The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

FR teen died in crash Sunday

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

A Fort Recovery teen died following a crash early Sunday in Jay Countv.

Natalie R. Siegrist, 16, died at Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne after she was ejected from a vehicle that went off of Indiana 26 about a quarter-mile west of the state line.

The driver of the vehicle, Charles E. Smith III, 16, Salamonia, suffered injuries to his

was driving southeast on Indiana 26 nearing the state line just after 3 a.m. Sunday, accord-

Siegrist was ejected from vehicle after it went off of Indiana 26

Jay County Sheriff's Office. The vehicle went off the high-Siegrist was a passenger in way and Smith attempted to rolling several times. the 2007 GMC Sierra that Smith adjust but drove into an ing, continuing south in a ditch from a vehicle. She was uncon-

ing to an incident report from and then going airborne. The vehicle went over the driveway at 8919 E. Indiana 26 before

Siegrist, who the report says embankment, the report says. was not wearing a seatbelt at the The GMC Sierra began turn-time of the incident, was ejected

unstable condition when police arrived on scene, with emergency personnel transporting her by ambulance to IU Health Jay. She was later transported to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne where she died as a result of her injuries, according to police.

Siegrist's autopsy was conducted Monday morning in Fort Wayne. Allen County coroner Jon Brandenberger declined to immediately comment on the case prior to press time, saying he had not yet spoken with the family of the deceased.

Smith was allegedly under the influence of alcohol, community members." according to the report, and he

scious and reported to be in was administered a blood test. Results are pending.

Siegrist attended Fort Recoverv Local Schools. Her death was acknowledged with a moment of silence at the beginning of Sunday's Fort Recovery Friends of the Arts Community Talent Night at Fort Site Fieldhouse and the school district addressed the crash in a Facebook post on Monday.

"Fort Recovery Local Schools would like to express their heartfelt sympathy to the Siegrist family," the post read. "This tragic loss will undoubtedly impact many of our students, staff, and

See Crash page 2



Fifth at Central

The Jay County High School Marching Patriots scored 69.875 points to finish fifth Saturday in the Spirit of Sound band contest at Muncie Central. JCHS trailed defending Indiana State Fair champion Muncie Central (77.888), Kokomo (75.3), Anderson (75.275) and Richmond (72) while finishing just over a point ahead of Winchester (68.688) in the field of 23 bands. Pictured in front, from left, are clarinet players Ava Franks and Julianna Hernandez, and saxophone player Troy Lee. The Marching Patriots are at band camp this week.

Jet struck school site

Tribune News Service

DHAKA, Bangladesh — The death toll from the crash of a Bangladesh Air Force training jet onto a school in Dhaka has risen to 19, mostly children, officials said on Monday, as the country's leader described it as a day of 'profound grief.'

Many others who suffered severe burn injuries tal. were receiving treatment in hospital.

At least 19 dead after incident in Bangladesh

into the two-story Mile- from elementary up to stone School and College in the north of the capi-

many children were still Bangladesh The Chinese-made F- present at the school, media division. 7BGI fighter jet crashed which teaches children

12th grade. The crash occurred minutes after the plane At the time of the crash took off, according to the military's

See **Jet** page 2

Haynes plans expansion

Investment in plant projected at \$173 million

By SPENCER DURHAM Kokomo Tribune

Tribune News Service

More than 100 new jobs are included in a \$173 million investment at Haynes Inter-

Plans were made public during a Koko-

mo City Council meeting last month where the board approved a 10-year property tax abatement for the company.

Two new facilities are planned at Haynes, one on the north side of operations and the other on the south side, near the corner of Defenbaugh Street and Berkley Road.

The project aims to expand Haynes' footprint in the aerospace alloy market, according to Tim Honeycutt, vice president of operations.

See Expansion page 2

The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

'Wrecking' Roessner

Fort Recovery's Helena Roessner, who will be a fifth grader this fall, belts out her rendition of "Wrecking Ball" by Miley Cyrus during Fort Recovery Friends of the Arts' Community Talent Night on Sunday in Fort Site Fieldhouse. The event, which featured a variety of local talent, was moved indoors because of inclement weather.

Weather

The temperature in Jay County ranged between 71 and 78 degrees on Sunday.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 60s. Expect mostly sunny skies Wednesday with a high in the upper 80s. Wednesday's low will be 70 degrees.

See page 2 for an extended out-

In review

Jay County Civic Theatre will hold a pre-audition night for its production of "Annie" from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesday at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. The event is an opportunity to meet the codirectors, ask questions, learn about the audition process and get feedback from the staff ahead of auditions.

Coming up

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

Thursday — Details from next week's Redkey Town Council meeting.

Friday — Coverage of dedication of Lance Cpl. Andrew Whitacre Memorial Bridge.



Expansion

Continued from page 1

Much of Haynes' production called flat products, like sheets and plates, however the aerospace market is in round products like bars and billets lengths of metal with square or circular cross-sections.

"This investment allows us to keep up with the market and to become a player in this round market, in this massive volume we are currently missing out

on," Honeycutt told the council. triple that capacity," Honeycutt
"This investment helps us to said.

powerful ones on the face of the with another five in 2028, HoneyEarth that is used on high percutt said. has been in what Honeycutt make sure not only do we have a future but so our future can grow."

> A new vacuum induction melting furnace is planned for the tobe built north facility. This 100foot tall, 40,000 square-foot building will aid in the expansion of aerospace alloys, as most are vacuum melted.

> "We currently have a much smaller unit ... this allows us to

Material is melted down and vacuumed together which results in the purities needed for aerospace products.

