scheduled

Registration is open for the Indiana Chapter of the National Tooling and Machining Association and the Precision Machining Association Indiana District’s Indiana Manufacturing Suppliers Expo. The event will run from 1 to 6 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 21, at Embassy Suites in Plainfield. It will include educational tracks including AI in manufacturing. “Indiana’s small manufacturers and suppliers are the

heart of our economy - bringing cutting-edge tech, consistent quality, and real innovation,” said Dan Kendall, Precision Machining Association chair, in a press release. “This Expo unites that community, building meaningful partnerships and fueling growth. And with AI reshaping how we make things, this year’s expanded education sessions are essential - packed into one power-packed afternoon, they give manufacturing leaders the tools to not just keep pace, but lead.” To register, or for more information, visit intma.org.

Applications open

CenterPoint Energy Foundation is accepting applications for its final grant cycle of 2025. Non-profit organizations that have their primary location in a CenterPoint Energy service area are eligible. The foundation prioritizes community vitality and education projects serving low-to-moderate income families and communities. “We’re proud of the impact the CenterPoint Energy Foundation has in creating positive, meaningful change within the communities where we deliver electric and natural gas service,” said June Deadrick, vice president of community relations at CenterPoint Energy, in a press release. “The Foundation remains committed to initiatives and programs enriching the lives of those living and working within our service areas, while building a foundation for a brighter tomorrow.” To apply, or for more information, visit CenterPointEner-

gy.com/Foundation. The deadline is Friday, July 18.

Hosting drive

Menards is hosting a food drive through the end of July. The company will accept donations of non-perishable food items through July 31. They can be placed in collection boxes near the exit doors to its locations. Participating locations include stores in Anderson, Fort Wayne, Kokomo, Muncie, Richmond and Celina, Ohio.

Awards set

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its annual awards dinner at 5 p.m. Nov. 5 at the JW Marriott Indianapolis. Daymond John, founder of FUBU and a longtime star of “Shark Tank,” will be the featured speaker. Individual tickets are \$195. For more information, visit indianachamber.com.

Nominate manufacturers

Nominations are open for the Indiana Manufacturers Association 2025 Manufacturing Excellence Awards. The awards honor Indiana companies and individuals for their contributions to the manufacturing industry. They are open to all manufacturers in Indiana. Anyone can make a nomination by going online to indianamfg.com/2025-manufacturing-excellence-awards. The deadline is Sunday, Aug. 31.

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

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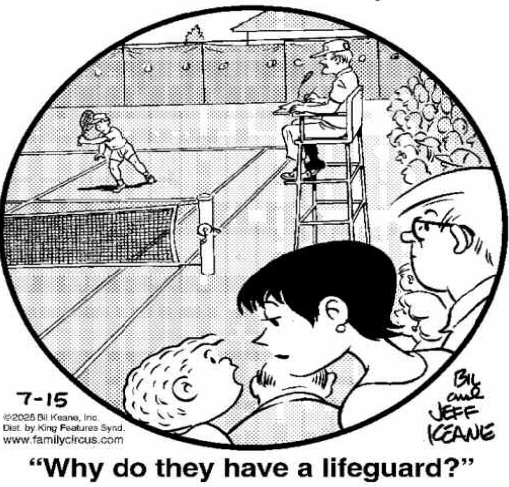
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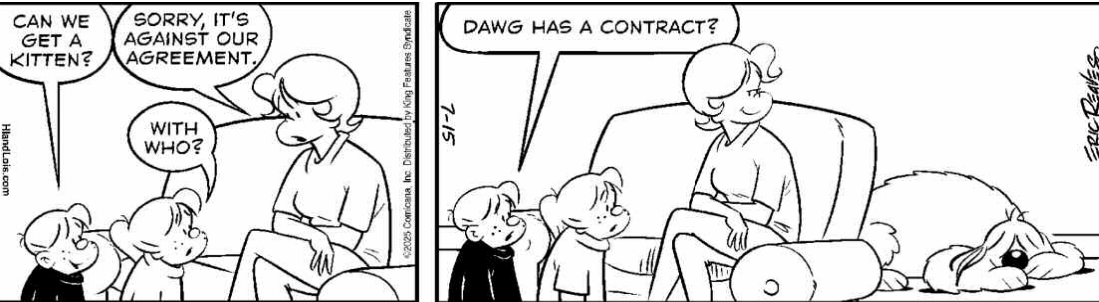
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The practical side of bridge

South dealer.
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ A 6 2
♥ A K Q 5
♦ 7 4 3
♣ 10 9 4

