

2025 Indiana State Fair Cheerleading
Emotional
accomplishment



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

There were smiles and tears from the Jay County High School cheerleaders Saturday afternoon as they claimed the first place trophy in the large varsity no music division at the Indiana State Fair, Pictured, from left, Emma Hatzell, Paisley Fugiett, Kayla Jetmore and Faith Faulkner react as they carry the trophy back to their teammates. The victory was the first for the Patriots since 2012 and a redemption of sorts after coming up 0.1 points short last summer.

Jay County High School cheerleaders earn their
first Indiana State Fair championship since 2012

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review
INDIANAPOLIS — As the Patriots disappeared into the tunnel below the grandstand, the reality of the moment struck. Seniors Emma Hatzell, Paisley Fugiett, Kayla Jetmore and Faith Faulkner gathered together. They smiled and cried at the same time. Fugiett buried her face in Jetmore's shoulder. Faulkner covered her face. They wrapped each other in a group hug. Their tears were both happy and sad. Happy that their state fair performance went about as well as they could have hoped. Sad because it was their last. Only the happy tears would return a few hours later. The Jay County High School cheerleaders celebrated their first Indiana State Fair championship in more than a decade Saturday afternoon when they were announced in first place in the large varsity no music division. The reactions came rapid fire: "Really good," said Fugiett. "Very great," said Hatzell. "Really accomplished," said Jetmore and Faulkner, echoing each other. "We got the job done," Fugiett added. "Left it on the mat." There was some trepidation as results were announced in reverse order. With Brebeuf Jesuit called in third place,

that left Jay County and Decatur Central vying for the title. A year ago, it was the Patriots who were announced in second place, just one tenth of a point behind champion Tri-West. "I was just praying that they wouldn't call us for second," said Faulkner. "In my mind I was like, 'Please, please, please, please, please don't call our name,'" added Fugiett. Jay County took the Indiana State Fair title with 206.6 points, 3.4 ahead of the runners-up. Brebeuf was a distant third with 178.6. It was the first state fair title for the Patriots since 2012. (The squad took a break from the state fair from 2017 through 2022 after the 2016 competition was canceled. It instead competed in Universal Cheerleaders Association and Indiana Cheer Championship competitions during that span.) "I think it was our turn," said JCHS coach Lindsey Peterson, her own tears flowing. "This was the best group of girls. They deserved it for more than one reason. ... "They're hard workers and they get along. ... It builds the teamwork aspect of it when you want your teammates to do well. And then the girls who came back after last year, losing by a 10th of a point, they needed that." See Accomplishment page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Brenna Schmiesing, a JCHS junior, reacts to the announcement of Decatur Central in second place Saturday, which locked the Patriots into the top spot. They had finished second in each of the previous two seasons.

Israel:
Aid is
reaching
residents
in Gaza

Officials say
23,000 tons
of supplies
have been
delivered

dpa
Tribune News Service
BERLIN — Israeli authorities on Sunday said 23,000 tons of aid have reached the civilian population in Gaza by land in the last seven days. At least "1,200 trucks were successfully collected by the U.N. and international organizations" in Gaza, according to a post on X by Israel's agency for civilians in the Palestinian Territories, COGAT. Humanitarian organizations say that the current quantities of around 200 lorry loads per day are not enough to feed the 2 million Palestinians in the devastated coastal territory. According to the United Nations, the Gaza Strip is on the brink of famine. Israel controls all access points to the coastal territory on the Mediterranean and, for several months, allowed no or only minimal aid deliveries to pass through. Israel said this was intended to increase pressure on the Islamist Hamas to release the last of the hostages abducted on October 7, 2023. Since last weekend, following growing global criticism of the dire situation faced by the Palestinian civilian population, Israel has been allowing larger deliveries via land routes. Before the blockade, the U.N. and other organizations brought 500 to 600 trucks a day into the Gaza Strip. Countries have also been organizing airdrops into Gaza, with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on Sunday announcing that 136 aid packages with food were dropped by the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Egypt, France, Germany and Belgium. The IDF, on its Telegram channel, said the drops are a continuation of the "actions aimed at improving the humanitarian response in the Gaza Strip." Two A400M transport aircraft from the German Armed Forces, carrying 44 pallets containing food, medical supplies, and other aid weighing approximately 19 tons, were dropped over Gaza, an Air Force spokesman told dpa in Berlin. Another drop is planned for the beginning of next week. Germany has been participating in the operation since Friday with up to two aircraft, which are loaded at a military base in Jordan. Chancellor Friedrich Merz has announced that options for distributing German aid via land routes are also being explored.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 78 degrees Sunday. The low was 54. A few days of cooler temperatures were set to give way to a high in the lower 80s today. There is a 30% chance of showers and thunderstorms tonight with a low in the lower 60s. Skies will be mostly sunny Wednesday with a high in the lower 80s Expect the low to be in the mid 60s Wednesday night. There will be a 20% chance of rain. Highs are expected to climb into the upper 80s again by the weekned. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will partner for a food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, Aug. 6, at Jay County Fairgrounds. Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Details from next week's Jay School Board meeting.
Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls golfers in the Belmont Invitational.
Friday — Coverage of the FRHS girls golf team at the Gary Broering Invite..



Indiana electricity costs have spiked

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

Indiana has seen one of the biggest jumps in electricity bills in the country in recent years, according to a new study from a Houston-based consumer advocacy and electricity shopping site.

The study by Texas Electricity Ratings reports the states where residential consumers have faced the lowest and highest increases in energy costs over the years.

Indiana electric bills have jumped by an average of 29.1%

Study: Bills have gone up by an average of 29.1%

from 2015 to 2023, according to the study, which used U.S. Energy Information Agency data. That increase ranked 13th nationally. Indiana saw a bigger increase than neighboring Illinois, where

electric prices jumped by 25.7%.

The average cost per kWh of electricity for Hoosier households was 11.57 cents in 2015, according to the U.S. Energy Information Agency figures. The






cost in Indiana shot up to 14.94 cents per kWh of electricity in 2023.

Electric rates have trended higher nationally, Indiana Energy Association President Danielle McGrath said. Texas Electricity Ratings estimates residential electricity costs have risen by more than 20% in 27 states, with increases of more than 40% in seven states.

“Indiana has been growing, and Indiana’s utilities have an obligation to keep pace with that demand and power a modern economy. In recent years, our energy companies have made

substantial investments in additional power generation and modernization of the state’s century-old electric grid that delivers that power,” McGrath said. “We’ve added advanced technology to the electric grid that reduces power outages and hardens the grid against severe weather. There also have been substantial investments to meet evolving environmental regulations. We are committed to keeping customer affordability top of mind, while also balancing the need to make the investments necessary to provide safe, reliable electricity.”