More than \$104 million of the investment is for the south side facility which will house a radial forge machine. In layman's terms, it will clamp products together to make rounded prod-

Earth that is used on high performance alloys," Honeycutt

The 85,000-square-foot building will be built where the Kokomo Soccer Club plays.

"They knew eventually we would use that property," Honeycutt said.

The project at Haynes is expected to create 111 new jobs. ucts.
"This will be one of the most added each year through 2027 Between 30 and 41 jobs will be

The Commercial Review

Tuesday, July 22, 2025

multi-million-dollar The investment follows Haynes acquirement by Spanish stainless steel manufacturer Acerinox

The Madrid-based company purchased Haynes last year in an all-cash deal that valued the Kokomo manufacturer at \$970 million. The deal included Acerinox taking over Haynes' debt.

CR almanac

Wednesday 7/23	Thursday 7/24	Friday 7/25	Saturday 7/26	Sunday 7/27			
	0	-	4				
90/72 Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast Wednesday.	92/74 Sunny skies with heat index values up to 100. Mostly clear late.	86/71 Friday looks to be mostly sunny with a 60% chance of showers.	85/71 Saturday's forecast shows 60% chance of showers with thunder-storms.	88/71 There's a slight chance of rain Sunday under mostly sunny skies.			

Lotteries

Powerball

Estimated \$308 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$110 million

Hoosier

Sunday Midday Daily Three: 3-1-9 Daily Four: 0-0-3-6 Quick Draw: 3-14-19-21-23-24-37-42-47-48-50-56-59-61-63-66-67-68-71-74

Evening Daily Three: 5-4-4 Daily Four: 9-7-4-4 Quick Draw: 1-2-5-9-24-

28-29-32-45-47-50-52-56-57jackpot: 59-62-64-68-78-79

Cash 5: 15-18-28-30-41 Estimated jackpot: \$140,500

Ohio

Sunday Midday Pick 3: 6-0-2 Pick 4: 9-5-7-7 Pick 5: 0-0-7-3-0 **Evening** Pick 3: 0-9-7 Pick 4: 6-6-2-8 Pick 5: 1-3-8-8-5 Rolling Cash 5: 2-9-13-

Estimated jackpot: \$368,000

Special to The Commercial Review/Evelyn Garringer

Jay awaits turn

The Jay County High School Marching Patriots await their turn to take the field in front of a packed Central Muncie stadium football during the Spirit of Sound contest on Saturday night. JCHS will be back in competition Saturday in the Drums at Winchester.

Markets

Cooper Farms

Fort Recovery						
Corn						
POET Biorefining						

Portland Corn.....4.56 Aug. corn4.51 Sept. corn4.41

The Andersons							
Richland To	ownship						
Corn							
Aug. corn	3.43						
Beans	10.29						

Aug. beans	9.87
Wheat	5.13
ADM	

Monthener	
Corn	4.30
Aug. corn	4.28
Beans	10.29
Aug. beans	10.09
Wheat	5.12

leartland St. Anthony

Montpolior

Corn	4.46
Aug. corn	4.46
Beans	10.07
Oct. beans	9.67
Wheat	4.88

and keep the Siegrist family in your thoughts and prayers," the post read. Also, a Marion resident bond from Jay County Jail.

nued from page 1

Crash

Continued from page 1

available throughout the

week and may be reached

by contacting the district's

office, the post said. It also

indicated some summer

activities may be altered

this week, with scheduling

changes to be shared with

students by their coaches

together as a community

"Please continue to come

or advisors.

School counselors will be

It said that the pilot of the training aircraft noticed a technical malfunction soon after it took off from Dhaka's Kurmitola airbase at 1:06 pm (0706 GMT) and tried to pilot it to a thinly populated area.

But it then crashed into the school building, killing 19 people, including the pilot, and injuring 164 others, the military said.

Earlier, Sayedur Rahman, an assistant to the head of the interim government, Muhammad Yunus, said that many of the injured were taken to the Burn and Plastic Surgery Institute in Dhaka.

He said more than 100 people were undergoing treatment at different hospitals.

government The announced a day of national mourning on

Tuesday to pay respect to those who died.

struck debris in the road

after the crash involving

Siegrist and Smith, result-

ing in damage to his vehi-

driving his 2002 Ford F350

northwest on the highway

near the incident scene

when his car hit the debris,

causing damage to his front

He was preliminarily

charged with operating a

vehicle while intoxicated, a

Class C misdemeanor. He

was released on a \$1,000

passenger side.

Tyler J. Watkins, 24, was

Yunus posted a message of condolence on Facebook expressing his shock over the crash.

"This is a moment of profound grief for the nation," Yunus said. He wished a speedy recovery for those injured.

The government will take the necessary measures to investigate the cause of the accident, he said.

Khaleda Khatun, an official on duty at the Fire Service and Civil Defence control room, said that nine fire engines had been working to extinguish the fire at the accident site.

A witness named Pintu, who was at the scene to pick up his child from school, told reporters that he saw the aircraft descend rapidly before crashing with a loud

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3 @ 11 AM: Small Animal Auction. Simulcast!

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Today in history

In 1796, surveyors was killed in a shootout Moses become Ohio.

son became the first that were loose on Ohio Major League Baseball 49 northeast of Jay player to record 3,000 County. strikeouts.

aviator Wiley Post dead at the scene, and New York.

of Australia completed the Weaver Building in the first solo helicopter preparation for a new flight around the world. mural. The "Glass Cap-

drug cartel leader was completed in Octo-Pablo Escobar escaped ber 2020. from police custody. He

Cleaveland officers in December 1993. In 2012, Noland R.

died after the Mercedes Benz ML3 he was driv-In 1923, Walter John- ing struck two horses Kirk was thrown from the vehi-In 1933, American cle and pronounced

In 2019, Dunkirk City Council approved spending \$21,200 to In 1983, Dick Smith repair the north wall of In 1992, Colombian ital of Indiana" mural

—The CR

10:30 AM: Multi Estate Simulcast!