WEST
♠ J 10 9 7
♥ 9 7
♦ K 9 5 2
♣ K 7 3

EAST
♠ 8 4 3
♥ J 10 6 2
♦ J 10 8
♣ A 6 5

SOUTH
♠ K Q 5
♥ 8 4 3
♦ A Q 6
♣ Q J 8 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♣ Pass 1 ♥ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT

Opening lead — jack of spades.
Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a spade. You count your tricks and find that you have only seven of them. You have the prospect of an eighth trick if the hearts divide 3-3, and there is also the chance of winning a diamond finesse for your ninth trick.
But these possibilities, though certainly legitimate, are not as promising as the chance of developing two club tricks by forcing out the A-K. Furthermore, you still have a chance to test your luck in the red suits

later on if the need arises.
So you win the spade jack with the queen, cross to the queen of hearts and lead a low club. You hope East will follow low and West will win the trick with the ace or king because, in that case, you'll have nine sure tricks by forcing out the other high club, whatever West returns.
Unfortunately, East goes up with the ace of clubs at trick three and shifts to the jack of diamonds, attacking your principal weak spot. You had hoped this wouldn't happen, which was one reason you led the first club from dummy rather than your hand. However, it has happened.
Your best shot at this point is to play the ace rather than finesse the queen. You refuse the finesse because if East has the diamond king, the contract is ice-cold, whatever you do. But if West has the king, as in the actual deal, you could be defeated by a diamond continuation from West after he takes the queen with the king.
You next play a club, and since West has the king, you make the contract. Your queen of diamonds is not subject to attack with West on lead, and no matter what he returns, you are certain of at least nine tricks.

Tomorrow: The bidding points the way.
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7-15

CRYPTOQUIP

EA LOEC SML SD LXENL
OJJEQFDKOC CG XEK KXFEM
XFOQL AOEMCG XOMQ, QS GSR

LRNNSLF KXFG LFF LNO ML?
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AIRBORNE COMIC BOOK HERO WHO ALWAYS DROPS DOWN OUT OF THE SKY TO RESCUE FOLKS: SWOOPER-MAN.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals L

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

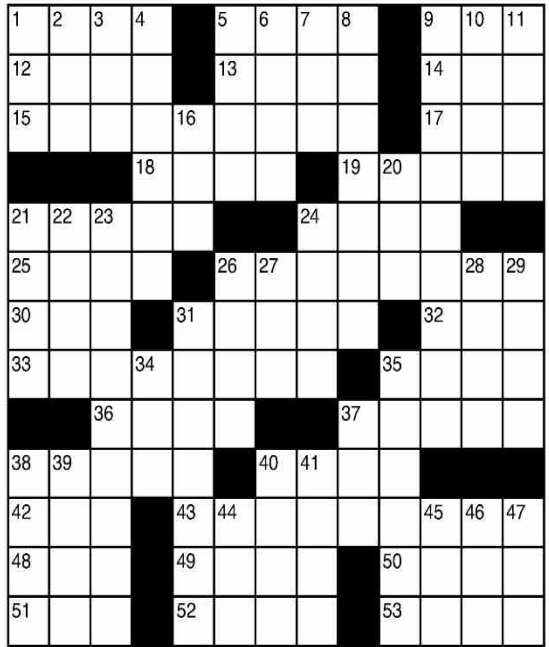
ACROSS
1 Ex-hausted
5 Sculpture medium
9 Brit. sports cars
12 "The Kite Runner" boy
13 Swiss river
14 Overseas agreement?
15 Breakfast special side dish
17 Pitch
18 Sow's mate
19 New Zealand native
21 Old anesthetic
24 Henry VIII's Catherine
25 Take a gander
26 Pulpit figure
30 "Tasty!"
31 Franklin's belief
32 Metal source
33 Well-behaved
35 Roman 2,002

DOWN
2 Punk rock sub-genre
3 Goal
4 "Jeopardy!" emcee
5 Singer Alessia
6 Hide-away
7 Consist of
8 Boot camp affirmative
9 Winnebago, for one
10 — gum (thick-ener)
11 Voice in an iPhone
16 Supporting
20 Lob's path

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 7-15

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Jay finishes second at conference meet

Rain ended the day before the final five relays could be held. As a result, Jay County came up short.

The Jay County Summer Swim team finished second in the Wabash Valley Conference Championship at Portland Waterpark on Saturday after the meet was called with five relays remaining due to multiple lightning delays.

Jay County finished with 2,120.5 points, only trailing conference champion Wells Community, which racked up 2,658.5. The Jay County girls carried a bulk of the load, earning 1,449.5 points to Wells Community's 1,163.5, but the boys couldn't keep up as they trailed 1,405-671.