CR almanac

Wednesday 8/6	Thursday 8/7	Friday 8/8	Saturday 8/9	Sunday 8/10
 82/64 There is a 20% chance of showers and thunderstorms. The high will be in the lower 80s.	 84/66 Expect sunny skies with a high in the mid 80s.	 85/67 The high will be 85 degrees under sunny skies.	 87/68 Skies will be mostly sunny with the high climbing into the upper 80s.	 87/68 Expect a high in the upper 80s under mostly sunny skies. There is a slight chance of storms.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$426 million	18-19-20-21-23-24-25-26-32-34-36-41-46-47-48-58-67 Cash 5: 6-21-26-35-42 Estimated jackpot: \$75,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$150 million	
Hoosier Sunday Midday Daily Three: 6-4-6 Daily Four: 3-9-5-1 Quick Draw: 6-7-8-13-22-23-26-35-39-40-46-49-55-66-68-69-70-71-78-80 Evening Daily Three: 4-5-5 Daily Four: 1-7-5-0 Quick Draw: 2-10-15-	Ohio Sunday Midday Pick 3: 4-1-8 Pick 4: 7-8-1-9 Pick 5: 2-5-9-9-2 Evening Pick 3: 7-5-9 Pick 4: 4-8-8-2 Pick 5: 5-7-2-8-9 Rolling Cash 5: 2-6-21-28-39 Estimated jackpot: \$183,000



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The Jay County High School cheerleaders won their first Indiana State Fair championship since 2012 on Saturday. Pictured, front row from left, are seniors Kayla Jetmore, Faith Faulkner, Paisley Fugiett and Emma Hatzell. Middle row are Ella Roussey, Brooks Kahlig, Ashlynn Brunswick, Aubree Shannon, Dakota Blalock and Kelsey Muhlenkamp. Back row are Kaylyn Bell, Emmarie Barton, Trinity Walker, Brenne Schmiesing, Trinity Glassford and Peyton Carpenter.

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.28 Sept. corn.....4.30 Oct. corn3.96	Sept. beans9.60 Wheat4.92
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.24 Sept. corn4.13 Oct./Nov. corn3.96	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.91 Dec. corn5.27 Beans.....10.29 Sept. beans10.14 Wheat4.91
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....4.03 Oct./Nov. corn3.88 Beans.....9.60	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.30 Sept. corn4.25 Beans.....9.59 Sept. beans9.34 Wheat4.62

Today in history

In 910, King Edward and Earl Aethelred led forces that defeated the last major Viking army to raid England in the Battle of Tettenhall.

In 1100, Henry I was crowned king of England.

In 1858, Julia Archibald Holmes became the first woman to reach the summit of Pikes Peak, climbing with her husband and two others.

In 1914, the first electric traffic light — it featured red and green lights — was installed in Cleveland.

In 1930, Neil Armstrong was born in Wapakoneta, Ohio. He became the first human to set foot on the moon as part of the Apollo 11 mission in 1969.

In 1972, Jay Circuit Court Judge Keith Fraser issued a temporary restraining order for United Telephone Company against Local 1321 of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers. In its filing, the company claimed that the union had been threatening unlawful acts.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.	Board of Works, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
Thursday 5:15 p.m. — Portland	Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Accomplishment ...

Continued from page 1

Jay County’s junior high squad was third in the junior high division with 175.7 points. It finished behind repeat champion Fall Creek (201.7) and Decatur Central (178.8).

The Patriot varsity cheerleaders — Emmarie Barton, Dakota Blalock, Peyton Carpenter, Brenna Schmiesing, Kelsey Muhlenkamp, Kaylyn Bell, Ashlynn Brunswick, Brooks Kahlig, Ella Roussey, Aubree Shannon, Trinity Walker, Jetmore, Hatzell, Fugiett and Faulkner — knew they had hit a strong routine when they walked off the mat in front of the grandstand at the state fairgrounds.

All of the tumbling had hit. Every stunt stayed in the air. Any bobbles that existed were minor.

“I think we did the best that we’ve done the routine — no major mistakes,” said Peterson after watching a recording of the routine. “Really not much of any bobbles either. We were worried about the last mount, but they did well.”

The judges agreed, awarding the Patriots at least 8.3 points out of 10 in every category. Their high score was a 9.1 from one judge for their motions.

Their highest scores overall from the three judges came for crowd appeal, creativity and vocal cheer at 26.6 out of 30. Motions were next at 26.5.

Even their lowest scores



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Charli Stephens of the Jay County Junior High School cheerleading squad performs Saturday morning at the Indiana State Fair. The junior high finished in third place. Pictured behind Stephens is Aubree Hunley.

Below, JCHS varsity cheerleaders Emma Hatzell, Trinity Glassford and Dakota Blalock cheer during their state fair championship routine. Behind Hatzell is Ashlynn Brunswick and behind Glassford are Kayle Jetmore and Faith Faulkner.

were strong as they earned 25.1 points in the stunts/pyramids/tosses category.

The third-place finish for the junior high squad came after finishing second a year ago and fourth in 2023.

“I feel like they did pretty good,” said junior high coach Brea McClain. “I’m proud of what they put on the mat. We had a few struggles, but nothing that we haven’t worked really hard to fix. We’ve come a long way.”

Scores for the junior high squad ranged between 7 and 8 in each category, with a high total of 23.6 for degree of difficulty. Their next best category was tumbling.

The Patriots were dinged on the scoresheets for synchronization and the execution of their jumps.

The junior high squad hopes to be able to use the competition to spur improvement over the next few months as it is slated to compete in the Indiana Cheer Championships this fall.

For the JCHS seniors, the state fair marked their final competition. It was that reality hitting them that led to the tears in the tunnel.

“We’ve all grown up cheering together,” said Fugiett. “It’s just the realization of it being our last time cheering with each other.”

And there was no better way to go out than with the big trophy in their arms.

“This was the best possible team that we could have won with,” said Hatzell. “All of us are best friends. We had the most amazing time this summer ... It was really a good memory for everyone.”



Friend wished well on his final sail

By JAMES FULKS
The Commercial Review

An obituary placed on a local mortuary's web page prompted a rush of warm memories this morning.

We jokingly referred to him as The Mayor Of New Corydon anytime he came up in a casual conversation.

His name was Don Kane. To me he was my old "sailboat pal."

We were Teamsters together on a flatbed steel account when I first met him. He had a wealth of knowledge and experience, and taught me a lot as a young driver on that steel

Fulksy Mayhem



account. We became friends and he invited us out to sail with him many times over the years.

His beautiful Catalina sailboat was impeccably maintained and appointed with all of the comforts of home.

A day on a sailboat with Don was always a peaceful

day with no cares and no worries.

As his age began to catch up with him, he found he could no longer keep up with the vessel and it was a sad day to see him sell it.

He kept a beautiful home, yard, workshop, koi pond with a waterfall and babbling brook style Dutch windmill in his yard and had a beautiful greenhouse for his lovely wife.

Interestingly and thankfully, just this past Friday, as I was coming home from work, he called and we had a nice, 20-minute phone conversation as I was driving home.

He lamented the fact that his health was failing him and that he was unable to keep up with the waterfall and pond in his yard which he had taken so much pride in over the years.

I reminded him that no one could possibly blame a guy who made it to age 90 for slowing down the pace a bit.

We spoke of the times together on the lake and of our years working together as Teamsters.

We closed our phone conversation with his lovely wife on the speaker phone with us and said we

would swing by for a visit the next time we were "up that way."

On Tuesday morning, I answered a call from a 419 area code number that he had just given me on that Friday phone conversation, but since I had not yet entered it into my contacts list, it came up as unknown.