Cell: 260-703-0839

commissioned by Gen. with law enforcement arrived at the mouth of the Cuyahoga River, the location that would Kirk, 63, Fort Wayne, Cleveland,

became the first to fly two horses were also solo around the world killed. when he landed at Floyd Bennett Field in

Citizen's calendar

6 p.m. — Redkey Town 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.

Wednesday

Today

9 a.m. — Redkey Town **Friday** Council executive session, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.

10 a.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.

sion, auditorium, court- 1616 N. Franklin St.

house, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St.

5:15 p.m. — Portland 5 p.m. — Jay County Board of Works, council Redevelopment Commis- chambers, fire station,



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NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE.



'Fire Up' festival slated for Aug. 2

It's almost time to ignite down-

town Muncie.

Fire Up DWNTWN, an event organized by Muncie Downtown Development Partnership and Ivy Tech of Muncie, is slated for 1 to 10 p.m. Aug. 2. The summer festival will feature live music, hot air balloons, fiery spectacles, interactive art and entertainment, craft vendors and food

Liquid Fire Iron Pour will light up the evening with fiery artistry as metal artisans work on their new project, "Pedestrian Ironworks." alongside DWNTWN IDOL second-round elimination performances.

"We're putting together one of our most exciting lineups yet," said Cheryl Crowder, Event Director for Muncie Downtown Development Partnership. "With incredible local talent, great food, and surprises around every corner, Fire Up DWNTWN is a summer tradition you won't want to miss!" For more details, visit downtownmuncie.org/fire-

Tall Cop

tional opportunity to learn how free, community focused event inplainsight2025.



Hot air balloons light up the night sky at Muncie's Fire Up DWNTWN summer festival.

for 9 a.m. to noon Aug. 29 at The ble high-risk behaviors in youth. There's an upcoming educa- Rock Church in Portland. The

to identify high-risk behaviors in for adults will be led by officer Jermaine Galloway, also known Jay County Drug Prevention as "The Tall Cop." Galloway will Coalition's "High in Plain Sight: be sharing ways to prevent sub-Current Drug Trends" is slated stance abuse by identifying possi-

To register, visit bit.ly/high

Crush needs to be tamed

DEAR ABBY: After six years of working closely together, I have developed a raging crush on my coworker and project partner, "Brett." It's a full-on, face-flushing, daydreaming kind of situation, and it's super annoying. I know this crush is inappropriate and unreciprocated, and I have no intention of acting on it. We are both married, and I would like to stay that way. My strategy has been to spend less time together and work on not being a moron.

I've changed my daily schedule so we don't overlap as often. When we're traveling, I book different flights so we're not together all day. The issue now is that I've heard from a different co-worker that Brett thinks I'm mad at him and that he's done something wrong,. He's great, always professional and very good at his job. I don't want to keep hurting his feelings, but there's no way I'm going to tell him what's going on. Besides quitting ter than a cold shower.

Dear Abby

SOUTH

or going on leave until I can get myself under control, what can I do? — STRICT-LY BUSINESS IN THE

DEAR STRICTLY: To discuss your crush with Brett would be not only embarrassing but also unprofessional. The coworker who told you Brett thinks you are mad at him may have intended to be helpful, but unless Brett tells you himself, do not make excuses for distancing yourself. The surest way to get your crush under control is to keep reminding yourself that this kind of thing could destroy your career. That may work even bet-

Community Calendar

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

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

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOV-ERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a CLUB — Will meet at noon 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., Port-

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

A BETTER LIFE – BRImeeting 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-

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 Cen-

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

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

COMMUNITY FORCEMENT AND FAMI-LY TRAINING — A nonconfrontational, evidencebased intervention for helping families affected ANNA'S HOPE — A faith- by addiction meets at 4 based recovery group for p.m. each Wednesday in substance abuse. Meal the IU Health Jay Outpastarts at 6 p.m. and the tient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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

LAWYERS LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

Friday PAST

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

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-

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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 BREAK-FAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restau-

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

EUCHRE 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 information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accept-

BREAD OF LIFE COM-MUNITY 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.

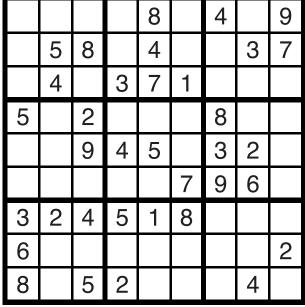
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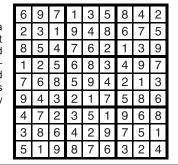
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Sudoku



Saturday's Solution

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





Policy boot is a welcome change

Chicago Tribune

Walking in stocking feet across a grimy airport as you make your way through security was the reality for many travelers for years. And if you happened to show up to security in sandals ... well, we shudder to think.

But last week, the Transportation Security Administration ditched its "shoes off" rule.

Good riddance. An irritant of modern life has been lifted. That doesn't happen very often.

Reducing security wait times and, frankly, improving hygiene — is a good thing, and we're pleased to hear it. Nobody will miss the sights and smells that accompanied this security protocol.

Of course, we understand that post-9/11, everything changed when it came to keeping travelers gible. Security agencies have

Guest **Editorial**

safe. It was implemented after the attempted 2001 shoe bombing, in which Richard Reid, a British citizen and self-proclaimed follower of al-Qaida, attempted to detonate explosives midflight from Paris to Miami. Some countries introduced similar checks, though few maintained them as long as the U.S.