Jay County claimed victories in 33 of the 62 individual events and seven of the 15 relays. Wells Community only picked up wins in 26 individual events – the remaining three first-place finishers were from South Adams – but they won the other eight relays.

Jay County swept the top three spots in five different races. Those races were the 11-12-year-old girls 100-meter freestyle

(Addisyn Champ won in 39.91 seconds), 11-12-year-old girls 50 butterfly (Carsyn Guggenbiller, 37.40), 9-10-year-old girls 50 backstroke (Jaley Knapschafer, 22.57), 9-10-year-old girls 100 individual medley (Emme Theurer, 1 minute, 41.79 seconds) and 8-and-younger 25 butterfly (Hayden Guggenbiller, 21.71).

In general, the Jay County girls dominated, resulting in sweeps of the 8-and-younger, 9-10-year-old, 11-12-year-old and 13-14-year-old age groups.

Individually, Jay County had eight triple-event winners. They were Hayden Guggenbiller, Maddie Theurer, Emme Theurer, Champ, Elly Byrum, Maria Laux, Grant Glentzer and Cooper Glentzer. Champ went undefeated for the fifth season in a row and Cooper Glentzer joined her this year as neither lost a single race.

Laynie Mann was the only double-event winner, while Graham Peterson, Knapschafer, Carsyn Guggenbiller, Isabelle Byrum, Anna Fisher, Sam Benirschke and Brooklyn Byrum each claimed one victory.



Photo provided

Henry Laux of the Jay County Summer Swim team swims the breaststroke leg of the 8-and-younger boys 100-meter freestyle during the Wabash Valley Conference Championships at Portland Waterpark on Saturday.



Judo medalists

Two members of Judan Judo in Portland made the trip to Chicago to compete in a pair of tournaments over the past two weekends. On the first weekend of the trip, Daylan Winters went 3-0 in the Tohkon Classic to earn first place, while Ben Root finished fourth. Root fared better the following weekend as he went 2-2 to earn second place at the USA Judo Junior Olympic Nationals. Winters did not place in the second tournament.



Photos provided

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Portland Rockets vs. Muncie Chiefs – 7 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
5 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Uruguay at Argentina (FS1)
6 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Brooklyn Nets at New York Knicks (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — MLB: All-Star game (FOX)
8 p.m. — WNBA: Indiana Fever at Connecticut Sun (ESPN)
8 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Peru at Ecuador (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Portland Trail Blazers at New Orleans Pelicans (ESPN)

Wednesday

3 p.m. — UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Norway at Italy (FOX)
3:30 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Sacramento Kings at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Bolivia at Brazil (FS1)
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: Indiana Fever at New York Liberty (FOX)
8 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Dallas Mavericks at Philadelphia 76ers (ESPN)
8 p.m. — Athletics Unlimited Softball: Blaze at Talons (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Venezuela at Colombia (FS1)
10 p.m. — NBA 2K26 summer league: Washington Wizards at Utah Jazz (ESPN)
10 p.m. — MLS: Seattle Sounders at Colorado Rapids (FS1)

Local notes

Partnership announced
Ball State University will be partnering with Indy Eleven to provide free training for youth coaches in Indiana on August 2.

The in-person training session will be at Michael A. Carroll Stadium in Indianapolis. It will be a one-hour workshop focused on building positive, youth development-focused coaching practices.

Those who attend will receive a ticket to the Indy Eleven soccer match and Professional Growth Points for those going for a teaching license.

Tickets available
Jay County Junior-Senior High School will begin selling its super and season tickets on Monday, July 21 from 8 a.m. until noon and from 1 p.m. until 7 p.m.

After July 21, tickets will be available during the

high school's office hours which are between 7:30 a.m. and 2:30 p.m.

Regular season tickets for individual varsity events will cost \$7, while admission to JV, freshman or junior high events will be \$6 for adults.

The Patriot Pass, which gets you into all high school and junior high events costs \$115. The Senior Patriot Pass for those 65 and older will be \$70.

Other deals are as follows:
• High School Adult Super tickets - \$90
• Senior Super Tickets - \$55
• Pre-Paid Sports Pass - \$60
• Basketball season pass - \$60
• Football season pass - \$25

Outing scheduled
United Way will be hosting a golf outing at Portland Golf Club on August 2.

Registration will begin at 11:30 a.m. with the teams teeing off at 12:30 p.m. Teams can regis-

ter for \$250 each, with lunch included, at unitedwayjaycounty.org or by going to Portland Golf Club.

Prior to the golf outing, there will be a freewill pancake and sausage breakfast from 7:30-10:30 a.m.