It was his wife's cell-phone, and she was calling to tell me that he had passed on, peacefully, at home in his sleep.

Of course I am sad.

Of course I lament that I didn't get to see him one more time.

Of course I will really miss his stubbornness and cantankerousness — it was his style but he had a way of endearing himself to those who knew him.

However, making it to age 90, and departing peacefully in your sleep at home is something that I am going to call a win in my book.

Goodbye, my old friend. Your last sailing vessel was named ISH-GO-ME, which translates to "with the wind."

I wish you fair winds and following seas as you sail away.

Teacher uncertain about casual opportunity

DEAR ABBY: I am a 50-year-old single mom who is extremely close with my 20-year-old daughter, who is away at college. I haven't dated for 12 years, partly because I did not want distractions from parenting.

Recently, a young man has contacted me for a casual relationship.

These are my issues:

He's 21. My daughter would be disgusted, and I could never tell her.

Six years ago, he was a student of mine. (I teach high school.) Nothing inappropriate happened when he was a student. In fact, he had such a rude attitude that I once met with his mother.

I know this could never go anywhere, but I don't want anything to go anywhere.

At this point in my life, I would like to date casually. He lives several hours away so we would see each other only occasionally. I'm trying to decide whether my reluctance is justified and I should decline, or if I'm taking societal ideals too

Dear Abby



personally and I should have some fun but keep this secret from my daughter. — UNCERTAIN IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR UNCERTAIN: Put the brakes on this while you still can and look for someone older to play with. Your daughter may be a college student, but she's no longer a child. Secrets like the one you are considering have a way of eventually coming out. Please think this through before jumping into anything that could cause you or your daughter potential embarrassment.

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DEAR ABBY: I enjoy keeping up with family and friends on Facebook, but I have two uncles whose political posts

have become increasingly extreme. Their messages are filled with anger and hate. I hoped things would calm down after the election, but their rhetoric has intensified.

I have unfriended others who shared similar views, but I am hesitant to do the same with family. I've tried "snoozing" them for 30 days at a time, but when they return, the posts are even more upsetting. I'm deeply offended by some of what they write. Is it OK to unfriend family? And, if they notice and confront me, how should I respond? — DIFFERENT IN TEXAS

DEAR DIFFERENT: You are not obligated to read anything that upsets you. This includes items posted by relatives. You can simply unfollow them without unfriending them. But Facebook does not notify anyone that they have been unfriended, so feel free to eliminate them from your feed if you'd like. If, by chance, they should confront you about it, be honest

about your reason without being combative.

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DEAR ABBY: My baby boy died unexpectedly, and for a long time, I was completely lost. I cried all the time. I couldn't stand to be around anyone or leave the house. With time and counseling, I'm starting to emerge again, but it's really hard.

One problem is, when I run into someone I haven't seen in a while, they ask how I am. They go on to say how sorry they were to hear about my son's passing, and then they want to tell me about someone they lost. I can't have this conversation without bursting into tears, sometimes sobbing hysterically. The outing is then ruined, and I have to go home again.

How can I get people to not do this? I know they are trying to be caring, but I can't function if I have to keep having this conversation over and over. — JUST OUT FOR GROCERIES

DEAR JUST OUT: Please accept my sympathy for the

loss of your precious baby boy. When people ask how you are doing, tell them you are "doing well under the circumstances and don't wish to discuss it further." Period! Change the subject and, if necessary, walk away.

For some unknown reason, when someone has lost a loved one, others feel it is "comforting" for the bereaved to know about similar cases. **THIS IS NOT TRUE!** When people have suffered a loss, they are only **IRRITATED** by well-meaning friends who say, "I know exactly what you are going through. I experienced something similar."

Folks, when comforting the grieving, comparisons should be avoided.

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Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Community Calendar

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

Tuesday

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

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

Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

Wednesday

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

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

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for

Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist

Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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

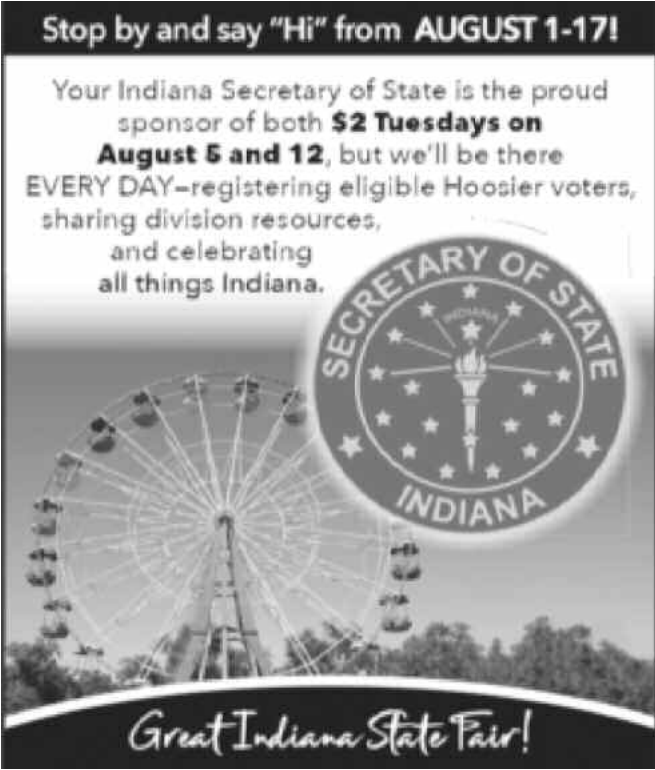

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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.

Stop by and say "Hi" from AUGUST 1-17!

Your Indiana Secretary of State is the proud sponsor of both **\$2 Tuesdays on August 5 and 12**, but we'll be there EVERY DAY—registering eligible Hoosier voters, sharing division resources, and celebrating all things Indiana.



Get to Know:

INDIANA'S BUSINESS SERVICES

The Business Services Division provides access to register and manage the filing requirements for your business through the INBiz portal. Everything starts with getting an Access Indiana sign-in with the state.



www.in.gov/sos/business

YOUR INDIANA SECRETARY OF STATE



1/2 PAGE B&W AD:
to run once from Aug. 1 through 16 for **\$150**
(regular price – \$819)
to run once from Aug. 19 through 23 for **\$200**
to run once from Aug. 26 through 30 for **\$250**

Run a second time Sept. 3 through 6 for \$100.
Rate does not apply to special sections.



Contact Lindsey at:
L.Cochran@thecr.com
or (260) 726-8141

The Commercial Review

Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

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

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.

The US will be the biggest loser

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The White House is trumpeting its new trade deal with the European Union, following a similar agreement with Japan, as a great victory. Both pacts impose tariffs of 15% on most exports to the U.S., along with other concessions — on the face of it, lifting the threat of open-ended trade war and reaffirming U.S. dominance. Financial markets advanced on the news.

In truth, there's nothing to celebrate. Both deals are lose-lose for all involved. The best that can be hoped for is that the administration now moves on to other priorities before more damage is done.

In narrow economic terms, the claim that the U.S. has emerged

Guest Editorial

the winner from both sets of negotiations is simply false. Tariffs are taxes. Before long, American consumers will pay most if not all of the increase in costs. And the problem isn't just that imports will be more expensive. U.S. producers of rival products will face less pressure to compete and innovate, and they will raise their prices as well. In due course, these forces will depress U.S. living standards. Always remember, the biggest

loser from tariffs is invariably the country imposing them.