Still, the "shoes off" policy is a legacy of early 2000s security thinking. The threat of a shoe bomb, while real in the early 2000s, is so low risk as to be neglimore sophisticated threats. Plus, programs like TSA PreCheck already allow vetted travelers to keep shoes on — and they've demonstrated that it's possible to maintain strong security standards without this requirement.

We hope that an end to stuffing our footwear into bins for the Xmachine signals more progress to come in bringing the U.S. closer to how other airports around the globe operate. Modern airport scanners (like advanced CT scanners and millimeter wave scanners) can now detect threats without requiring passengers to remove shoes. These machines provide detailed 3D images and can spot anomalies inside shoes, laptops and even liquids.

For the TSA, there are many

processes.

The Netherlands uses CT scanners for screenings, allowing passengers to leave laptops and liquids in their bags. They also leverage centralized security checkpoints instead of TSA-style gate-by-gate screening, reducing redundancy and congestion. In the U.K., airports like Heathrow and Manchester are deploying 3D imaging CT scanners, too, eliminating the 100-milliliter liquid limit and need for laptop removal. And in Sweden, airports are adopting biometric gates and remote baggage screening.

The TSA is starting to adopt many of these more modern approaches. In 2023, the agency announced it was investing \$1.3 billion to roll out more CT scanners at airports, adding that this

WHO 15

ni taht

THE LAST

adjusted priorities toward other, examples of how to improve new technology could reduce wait times by as much as 50%, while also improving threat detection. O'Hare is among the larger airports in the U.S. that have been using advanced CT scanners since at least April 2023, according to Condé Nast Traveler. Increasing adoption of this scanning technology more widely is a good next step for U.S. travel security.

We share the TSA's goal of safe travel, and understand that the threat from those who would seek to do harm remains high. Let's keep seeking ways to make the flying experience less miserable while preserving and enhancing security. It's doable.

Shoes on, dignity intact, we can now step toward a future of air travel with fewer hassles preferably through a CT scanner.

STEPHEN

MILLER.

Continue tipping until wages go up

By CHRIS MILLS RODRIGO OtherWords

Our nation's paltry federal minimum wage of just \$7.25 hourly is rightly criticized as far too little to sustain a worker, let alone a family, in 2025.

That's bad enough, but did you know that there's an even lower floor for workers who receive tips on the job? That's right. The federal minimum wage for tipped workers is just \$2.13 an hour — and has been for 30 years.

Theoretically, employers are meant to cover the difference if tips don't raise hourly wages to the federal minimum. Cases of bosses failing to meet that requirement are commonplace.

Eight states have elimi-nated this tipped minimum, ensuring that tipped workers receive the same minimum as others. In the other 42 states, bartenders, servers and hotel workers are constantly exposed to wage theft.

Not only do tipped workers often end up making less than the minimum wage, but their lower floor also makes their livelihoods dependent on external factors, such as weather and customer traffic. It also exposes them to customer harassment, a massive issue for two-thirds of servers wno are women.

"Many of my coworkers and I are pressured to tolerate inappropriate customer because behavior our livelihood depends on being likable," said Red Schomburg, a One Fair Wage campaigner who worked as a bartender in Boston. "This especially harms women and contributes to the restaurant industry's notoriously high rates of harassment."

With that in mind, we can't just stop tipping. Because the sub-minimum wage has been decoupled from the federal floor since 1996, businesses and policymakers have essentially shifted the responsibility of ensuring tipped workers earn enough to make ends meet to consumers.

We need to eliminate the tipped minimum and establish one fair wage for all workers. One that's far, far above \$7.25 an hour. Until then? Tip.

Raising tipped minimums to the same level as other workers has been successful when it has been tried. Despite complaints from industry groups, restaurants and server jobs have boomed since the District of Columbia began increasing the wage floor for tipped workers.

Chris Mills Rodrigo



This has not been the approach of our federal government. Instead, lawmakers have toyed with the margins of the real issue of insufficient pay.

During the 2024 presidential campaign, Donald Trump proposed exempting tips from federal taxes. And now a similar policy, allowing for tips to be deducted from taxes, was slipped into the Republican "Big Beautiful Bill."

At first, that sounds like a pro-worker policy. But looking past the surface reveals a policy that would help Wall Street executives more than servers.

Many tipped workers in America — two-thirds, by one measure! — don't earn enough to have to pay federal payroll taxes in the first place. On the other end of the spectrum, some experts have warned that hedge fund managers or lawyers would likely reclassify some of their incomes as tips to avoid taxes.

Removing taxes on tips would alleviate pressures to raise tipped minimum wages and encourage more industries to treat their employees as tipped workers. No wonder the National Restaurant Association, which has long opposed wage increases for servers, has endorsed this policy.

Admittedly, there are many other places where tipping has become the norm, but employees do not receive sub-minimum wages, such as in coffee shops. While frustration with paying an extra buck or two on top of an already expensive latte is understandable, focusing on tipping is misguided.

Instead, we should wonder why workers at global chains need tips to meet their basic needs despite working full-time jobs.

The solution to both problems is the same: Pay people family-sustaining wages wages, thev deserve, and no one will have to complain about onerous tips ever again.

Rodrigo is the managing editor of Inequality.org.

OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.



We likely can't avoid tolling

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle indianacapitalchronicle.com

When I head to Chicago or Nashville, I know I'll be receiving a tolling invoice in the mail soon after. It's a minor inconvenience because I don't use those routes very often.

But the prospect of Indiana tolling interstates within state lines is an entirely different discussion. I take Interstate 65 to and from work almost every day and I would no doubt rack up a ridiculous bill — at the same time that I'm paying high gas taxes every time I fill up.