After golf there will be a family fun night. It will cost \$40 for two adults and two kids to play nine holes and eat. There will be live music by Ken Bantz, a bounce house and fireworks.

Next race set
The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Swiss Days Race in Berne on Saturday, July 26 at 8:15 a.m.

There will be a 1-mile kids run and a 5K race. To register, visit adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

.....

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

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Under cover in the Industrial Building at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
Wednesday Afternoon
JULY 16, 2025
4:30 P.M.
MODERN HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD ITEMS - TOOLS
Midea small chest type freezer; leather chair and a half; Wicker settee with 2 matching swivel rockers and end table, like new; Electric reclining sofa; (2) gaming chairs; marble top dresser; French Provincial bookshelf; Cannon gun safe; Pipka - Reflections of Christmas figurines; Pipka - Stories of Christmas ornaments; #6 Star crock; #3 crock; slate; cement lawn items; David Winter iThe Fisherman's Wharf painting; Maurcie R Bebb color etching iRed Eyed Vines, 1963; several other prints and paintings; Black & Decker battery powered tools; Kids Rechargeable ride-ons to include: Paw Patrol Rubble ride on dump truck, Paw Patrol

90 SALE CALENDAR

Marshall ride on fire truck, Flybar bumper car, and Hour dirt bike; and other items not listed.

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Public Notice

COPIES OF THE CITY OF PORTLAND'S ANNUAL CONSUMER CONFIDENCE REPORT (CCR) REGARDING WATER QUALITY, HAVE BEEN MAILED (WITH YOUR WATER BILL), OR HAND DELIVERED TO PORTLAND WATER CUSTOMERS. THE REPORTS ARE REQUIRED ANNUALLY BY THE STATE OF INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT. CUSTOMERS WHO DID NOT RECEIVE A COPY OF THE REPORT OR WHO HAVE QUESTIONS MAY CALL 260-726-4525 AND ASK FOR JASON, OR COME TO THE WATER TREATMENT PLANT AT 205 SOUTH WAYNE STREET DURING REGULAR BUSINESS HOURS. M-F 8AM TO 4:30PM CR 7-15-2025-HISPAKLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
JAY COUNTY, SS:
IN THE JAY
CIRCUIT COURT
38/C01-2505-EU-000016
IN RE THE MATTER OF
THE ESTATE OF
BRIAN K. ADAIR
Deceased
KENT WICKER
Personal Representative
NOTICE OF
ADMINISTRATION
(IC 29-1-7-7)
Notice is hereby given that Kent Wicker, Personal Representative, was on the 12th day of May 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the Estate of Brian K. Adair, deceased, who died on March 14, 2025, and authorized to administer said estate without court supervision. 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 or this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated my hand and seal of said Court, this 13th day of May 2025.
Melissa Elliott
Clerk, Jay County Courts
Aaron M. Henderson
#32364-05
502 W. Main Street, Ste A
Hartford City, IN 47348
Phone: (765) 347-8333
Fax: (765) 347-8327
CR 7-15,22-2025-HISPAKLP

2024-25 softball
All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company
Player of the Year
Jaelynn Lykins

Jay County High School senior

Jaelynn Lykins was selected as the inaugural Graphic Printing Company Player of the Year for softball.

"It's never really crossed my mind to think of myself as better than anyone," said Lykins. "You can look at the stats all you want, but I just enjoy playing the game. ... I just wanted to play the game and have a good time. I definitely feel like I did that this year and really all four years. That's really what it comes down to."

The Patriots' four-year starting catcher had a bounce back season from her junior campaign, where her numbers took a slight dip. According to stats found via GameChanger, Lykins led all area players with a .0593 batting average, 57 RBIs – she had 23 more than Fort Recovery's Jenna

Homan in second – a 1.701 OPS, nine home runs and was tied at 48 hits. While leading Jay County to a 20-3 record, Lykins struck out one once in 81 at bats.

"It felt like my best year at the plate," Lykins said, whose 57 RBIs was fifth in the state and 171st in the nation. "This year, I felt like I had no pressure on myself. I just wanted to go play and that's what I did. 'See ball, hit ball,' as they always say."

"She was a key part of that team, being a four-year starter, a captain and an overall leader for everybody," said JCHS coach Doug Arbuckle. "She overly succeeded this year. ... It was just a big part of the success for this team to know if we could get to her in our lineup in an inning that something good was going to happen."