Such costs might be manageable over the long term, as long as the agreements draw a line under recent quarrels over trade. European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen, who struck the deal with the U.S. over the weekend, emphasized this point in justifying the bloc's surrender to American demands — lauding the agreement for restoring stability and predictability for consumers and producers alike.

If only. For a start, both pacts, like the one struck earlier with the UK, are better seen as framework agreements than finished deals. For example, what does Japan's commitment to finance a U.S. investment fund managed

by the White House actually entail? Hard to say. (It's been portrayed as a \$550 billion "signing bonus." Japanese officials probably don't see it that way.)

Under the U.S.-EU deal, some European goods will be given tariff-free access to the U.S. Which ones? Nobody knows. In both cases, many important details are yet to be finalized. Meanwhile, citizens in Japan and Europe have seen their governments humbled, which makes mounting political opposition and uncertainty all too likely.

If or when these particular deals are concluded, there'll be new ones to strike — and the contested issues aren't confined to trade policy. If in the future the White House aims to settle all

such disputes by reviving the threat of punitive tariffs or tacitly threatening to withhold cooperation on security, von der Leyen's vision of stability and predictability will be confirmed as a mirage.

Most dangerously, the administration's supposed triumphs may now affirm its belief that the U.S. is powerful enough to demand submission, as opposed to genuine partnership, from countries it once saw as friends. If so, heightened instability — lethal to long-term planning, investment and global cooperation across the board — won't be just a passing phase.

Strength through disruption is a self-defeating strategy. Sooner or later, that will become painfully obvious.

Nuclear threat remains grave

By IRA HELFAND
Progressive Perspectives
Tribune News Service

As we approach the 80th anniversary of the U.S. bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki this month, on Aug. 6 and 9, respectively, the danger of nuclear war is great and growing.



Ira Helfand

This year, five of the nine nations that possess nuclear weapons have been engaged in active military operations that could have, and might still, escalate to the use of those weapons. Russia continues its war of conquest in Ukraine and its oft-repeated threats to use nuclear weapons. Israel and the United States have attacked sites in Iran that might be used to build nuclear bombs. And India and Pakistan fought another, fortunately brief, war over Kashmir.

The world can no longer indulge in the denial which has marked our thinking since the end of the Cold War. Nuclear war is a real and present danger that we must acknowledge and confront.

A large-scale nuclear war between the United States and Russia, according to the best available science, would kill hundreds of millions of people in the first afternoon, and lead to a global famine that kills some 6 billion people, three quarters of humanity, in the first two years. Even a more limited nuclear war, as might have taken place between India and Pakistan, could trigger a global famine that kills 2 billion people worldwide, including 130 million in the United States.

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara famously observed that we did not survive the Cuban missile crisis because we knew what we were doing. Rather, he said, "We lucked out. It was luck that prevented nuclear war."

The current policy of all nine nuclear states (which besides the ones named above include England, France, China and North Korea) is really nothing more than a hope for continued good luck. And that, of course, is crazy. Sooner or later, luck runs out. If we do not eliminate nuclear weapons, it is not a question of "if" but only a question of "when" they will be used.

It doesn't have to be that way. Nuclear weapons are not a force of nature over which we have no control. They are machines that we have built. We know exactly how to dismantle them. We have already dismantled some 50,000 of these

weapons over time and could easily dismantle the estimated 12,000 that remain. But, for that to happen, we need to convince the leaders of the nuclear armed states to do so.

Here in the United States, the Back from the Brink campaign (PreventNuclearWar.org) has built a national network demanding fundamental change in U.S. nuclear policy. It calls for the United States to begin negotiations with the other eight nuclear armed states for a verifiable, enforceable agreement to eliminate their nuclear arsenals, according to an agreed upon timetable.

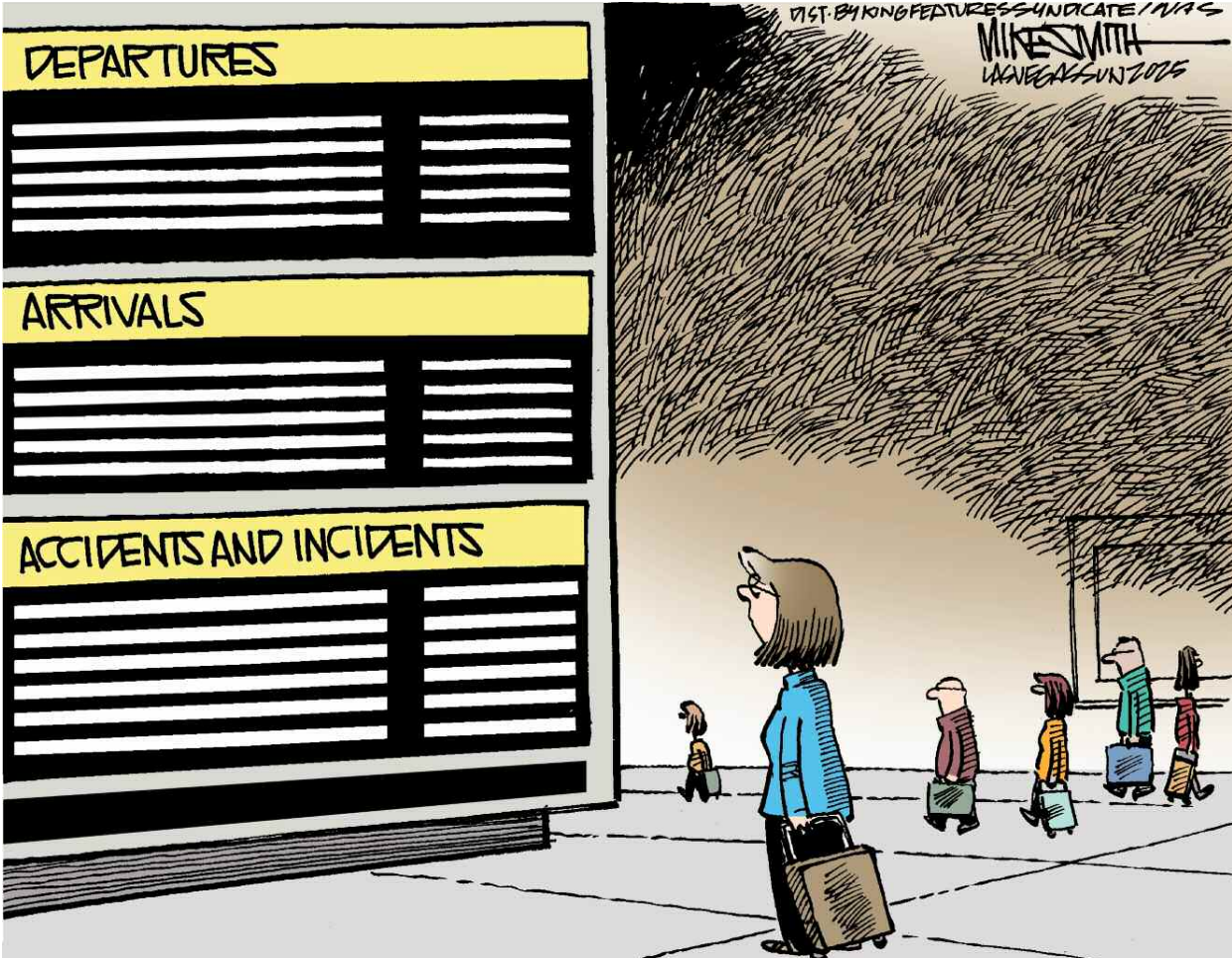
The campaign is supported by more than 70 cities and towns; by state legislatures in California, Oregon and Rhode Island; by legislative bodies in Maine and New Jersey; and by more than 400 advocacy groups. Resolutions "urging the United States to lead the world back from the brink of nuclear war and halt and reverse the nuclear arms race" are before both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

We need to build on this momentum and create a broad movement, like the Nuclear Freeze Campaign of the 1980s, to eliminate nuclear weapons before they eliminate us.