My immediate reaction is: no way. But I'm trying to see all sides of the debate.

The fact is Hoosiers love to complain about our roads, but no one wants to pay to improve them.

And our roads aren't that bad depending on who you ask.

The Indiana Department of Transportation compared Indiana to neighboring states on 12 criteria, including road and bridge conditions, fatality travel reliability more:"INDOT ranked in the top 3rd in 5 areas and in the middle 3rd in the others," the 2024 report said.

The federal Bureau of Transportation Statistics also rates 97% of Indiana's roads as "good" or "fair.'

But a Reason Foundation analysis found Indiana ranked 32nd in highway performance nationally.

And the money raised from Indiana's fuel-related taxes simply isn't keeping up with demand. That's partially because people are purchasing less gasoline. Newer cars are more efficient, and some cars don't need it

Inflation has also spiked the cost of repairing or replacing roads and bridges.

So, Indiana — and every other state - has a diminishing revenue stream but more roads than ever to main-

Niki Kelly



And when I say Indiana, I don't just mean state-owned roads. Most of the roads in the state are cared for by counties, cities and towns — about

One analysis said local governments would require an additional \$2.4 billion annually to eliminate poorly rated local roads and bridges across the state over the next 10 years. The annual price tag for simply maintaining roads at the current condition is \$1 billion.

89%. Their needs are immense.

So, would any of the additional revenue raised from tolls go to local infrastructure?

Lawmakers recently tried to think outside the box and offer other options. One was a surcharge on deliveries, such as Amazon and Door-Dash. That language was removed pretty quickly. The state is also trying to force local units into implementing wheel taxes to take some ownership of the problem and raise fees and taxes at the local level.

But those are honestly just nibbling around the edges of the prob-

Tolling is where the money is at. And it's a lot of money.

One 2017 feasibility study produced for INDOT estimated that a statewide interstate highway tolling program would have an 85% chance of generating upwards of \$39 billion between 2021 and 2050.

It further reported a 50% chance that revenue could exceed \$53 billion over that timeframe. The estimates didn't include the costs to install and maintain tolling gantries, process talchronicle.com.

payments, provide customer service, enforce collections and more.

Former Gov. Eric Holcomb chose not to go down that route, but Gov. Mike Braun appears to be more interested. And lawmakers recently removed some final impediments to imposing tolling on state highways.

"It's going to have to be considered because, otherwise, I don't think we an maintain our main arteries, Braun said earlier this year.

Tolling interstates isn't as clear-cut as it seems.

It's generally against federal law to collect tolls on existing federal highways. But Congress has allowed several exceptions. For instance, a state can toll an existing bridge after it is reconstructed and toll new lanes added to an interstate.

The option that is most expansive is the Interstate System Reconstruction and Rehabilitation Pilot Program, which allows tolling on existing interstate facilities to fund needed reconstruction or rehabilitation on corridors that could not otherwise be adequately maintained or functionally improved.

It has only three slots — awarded to Missouri, North Carolina and Virginia years ago. But those states never implemented the program, which has essentially been inactive.

INDOT said it has not filed a waiver request on tolling — yet.

I honestly don't see how tolling in some way can be avoided. Leaders want to capture the trucks and travelers passing through Indiana without stopping for gas. But it'll be tough to avoid hurting Hoosiers already paying their fair share.

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 indianacapi-

The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

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

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VOLUME 151-NUMBER 57

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Cybersecurity training offered

First Bank of Berne will host a cybersecurity symposium on Tuesday, July 29, in Wells County.

The event from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Wells County 4-H Park, 1240 4-H Park Road, Bluffton, is aimed at businesses. It will cover a variety of topics regarding fraud and cybercriminals, including ransomware, AIdriven fraud, compromised email, data encryption, profit protection and antihacking technology.

For more information,

firstbankofberne.com/cybe

Job fairs set

The United States Postal Service will host job fairs on Friday, June 25.

Sessions are scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the following locations:

•Montpelier — 215 S. Jefferson St.

Business roundup

•Winchester — 130 N. Meridian St.

To offer nursing

Grace College will introduce a bachelor of science in nursing degree in fall

Students will have access to Grace's nursing simulation lab. They will have opportunities for clinical placements through Lutheran Kosciusko Hos-Grace Village, Parkview Kosciusko Hospital and Mason Health and Rehabilitation Center.

"We are thrilled to make this long-awaited transition," said Dr. Kristen •Richmond — 400 North Richmond, director of

degrees in partnership with Bethel University. "Our nursing majors will now be fully Grace students and share the same rhythms and routines as their peers. Since Grace is an institution that highly Christ-centered values community, we are excited for the ways our future nursing students will be able to experience this at a new level and finally complete their studies with a Grace nursing degree."

For more information, go online to grace.edu/programs/nursing.

Bottles planned

Ardagh Glass Packaging announced last week that it will produce the first emerald green bottles from its new NextGen Furnace for Jägermeister.

Ardagh, which has glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester, nursing at Grace, which has partnered with Jäger-

previously offered nursing meister for more than 20 es implement measures to regarding degrees in partnership years. The NextGen Furprevent pollution. nace in Obernkirchen, Germany, began operation in 2023 and has previously produced amber glass bot-

> "Partnering exclusively with Jägermeister, we're scaling innovation with impact," said Ardagh research and development project manager Joris Goossens in a press release. "After successfully producing lower-carbon amber glass in our NextGen Furnace, the next step is to use the same groundbreaking technology to produce green glass — aiming to deliver the first lower-carbon emerald glass bottles to the spirits sector.

Program to begin

Indiana Department of Environmental Management is launching the Indiana Pollution Prevention Toolkit Program, a free resource to help business-

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.

program offers The information sheets, checklists, access to live webinars and confidential compliance assistance.