All-Graphic Printing Company first team	
P - Jenna Homan (Fort Recovery Jr.) -	160 Ks, 3.52 ERA, 14 wins, 1.48 WHIP
C - Jaelynn Lykins (Jay County Sr.) -	.593 average, 57 RBIs, 1.701 OPS, 9 HR
1B - Jozey Shimp (Jay County Sr.) -	.397 average, 25 RBIS, 27 runs, 1.132 OPS
2B - Carley Trinidad (Jay County So.) -	.395 average, 20 RBIs, .960 OPS
3B - Ella Schoen (Fort Recovery Sr.) -	.392 average, 20 RBIs, 28 runs, .973 OPS
SS - Brenna Ruble (Jay County Sr.) -	.488 average, 29 RBIs, 34 runs, 1.157 OPS
OF - Emma Will (Fort Recovery Sr.) -	.462 average, 18 RBIs, 37 runs, 1.154 OPS
OF - Morgan Missicano (Jay County So.) -	.535 average, 23 RBIs, 37 runs, 1.23 OPS
OF - Aviana Ramos (Winchester Jr.) -	.426 average, 14 RBIs, 25 runs, 1.12 OPS
AT LARGE - Oaklee Riechard (Union City Sr.) -	.582 average, 30 runs, 1.641 OPS
AT LARGE - Mallory Winner (Jay County Sr.) -	3.17 ERA, 10 wins, 1.41 WHIP

Honorable mention	
Allie Campbell, Sr., Winchester	Serenity Lehman, Jr., Blackford
Alexis Grisez, So., Fort Recovery	Haley Loser, Jr., Delta
Briley Kalahekomo, Sr., Wapahani	Hallie Schwieterman So., Jay County
All stats were retrieved by the Graphic Printing Company via teams' GameChanger accounts and MaxPreps pages.	

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Rockets take three

Rain ended the first day of games, but the Rockets still picked up three wins.

The Portland Rockets won all three games over the weekend as they beat Fort Wayne Blues 7-3 on Saturday and ran through the Syracuse Outlaws 16-1 and 21-3 on Sunday.

A three-run fourth inning made the difference for Portland (19-7) in the first game. The first run of the frame came on a double by Cooper Hummel before Crosby Heniser's sacrifice fly plated a second. The final run crossed on Garrison Brege's single to right field.

Brege also earned the win after giving up three runs on two hits and four walks over four innings.

In what would have been the second game of the day, Camden McEldowney blasted a home run in the bottom of the first before rain ended the game early.

The Rockets chipped away at the Outlaws all throughout the first game on Sunday, scoring three runs in the first, four in the third and seven in the fifth. Heniser, Quinn Faulkner, Cameron Pratt and Jayden Simpson led the way with two RBIs apiece. Simpson also picked up the win, allowing only three hits and no earned runs.

Heniser's bat led the way in the second game as two doubles and three singles produced five RBIs. Faulkner and Hummel also put in strong showings as they each drove in four runs.

Cody Rowles got the win on the mound, throwing two innings while only issuing one walk.

Paul Skenes to start second consecutive All-Star Game today

By COLIN BEAZLEY
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

MINNEAPOLIS — For the second consecutive year, second-year starter Paul Skenes will start the MLB All-Star Game.

Skenes, 23, will start for the National League team on Tuesday in Atlanta. The decision was announced on Fox on Saturday evening.

Skenes was one of the two favorites to start the game, then became the overwhelming favorite when Phillies ace Zack Wheeler said he'd opt out of the event. Skenes has just a 4-8 record, but he leads the majors with a 2.01 ERA. He's completed 121 innings, the fourth-highest total in the majors. He has 131 strikeouts, seventh-most in baseball, and has allowed a majors-low 27 earned runs (among qualified starters). His 4.8 WAR is the best in the game.

Asked after Friday's start in Minneapolis, Skenes told the Post-Gazette it wasn't a big deal to him if he started or not.

"I want to pitch in it, for sure," Skenes said. "It's out of my hands. I don't know who else is up for it, but I think it should be whoever pitches best over the first half. So if ... [Dodgers manager] Dave Roberts thinks that's the case, then you know, I'd be honored to start. I'm honored to pitch in it either way."

Roberts agreed, choosing the player who pitched the best in the first half as his starter.

With the nod, Skenes will become the first pitcher ever to start the All-Star Game in both of his first two seasons, per the Elias Sports Bureau. Just four other players have started the All-Star Game in each of their first two major league seasons: Joe DiMaggio, Ichiro Suzuki, Rod Carew and Frank Robinson.

Tigers' ace Tarik Skubal, with a 10-3 record and a 2.23 ERA, will start for the American League team.

The 2025 MLB All-Star Game will take place on Tuesday at Truist Park in Atlanta. First pitch is scheduled for 8 p.m. The game will be televised on Fox.

Pirates ace has a 2.01 ERA over 121 innings, but only a 4-8 record in 2025 campaign