"Let all the souls here rest in peace; for we shall not repeat the evil." That is the inscription on the cenotaph in the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima. As the specter of nuclear war looms ever larger, that pledge should be the guiding star.

It is not enough to remember and honor the dead. We must use this somber anniversary to organize the strongest possible movement to eliminate nuclear weapons so that, indeed, the evil is not repeated.

.....
Helfand is a member of the International Steering Group of the International Campaign to Abolish Nuclear Weapons, recipient of the 2017 Nobel Peace Prize, and the past president of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War; recipient of the 1985 Nobel Peace Prize.



Cuts continue to taxes, services

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Watching successful programs disintegrate due to state budget cuts is particularly disheartening. Adding bypassing investment in other opportunities to that makes it downright depressing.

A widely supported dropout prevention program called Jobs for America's Graduates was expanded under former Gov. Eric Holcomb, but has now lost all its state funding.

Similarly, the statewide initiative through Dolly Parton's Imagination Library aimed at increasing literacy in Hoosier children is in peril after lawmakers removed it from the state budget. A private fundraising effort is ongoing, but its future is unclear.

These are ongoing programs that might fail.

On top of that, there are examples of initiatives that could be created or increased to improve the lives of Hoosiers.

For instance, at least 16 states have sales tax holidays for parents buying school supplies. It could save families a significant amount when you consider clothes, computers and other supplies needed.

Gov. Mike Braun proposed this holiday, which also would have covered youth sports purchases — even putting it in his draft budget. But other priorities won out and it was eventually removed.

Or what about actually increasing money going to food banks at a time when food insecurity is high? The budget maintained a \$2 million line item but saw no increase despite food banks facing higher demand.

Niki Kelly



And I haven't even mentioned the state employee layoffs that are happening. Recently the Indiana Department of Workforce Development laid off 15% of its workforce.

Impact on revenue

And I want to be clear about one thing. The state is still seeing increased tax collections — just not as robust as expected.

In fiscal year 2025, Hoosiers paid \$22.2 billion in taxes — including sales, income, corporate, gaming, fuel and others. That was about \$740 million more than the prior year.

The problem is that some programs like Medicaid are growing so fast it squeezes out other worthy initiatives.

There is still wiggle room though. For instance, the state could afford both JAG and the Dolly Parton program.

Indeed, lawmakers created a Freedom and Opportunity in Education Fund and appropriated \$50 million to it each year. It doesn't direct the money to any specific programs, instead just outlining general uses such as improving academic performance, recruiting educators in high-need areas, expanding computer science programs, reading intervention and dropout prevention.

We will have to wait and see what the Indiana Department of

Education and the Braun administration use that money for instead.

Tax cuts continue

Other initiatives — like eliminating the tax on adult diapers or feminine hygiene products — also can happen. But lawmakers instead continue to slowly reduce Indiana's flat income tax rate, which means less money comes to the state.

Indiana's individual income tax rate has dropped from 3.4% to 3.05% since 2015 via a phased-in reduction. And it's scheduled to drop to 2.9% by 2027.

Indiana's corporate income tax rate has also dropped.

For several years, when Indiana was swimming in new revenue and the state was plowing billions into new buildings, paying down unfunded pension obligations and incentivizing regional development, it made sense.

But that's not the case anymore. And the tax cuts are happening at such an incremental pace that most Hoosiers don't even realize it. Collectively, though, those dollars could be used to improve services, continue successful programs and generally invest in the future.

Of course no one likes paying taxes and it's easy to support tax cuts. But I am curious what the ultimate goal is and whether lawmakers will ever admit a certain level of revenue is needed to move Indiana forward.

.....
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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—Thomas Jefferson

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IU is leading dementia research

Indiana University School of Medicine and Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering are co-leading the new Microphysiological Systems to Advance Precision Medicine for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Dementias.

The initiative will develop brain organoids — three-dimensional cellular models derived from human pluripotent stem cells that can be developed into any type of cell in the body — to study Alzheimer's and other dementias. Researchers will also lead preclinical and pharmacological studies for drug development.

"This center speaks to exciting areas of scientific investigation in the research community that is developing microphysiological systems to better understand human disease," said Jason Meyer, the A. Donald Merritt pro-

Business roundup

fessor of medical and molecular genetics at the IU School of Medicine, in a press release. "MAP-AD is a testament to the team and infrastructure that have been built up at the IU School of Medicine to support Alzheimer's disease and neurodegeneration research."

Investigation opened

The Federal Communications Commission has opened an investigation into Comcast, The Philadelphia Inquirer reported recently.

The investigation involves the handling of local television affiliates. A letter to the company

indicated that the investigation is to "ensure compliance with FCC regulations as well as the public interest standard."

"FCC has an interest in and the authority to promote the public interest and to ensure that local broadcast TV stations retain the economic and operational independence necessary to meet their public interest obligations," FCC chair Brendan Carr wrote to Comcast and its subsidiaries. "I want to ensure that Comcast's relationships with local broadcast TV stations comply with all of the relevant federal regulations — again, regulations designed to ensure that local stations meet their public interest obligations."

Courses offered

Indiana Chamber of Commerce is hosting 10- and 30-hour Occupational

Safety and Health Administration courses in August.

Courses covering general industry standards will be held Aug. 19 through 22 in the chamber conference center in Indianapolis. It will include sessions regarding inspections, most-cited violations, record keeping, fire protection, personal protective equipment and machine guarding.

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

Team changing

Dollar Tree has named John S. Mitchell Jr. as its new chief legal officer and corporate secretary.

Mitchell will take over for Jonathan B. Leiken, who is leaving the company after two years. Mitchell is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law.

"John is a highly

respected attorney whose sharp legal acumen and steady leadership have guided us through moments of significant change," said Dollar Tree CEO Mike Creedon in a press release. "He understands our business, our people, and the importance of protecting and advancing our mission. This promotion from within our ranks is the result of thoughtful succession planning and a clear demonstration of something our Dollar Tree associates often hear me say, 'show it's a career, not just a job.'"

Partnering

Walmart recently signed a new agreement to partner with Major League Soccer.

The deal signed last week makes Walmart an official partner of MLS and Leagues Cup. It will

involve Walmart providing gameday experiences, gear, watch parties and other features.