For more information, or to register for the webinar, visit idem.IN.gov.

Courses available

Indiana Chamber of Commerce is hosting 10and 30-hour Occupational Safety and Health Administration courses August.

Courses covering general industry standards will be held Aug. 19 through 22 in the chamber conference center in Indianapolis. It

violations, record keeping, fire protection, personal protective equipment and machine

guarding. To register, or for more information, visit indianachamber.com.

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 loca-

Participating locations include stores in Anderson, Fort Wayne, Kokomo, Muncie, Richmond and Celina, Ohio.

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

Court: Walmart must face attempt to fine

By ROSIE MANINS

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Tribune News Service Walmart must face the federal government's attempt to fine it \$24 million for alleged failures to keep records on worker eligibility, an appeals court has ruled, reversing a Georgia judge's decision in the retail giant's favor.

Between 2018 and 2021, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement inspected 20 Walmart facilities across the country, including in Georgia, and found more than 11,000 recordkeeping violations related to employee eligibility authorization, case records show.

ICE filed 20 complaints against Walmart, seeking a total of \$24.2 million in fines. But Walmart convinced a federal judge in South Georgia that ICE's cases were unconstitutionally being heard by an administrative law judge within the U.S. Department of Jus-

In March 2024, U.S. District Randal Hall of the Southern District of Georgia blocked ICE from pursuing its complaints against Walmart in front of the DOJ judge.

But on Wednesday, the 11th U.S. Court Appeals said Hall's decision The appellate court's decisions across Georgia, Florida and Al abama.

In a statement, Walmart said it disagreed with the decision.

defend against the government's allegations regarding its compliance with the technical record-keeping rules at by Walmart to properly keep



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Ronaldo Schemidt

Groceries are seen at a Walmart supermarket in Houston on May 15. A federal appeals court ruled last week that Walmart must face the federal government's attempt to fine it \$24 million for alleged failures to keep records on worker eligibility.

was wrong and overturned it. issue here," spokesperson Han-records of workers' "I-9" nah Henderson said. "Walmart invested substantial resources to help ensure a strong employment verification compliance program."

In case filings, Walmart said 'Walmart will vigorously ICE did not allege it had unlawfully employed anyone. The company said ICE's complaints related to alleged failures

forms. Those forms indicate a person's right to work in the United States.

with Walmart's argument that the administrative law judge overseeing ICE's cases against it was unlawfully shielded from presidential accountability.

The 11th Circuit said an administrative law judge can

adjudicate civil cases against employers accused of violating immigration law.

"A politically accountable The appeals court disagreed executive department head is still ultimately responsible for the ALJs' decisions, and, as such, the President is able to faithfully execute the law," the court wrote in its 70-page opin-

Walmart said in its com-

plaint that ICE had alleged 739 record-keeping violations at Walmart's facility in Statesboro, Georgia.

Walmart said it requested a hearing to contest the allega-

It then sued the federal government in June 2023, before ICE's cases had been decided on the merits, court records



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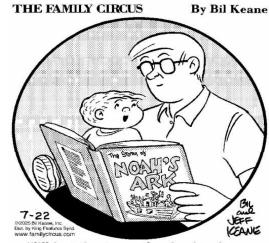
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"I'll bet the two mice had to keep hidin' from the two cats.'

Peanuts



Rose is Rose











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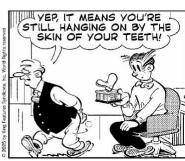








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Contract By Steve Becker

More to it than meets the eve

and failed to cash in on it. Granted that West was much more likely to have the king of spades for his spade overcall than East, South should not have relied solely on

After winning the club at trick four, declarer should cash the A-K of trump and A-K of clubs, discarding two spades from dummy. He then runs all his remaining trumps, producing this position as the last trump is led.

South

At this point, South knows that West's last three cards are the jack of diamonds and two spades, which might or might not include the king. When the heart eight is led, West is forced to discard a spade, where we have the space of the spac

whereupon South discards dum-my's nine of diamonds.

When South next leads the spade

three and West produces the jack, it becomes folly to attempt a finesse, because West's last card is known

to be the jack of diamonds. Declarer therefore goes up with the ace, catches East's king and so

makes the contract.

that probability.

the last trump is led:

South dealer.
North-South vulnerable.
NORTH

♠ A Q 9 4

♠ A 10 9 2

♠ 9 7 4 3 ♣Q WEST EAST **♦** J 10 8 7 5 2 ♦K ♥763 ♦85 •10976532 SOUTH The bidding:
West North

*Heart support, 11+ points Opening lead king of diamonds.

If you're a careful cardplayer, you take nothing for granted. For take nothing for granted. For example, take this case where South is in four hearts and West leads the K-A-6 of diamonds. East ruffs the

third diamond and returns a club to dummy's queen.

Superficially, there seems to be nothing to the rest of the play. South draws trump and sooner or later takes a spade finesse. Surprisingly, the queen losses to East's Finally the queen losses to East's Finally the queen losses to East's Finally the queen losses. ingly, the queen loses to East's king, nd South goes down one.

Bad luck, you could say, but the

fact is that declarer had a sure thing Tomorrow: It's all in the spots.

7-22

CRYPTOQUIP

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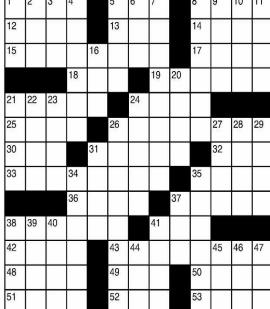
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> Α in The Commercial Review C

S D 726-8141

Rockets lose regular season finale to Royals

The Rockets didn't have they will head into the able shot to make it to the world series.