"Soccer is more than a sport. It's a culture and a community, and one that's growing rapidly in the U.S.," said William White, chief marketing officer at Walmart, in a press release. "Walmart is focused on celebrating the game and making it more personal for fans. It's about celebrating the passion of soccer lovers and creating opportunities for them to connect with the game they love. By partnering with MLS and the Leagues Cup, we're not just supporting soccer — we're empowering fans to shape its future in the U.S."

.....

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

State ranks low for early education

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Despite having some of the most resources and economic support, a recent national study ranked Indiana's early education system 42nd in the country — and second-to-last when it came to accessibility.

The WalletHub story, shared earlier this week, is simply the latest confirmation for Hoosier parents that Indiana's child care market is struggling. Experts, business leaders and politicians agree that Indiana needs more child care, but can't seem to agree on the best way to meet the moment.

Facing budgetary pressures and depressed revenue forecasts, state leaders opted to trim funding and narrow eligibility for early learning and child care resources earlier this year. Seats for state-funded preschool, known as On My Way Pre-K, have been halved while vouchers for subsidized child care have more 21,000 children on a waitlist.

One federal program, Head Start Indiana, hopes to help close the gap left by vanishing state funding, but faces its own challenges with flat federal funding.

"We are the quietest, most successful 60-year old program in the federal government's history," boasted Rhett Cecil, the organization's executive director. "... (our programs) are going to support their families and children. They're allowing families to work or get job training or further education. And our services — that child



Metro

A recent national study ranked Indiana 42nd in the country for its early education system and next-to-last for accessibility. Spots in the state-funded preschool, known as On My Way Pre-K, have been cut in half while vouchers for subsidized child care have more 21,000 children on the waiting list.

care and early education — are free for those families."

Just under 13,000 families in all 92 counties utilize the program, which receives roughly \$181 million in federal funding annually. That budget line was briefly threatened by the Trump administration, which walked back proposed cuts in favor of flat funding — which does mean services will be lost as inflation and other costs eat into the bottom line.

The second-term president also eliminated the federal Head Start office covering Indiana back in April — though the federal Administration for Children and Families announced it would dedicate one-time funding to Head Start

has found that early education may also decrease future crime and could generate \$7.30 for every one dollar invested.

In Indiana, the shortage of child care options costs the state an estimated \$4.2 billion annually, over a quarter of which is linked to annual tax revenue lost.

The 2024 study from the Indiana Chamber of Commerce emphasized the need to free up parents, mostly women, who've left the workforce "as a direct result of childcare-related issues."

"There's some data out there that one in four Hoosier parents leave their job over child care gaps, and it really impacts talent and workforce," said David Ober, the chamber's vice president of taxation and public finance. "It's hindering economic momentum in the state and so it is a huge deal for us."

For the last few years, tackling the state's child care crisis has been a top legislative priority for the organization, which represents the interests of thousands of Hoosier employers. Ober said the chamber is working to plan a child care summit later this year to identify potential solutions.

According to Brighter Futures Indiana, average full-time weekly care costs families \$181 per week — with even higher prices for infants and toddlers. That doesn't factor in type of care or quality, and prices vary by community.

Families can spend more on their young children's care than on a college education — if it's even available in their communities. Rather than pay

the price, many Hoosier parents simply drop out of the workforce at the same time that employers are scrambling to hire talent.

Ober highlighted recent legislative efforts to expand child care, including one that expanded a tax credit for employers directly providing their employees with child care resources. Other bills have tweaked staffing ratios and created a pilot program for so-called microcenters.

But workforce remains a challenge, even for Head Start centers, earning its own legislative study carveout. Over 20% of Indiana's child care workers left the field during the pandemic — a shock that "has not really fully healed," Ober said.

"If you ask any provider in the state, workforce is the hardest problem," Ober said. "... How do you get educators and keep them? There's so much more work to be done there and it's challenging."

Traditional market forces struggle to balance affordability for parents against costs for child care, a gap sometimes covered by government subsidies.

But Ober insisted that "child care is infrastructure," especially for the businesses reliant upon employees who are parents. Changing funding is "going to just exacerbate underlying problems," he added.

"Those numbers are pretty stark," Ober said. "And then when you add in changes at the state and the federal level, it creates new problems that we all have to come together and work on," he concluded.

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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

A partnership game

South dealer.
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ K 7 3
♥ J 9 5 3
♦ 3
♣ Q J 10 8 4

EAST
♠ 10 8 6 5 4
♥ 6
♦ K 8
♣ A 9 7 6 3

SOUTH
♠ A
♥ A K 10 8 2
♦ J 10 7 4 2
♣ K 5

The bidding:
South West North East
1♥ Pass 2♥ Pass
4♥

Opening lead — two of clubs.
Bridge is a partnership game, as everyone knows. And nowhere is the element of partnership seen more clearly than during defensive play. In today's deal, the defense must function perfectly to defeat the contract.
West leads the deuce of clubs, won by the East with the ace as South drops the king. It is not difficult for East to read his partner's lead as a singleton, since West would have led the five from the 5-2 if he started with that holding. So East returns a club for West to ruff, but is careful to select the three.

The return of the three is a suit-preference signal, directing West to lead the lower-ranking side suit after he ruffs. If East preferred a spade return, he would lead a high card — the nine, say — to tell partner to lead the higher-ranking side suit.
Accordingly, West, having full faith and confidence in partner, shifts to a low diamond at trick three. East takes the king and leads another club, and South goes down one, since he cannot avoid losing a second trump trick to West's queen.
Although West's underlead of the diamond ace seems dangerous, he should make the play on the basis of East's low club return. The underlead offers by far the best chance of setting the contract.
And what if East happened to have no values in either spades or diamonds? In that case, he'd want West to make whatever return seemed best to him.
With no preference for either a spade or diamond return, East would lead a medium-sized club at trick two — the six or seven in the actual case. The lowest-possible club therefore strongly suggests a diamond lead.
Without the benefit of the suit-preference signal, West would probably lead the queen of spades at trick three and thereby hand declarer the contract.

Tomorrow: Two for the price of one.
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8-5 CRYPTOQUIP

PC AUMUTHO QC DQYT MUTD
ROQAU KHOA OPMU PZ NQZQOY
HZG NPOQ, DQY NHMU CTPUZGA
PZ NP KOHRUA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: CLASSIC TUNE ABOUT A SCARLET SONGBIRD THAT HAS GONE HEAD OVER HEELS: "A TANGER IN LOVE."
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals V

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Actor — Garcia Bernal
5 Texting format, for short
8 Sis and bro
12 Choir voice
13 Here, to Henri
14 Circle dance
15 Anti-fur org.
16 Knave
18 Tabloid topic
20 Picture
21 Long, skinny fish
22 Docs' org.
23 Long
26 QR code reader
30 Proposal fig.
31 Chest-beating beast
32 Punk rock offshoot
33 Shoulder bone
36 Journalist
38 Historic time
39 Tire filler

40 Mexican sandwich
43 Sang like Ella
47 Johanson of "Black Widow"
49 Gospel singer Franklin
50 Words said with a sigh
51 Spanish gold
52 Piratic quaffs
53 Stir up
54 Neither partner
55 "Amen!"

DOWN

1 Open-ings
2 Sir Guinness
3 Jazz singer James
4 Temporary car
5 Twine fiber
6 1250, in letters
7 "Chandelier" singer
8 Tribal healer
9 Illinois neighbor
10 Boast
11 Wise advisor
17 Peru's capital
19 Cozy family room
22 Expert serve
23 Thumbs-up
24 PC key
25 — loss
26 Hotel amenity
27 Mosquito barrier
28 Brit.
29 Shad product
31 In the manner of
34 Seabird
35 Russian river
36 Sportage maker
37 Blood line
39 Thespian
40 Romanov ruler
41 — Rios (Jamaican resort)
42 Malek of "Oppenheimer"
43 Houston base-
baller, briefly
44 Loyal
45 Austen novel
46 Sprint
48 Ages and ages

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 8-5

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11
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5 6 7 8 9 10 11
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TOOLS
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and other items not listed.
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Deeper ...

Continued from page 8
I ended up transferring to Trinity International University, where my passion for sports journalism truly began to blossom as I wrote a deluge of event recap articles for the athletic department and served as the school’s primary play-by-play voice when I wasn’t on the field as a member of the baseball team. Now, if you haven’t heard of Trinity International University, I can find it in my heart to forgive you — first, because it was a minuscule institution nestled into the Chicago suburbs, and second, because it doesn’t exist anymore.

It was the spring before what would have been my senior year when I got the news that Trinity was closing, indicating that whether I liked it or not, another significant change of pace was on the way.

I scrambled to get my resumé together and my applications out, and decided it was finally time to put down the bat and pick up the keyboard, pursuing my journalistic passions at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It was a whirlwind two years to finish up my degree, but Trinity’s

demise ultimately proved to be a blessing in disguise.

From interviewing Illini men’s basketball coach Brad Underwood as part of a live broadcast to producing a live 30-minute weekly sports television program, I truly had the chance to do it all at Illinois. But the more things changed, the more they stayed the same, and I continued to be drawn in by the passion that ignited the fire to study journalism in the first place — that of sports writing.

So as I got set for my first foray into the professional world, sports writing jobs were the ones I instantly pursued. When this opportunity fell into place, I didn’t hesitate. What’s another change to me, after all?

Of course, you can’t pivot toward something new if you don’t have a firm foundation to cast out from, and I’m fortunate to have a tremendous support system behind me as I continue to make uncharted territory familiar. Throughout this entire process, I’ve been buoyed by my faith, my family and my friends, three things to which all my ambitions as a writer pale in comparison. While I have plenty of introverted ten-

dencies, the more comfortable I get, the more you’ll see the brash, gregarious side of me as well as the stoic, businesslike one.

Away from work, I enjoy any form of competition and love trying new things, especially anything having to do with athletics. Recently, I picked up table tennis, and more lately, I’ve been trying my hand at golf. If you’re ever stuck in the desert in desperate need of hydration, please give me a call — all I need is a golf club in my hands and if there’s water anywhere, I will find it.

Jokes aside, I genuinely can’t wait to get out in the community and make things happen. As my entire journey — from being a three-sport high school athlete to being a college baseball player to doing all manner of sports coverage — has taught me, sports and the community are inextricably linked. So I’m hyped to get to know the community through its vibrant sports scene.

From the Windy City to Hoosier country and everywhere in between, let’s go! Here’s to another change and a wonderful new chapter.

Earns ...

Continued from page 8
Lutkenhaus finished second in the 800 final in 1:42.27 — three seconds faster than his own national record of 1:45.45. Donavan Brazier, the 2019 world champion, won the race in 1:42.16.

“I wasn’t supposed to make the team — a lot of people didn’t think I’d make the final — so being able to do that is just a special moment,” Lutkenhaus said.

Lutkenhaus beat an extraordinary list of runners while finishing in the top three to earn a trip to the World Championships, set for Sept. 13-21.

American outdoor record holder Bryce Hoppel, who placed fourth at the 2024 Olympics, was third on Sunday in 1:42.49. American indoor record holder Josh Hoey was fourth in 1:43.06 after entering the meet ranked No. 2 in the world, and 2024 Olympian Brandon Miller took fifth in 1:43.14.

Lutkenhaus was seventh after going through the first 400 meters in 50.66. He closed with a spectacular 51.61 lap.

“I kind of just decided to go

back to middle school tactics and with 200 to go, just give everything I had left,” Lutkenhaus said.

Lutkenhaus had held his own against world-class athletes and professional runners throughout the U.S. championships. He finished less than a second behind Hoey in his first-round heat and less than a second behind Hoppel in his semifinal heat, running 1:47.23 and 1:45.57.

Lutkenhaus has now run under 1:48 in six consecutive races. That streak started with him winning the Class 6A state title in the 800 in 1:47.04 on May 3, then breaking the high school national record twice in two weeks — first running 1:46.26 at the Brooks PR Invitational and then winning the Nike Outdoor Nationals in 1:45.45.

The USATF Outdoor National Championships serve as the trials for the World Championships. Lutkenhaus had to finish in the top three and also run 1:44.50 or faster to meet the qualifying standard to advance to Worlds.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls golf at Bellmont Invitational – 8 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Boys golf at Mercer County Meet – 8 a.m.; Girls golf at Union City Classic – 12:30 p.m.; Volleyball scrimmage at Crestview – 5 p.m.

Wednesday
Fort Recovery — Girls golf at Gary Broering Invite – 8:30 a.m.

TV schedule

Today
3 a.m. — MMA: Contender Series (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — WNBA: Dallas Wings at New York Liberty (FOX)
7:30 p.m. — Leagues Cup soccer: Columbus Crew at Leon (FS1)
8:05 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (FDSN Indiana)

Wednesday
11 a.m. — Little League World Series

(ESPN)
2:20 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (FDSN Indiana)
4 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited Softball: Team Ocasio vs. Team Corrick (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — Athletes Unlimited Softball: Team Lorenz vs. Team Kilfoyl (ESPN2)

Local notes

Chamber to host
Jay County Chamber of Commerce will host its golf outing on Sept. 19 at 9 a.m.

Participation costs \$250 per team with lunch included. A \$20 team mulligan golf ball can be purchased as well. Sponsorships can be purchased as well. A lunch sponsorship will cost \$500, while a gold sponsorship will go for \$450. Hole sponsorships cost \$100 for members and \$150 for non-members.

The deadline to register is Sept. 12. For more info, call (260) 726-4481 or email amanda@jaycountychamber.com.

Tickets available
Jay County Junior-Senior High School

is selling super and season tickets.