The Portland Rockets fell to the South Bend Royals 9-5 on Saturday before rain canceled the second game of a doubleheader to close the regular season.

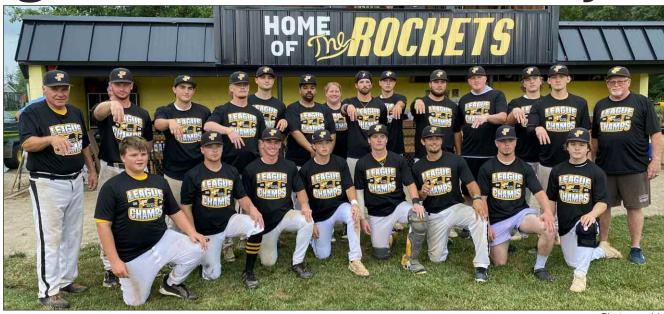
A six-run fourth inning doomed the Rockets (22-8) as South Bend collected three singles, a double, a home run, a walk and a sacrifice fly to pile on the damage.

Portland scored a run in the second inning and a frames. Crosby Heniser RBIs on a pair of singles.

Camden La Fuze took their best showing in the the loss after giving up regular season finale, but all nine runs, eight of which were earned, on 11 postseason with a favor- hits and one walk over four innings. Cody Rowles didn't allow a hit in his three frames of relief.

> While the loss snapped a seven-game winning streak, the Rockets will carry the top seed and host the NABF Regional. Their first game will be in Friday's semifinal at 7 p.m. against the winner of the Livonia Firebirds and the Fort Wayne Blues.

Should Portland lose the first game, they will pair in the third and fifth face the loser of the first game on Saturday at 1 led the team with two p.m. The championship game will follow.



Pictured the Portland Rockets pose with their Fort Wayne League champion shirts Saturday after the first game against the South Bend Royals. The Rockets will host one of the NABF Regional tournaments over the weekend.

Continued from page 8 its proponents, would level the playing field by requiring all eligible universities to maintain at least 16 varsity sports have the tools to thrive," teams and would require schools to report on revenue from media rights and on fees athletic programs.

The legislation, according to new norm in college athletics, we must ensure that all athletic programs, from powerhouse football teams to smaller sports, Guthrie said.

Democrats on the subcommittee argued the measure goes too charged to students used for far in shielding the NCAA from antitrust lawsuits and not far

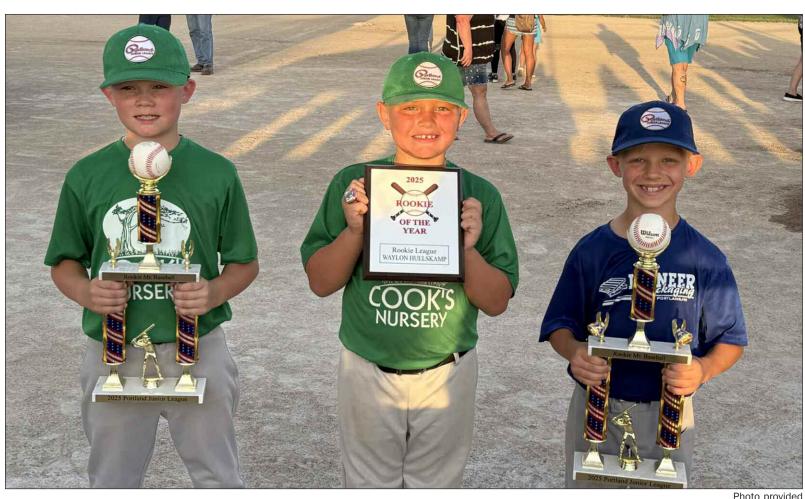
"With revenue-sharing as the enough when it comes to bene- athletes who make college fits and protections for students. Rep. Lori Trahan, D-Mass., herself a former Division 1 volleyball player at Georgetown, pressed for changes to the bill.

"As currently drafted, the SCORE Act would grant sweeping power to the NCAA and athletic conferences, power that comes at the expense of the very

sports possible," Trahan said.

She proposed carving out room for states to "go further in protecting college athletes and strengthening their rights if states so choose," withdrawing an amendment to that effect after receiving assurances that Republicans would work with her to find "common ground."

Other amendments from her and Clarke were voted down. California Rep. Kevin Mullin offered, then withdrew, an amendment that would ask the Federal Trade Commission to study the idea of creating an independent entity to regulate agents, while also clarifying that agents have a fiduciary duty to their student-athletes.



Rookie award winners

Portland Junior League Rookie baseball division handed out awards following postseason tournament. Pictured from left are Co-Mr. Kayden Baseball Alberson, Rookie of the Waylon Year

Huelskamp and Co-Mr. Baseball Jett Johnson.

Photo provided

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Portland Rockets in NABF Regionals semifinal at Runkle-Miller Field - 7 p.m.

TV schedule

5 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Colombia at Bolivia (FS1) 6:45 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Washington Nationals (FDSN Indiana); Boston Red Sox

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

8 p.m. — WNBA: Indiana Fever at New York Liberty (ESPN)

8 p.m. — Copa America Femenina soccer: Paraguay at Brazil (FS1)

10 p.m. — WNBA: Atlanta Dream at Las Vegas Aces (ESPN)

Wednesday

12 a.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN2) 12:05 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Wash-

ington Nationals (FDSN Indiana) UEFA Women's Euro soccer: Germany at Spain (FOX)

3:10 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Col-

orado Rockies (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament (FS1)
7 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited Softball: Volts at

Talons (ESPN2) - MLB: Boston Red Sox at

7:05 p.m. — MLB: E Philadelphia Phillies (ESPN) 9 p.m. — The Basketball Tournament (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.

Outing scheduled United Way will be hosting a golf outing at Port-

land 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 register

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

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 adamscounty5kchallege.com.

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

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Public Notice STATE OF INDIANA

JAY COUNTY, SS: IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT 38C01-2505-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 Representatives 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-HSPAXLP

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2024-25 girls tennis All-GPC team

Graphic Printing Company Co-Players of the Year **Kate Manor and Kelsey Vest**

Delta High School junior and senior

Kate Manor and Kelsey Vest were selected as the inaugural Graphic Printing Company Co-Players of the Year for girls tennis.

"It's a big honor," said Manor. "Especially because there were so many people you could have chosen and that makes it feel special. It shows that our hard work paid off."

The duo filled out the No. 1 doubles position for the Eagles throughout the regular season, earning a 22-4 record on the year. The 22 wins put both girls in Delta's top-10 for career victories as Vest sits in seventh with 74 and after three seasons, Manor is in 10th at 71

They also contributed to the Eagles going 20-3 on the season, earning the 14th straight sectional title. Their season came to an end in the regional final as they fell to No. 4 Westfield's duo 4-6, 6-4, 6-1.

Manor and Vest were named to the All-State girls tennis team for the second consecutive season and Vest also participated in the Indiana Senior All-Stars as well.

"We had the idea that people would see us with big targets since we got allstate last year," said Vest, who said a standout moment was beating Franklin Central. "So we played harder than we did last year and focused more during each practice, trying to get each aspect of our game better."

They're super important," said DHS coach Tim Cleland. "It goes without saying they are both really athletic but they're also really good friends. They're very aggressive from the backcourt and at the net. ... If you're playing against them, you're going to feel like you're always under a lot of pressure."



Photo provided

All-Graphic Printing Company first team

Brenna Bailey

Jay County senior

Elizabeth Bamidele Delta junior

Brylee Beckley Delta senior

Alexa Bratton and Rowan Hinds Delta sophomore and junior

Spare

Rib

Pork

Bone In

Pork

Butts

Steaks

Bailey capped off her career with a strong showing at No. 1 singles for the Patriots. She went undefeated during the regular season and only fell to Bamidele for a 15-1 record.

Also in her first year competing at the No. 1 single, Bamidele put together a strong 15-9 record while battling multiple top-30 teams throughout the season.

Beckley played No. 2 singles for the Eagles, going 20-5 on the season. Through her four years at DHS, Beckley collected 67 wins to sit 18th in school history.

Delta's No. 2 doubles duo put together a 20-win season to

add support from the back half of the lineup. As a pair the two combined for a 20-3 record.

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House subcommittee advances NIL framework

Honorable mention

Emily Cockerill, Sr., Winchester Meredith Dirksen, Sr., Jay County

Olivia Marshall, Jr., Delta

Jorja Anderson and Julia Hargarten, Fr., Winchester

CQ-Roll Call

WASHINGTON -House subcommittee on

Tuesday advanced legislation that seeks to address recent seismic changes in how college athletes are compensat-

The legislation, introduced last week by Rep. Gus Bilirakis, R-Fla., would create national standards for name, image and likeness deals, while preempting a patchwork of existing state laws on the topic. It would bar student-athletes from being considered as university employees and carve out exceptions to antitrust law for conferences and

the NCAA. The bill advanced out of the House Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade on a party-line, 12-11 vote. Democrats on the subcommittee opposed the measure, saying it would transfer power back to the NCAA and impede progress made over the last few years by studentathletes.

"We're here today to consider the SCORE Act, but a title like the NCAA Wish List Act would better reflect its true objectives," said Rep. Yvette D. Clarke, D-N.Y. Next the full committee

is expected to consider the proposal, which was also referred to the Education and Workforce Committee. Its prospects on the House floor are unclear, but it already has the backing of two Democratic co-sponsors: Reps. Janelle Bynum of Oregon and Shomari Figures of Alabama.

The latest congressional effort to create a pete in a system that is nationwide NIL standard anything but fair or sta-

Legislation that addresses recent changes in how college athletes can be compensated moved forward on July 15

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antitrust lawsuits brought by former Division 1 athletes. Those athletes sought damages for NIL deals they were forced to forgo and the ability to share in revenues generated from broadcasting.

The settlement now allows universities to directly share revenues with college athletes, capped at roughly \$20.5 million per school for the 2025-2026 season, in a watershed change for college athletics. But lawmakers agreed Tuesday that athletes and universities still face a confusing mishmash of NIL policies across the coun-

"The fractured NIL landscape that has developed in recent years has left athletes, schools and conferences without certainty or guardrails," said Rep. Brett Guthrie, R-Ky., who chairs the full Energy and Commerce Committee. "Across the country, athletic departments are trying to com-

comes just a month after ble, where chaos makes it a federal judge approved difficult to understand, a settlement resolving let alone meet their compliance obligations."

> The debate over NIL began more than a decade ago, when former UCLA basketball player Ed O'Bannon sued the NCAA after his likeness was featured in the 2009 edition of EA Sports' NCAA basketball video game. In 2019, California passed a law allowing student-athletes in the state to make money on NIL deals, and in the intervening years many other states have followed suit.

> Interest in NIL only when the increased NCAA implemented new transfer rules that made it easier for players to jump from one school to another, shopping the best options without the past penalty of having to miss a year of playing time. Since the rule change, boosters at major schools — particularly those with renowned basketball and football players — are competing for top talent, sometimes offering north of a \$1 million a year in deals for college athletes.

See NIL page 7