To purchase tickets, visit 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

Next race set
The next race in the Adams County Challenge series is the Adams Memorial/Kekionga Greenway Gallup at 4:30 p.m. Aug. 13.
The race begins at the Riverside Center in Decatur. Registration forms can be found at adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

ADVERTISEMENT in The Commercial Review CLASSIFIED ADS 726-8141

100 JOBS WANTED

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: The corner of Main and Race Streets, Ridgeville Indiana (just west 1 block from Pak A Sak)
Saturday Morning
AUGUST 16, 2025
9:30 A.M.
ANTIQUES - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Railroad crossing Cross-buck signs with post, lights and bell. Coca Cola Bat Wing store cooler; 1929 Easy Copper wash machine (electric with natural gas hook up); soap box derby car; 3 wheel bicycle with box on back (used in Richmond IN factory); Star Wars Millennium Falcon Spaceship; metal bolt bin; CAST IRON: 30 gallon pot with handle and stand, ; SIGNS: Heinekin Beer, Pepsi, Coca Cola, Stroh's, Seagrams, Sinclair, Harley Davidson, Corvette, and Budweiser Select to name a few; CROCKS & STONEWARE: Boy Scout items; ball cards; Match Box cars and case; Radio Flyer tricycle; CONCRETE: donkeys, frogs on bench, kissing dutchman, and Doberman to name a few; and many other items not listed.
TOOLS - MISCELLANEOUS
80 lbs psi air compressor (originally from phone company); Makita Driver drill; Makita charger; B & D jig saw; Power Pro 300 amp auto jumper; 1946 Ford flat head engine parts; fish cleaning table; wood burning stoves; 2 wheel cart; fishing poles; lawn chairs; and many other items not listed.
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Loy Auction
AC#31600027 Auctioneers
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Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

PUBLIC AUCTION
THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 4th, 2025
TIME 4:30 P.M.
LOCATED: 506 N

130 MISC. FOR SALE

George St. Ridgeville, IN
GUN -GUN SUPPLIES-AMMO
Taurus 357 Mag 6 Shot Revolver (3 Screw). 45 Cal ACP Pistol. H & R Sportsman 22 Cal 9 Shot Revolver. Ammo Reloader. Tumbler. Reloading Supplies. Large Lot of Lead. Large Lot of Gun Supplies. TRAILER-TILLERS-SHOP EQUIPMENT
5' X 8' Single Axel Utility Trailer. Stihl Mini Tiller. Craftsman Rear tine Tiller. Dewalt Power Miter Saw. Delta Bandsaw. Router w/ Stand. Roller Stand. Double Arbor Buffer. Fishing Poles and Supplies. Consow Industrial Sewing Machine. Sentry Small Safe.
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HELP WANTED Painting and Pressure washing in Fort Recovery 419-852-0309

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FOR SALE Hay and Straw call 260-249-8458

130 MISC. FOR SALE

SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.

PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information.

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The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.

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TJ EXPRESS SERVICE, LLC in Dunkirk, IN has 14,400 square feet of commercial storage space available for rent. Monday-Friday from 6:00AM-6:00PM. Feel free to call our office at 260-766-4331 or email customerservice@tjx-pservice.com

LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com

230 AUTOS, TRUCKS

WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocum's Salvage

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

LEGAL NOTICE
STATE OF INDIANA
INDIANA UTILITY REGULATORY COMMISSION
CAUSE NO. 46276
VERIFIED PETITION OF INDIANA MICHIGAN POWER COMPANY FOR APPROVAL OF: (1) A CUSTOMER-SPECIFIC CLEAN CAPACITY ARRANGEMENT AND DEMAND RESPONSE CONTRACT; (2) ASSOCIATED COST RECOVERY; AND (3) TO THE EXTENT NECESSARY, AN ALTERNATIVE REGULATORY PLAN.
Notice is hereby given that on July 30, 2025, Indiana Michigan Power Company filed a Verified Petition with the Indiana Utility Regulatory for approval of a Customer-Specific Clean Capacity Arrangement and Demand Response Contract, associated cost recovery, and to the extent necessary, an alternative regulatory plan pursuant to Ind. Code § 8-1-2.5-6. A copy of the Verified Petition and other submissions in this proceeding is on file with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission, PNC Center, 101 West Washington Street, Suite 1500 East, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204. The telephone number of the Commission is (317) 232-2701. Anyone wishing to protest, challenge, or intervene in this action may do so by contacting the Commission.
CR 8-5-2025-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2023 TERM
In the Matter of the Unsupervised Administration of the Estate of:
Robert Lee Randall, Deceased
No. 38CO1-2507-EU-000020
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION
Notice is hereby given that Jocelyn Randall was, on the 31st day of July, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Robert Lee Randall deceased, who died on May 11th, 2025
All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent's death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 31st day of July, 2025.
HINKLE, RACSTER, SCHEMAUR & LANDERS
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorney
Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana
CR 8-5.12-2025-HSPAXLP

READ THE CR
THEN RECYCLE

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 1702 W Tyson Road, Portland Indiana
on Saturday Morning

SEPTEMBER 6, 2025
9:30 A.M.
REAL ESTATE

Tract 1 – 2 story home with approximately 2,048 square feet of living space situated on approximately 1.75 acres. 1st floor features include kitchen with floor to ceiling cabinets, dining room, living room, bedroom, full bathroom, and enclosed front porch. 2nd floor includes 3 bedrooms and 1 half bathroom. Home has beautiful Oak woodwork throughout including Oak pocket doors in 2 rooms. Additional features includes Carrier high efficiency gas furnace, MacClean water softener, Bradford gas water heater installed in 2021, gas wall heaters, 100 amp electrical service along with City of Portland water and sewage. Home is connected via an enclosed area to a 2 car garage with approximately 895 square feet and includes a pull down stairway accessing attic storage. Property also offers a 48’ x 56’ pole building with front and rear overhead doors, enclosed shop/office area, concrete floor, and 100 amp electrical service.

This property offers you a rare opportunity to purchase a home with a rural setting located within the city limits.

Tract 2 – One acre bare lot located just west of the home on Tyson Road.

Tract 3 – Forty-seven +/- acres of bare land located within the city limits of Portland. This property offers the rare opportunity to purchase land in Portland with both agricultural and commercial opportunities. This tract of land already has had some water and sewage taps installed for possible development. Possession to be given to the buyer after the harvest of the 2025 crops.

Tract 4 – Combination of Tracts 1 and 2.

Tract 5 – Entire package which includes house, pole barn and 50 acres.

Terms of Sale: 10% nonrefundable deposit day of auction and balance at closing. Buyer to receive possession of house and buildings at closing and will receive possession of land upon harvest of the 2025 crops. Property is selling “AS IS” and any inspections made by the prospective buyer are to be made prior to the auction date and will be at the buyers expense. Sellers will furnish Title Insurance and Warranty Deed. Owner confirmation day of auction and any statements made day of sale will take precedence over printed matter.

OPEN HOUSE: SUNDAY AUGUST 10, 2025
FROM 1:00 P.M. TO 3:00 P.M.

For more information or private showing contact Gary Loy, Auctioneer at (260) 726-5160 or Kim Kim Loy, Real Estate Broker at (260) 726-2700.

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CR 8-5,13,21-2025

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Deep Dish and Deeper Dives



Another change opens a new chapter

By **ETHAN OSKROBA**
The Commercial Review

There are still days when it doesn't feel real. And by days, I mean today and yesterday and the couple days before it, which is pretty much the extent of my time in east central Indiana thus far.

It's certainly a change of pace for me to move away from the Chicagoland area for a prolonged span for the first time in my life, to go from walking or driving past a few thousand people a day to having a few thousand in your whole town. But changes of pace are nothing new for me, and I'm looking forward to this one.

My journalism journey started with a sudden change, when my plans to study math were upended by a harrowing realization. During my freshman year at Aurora University, a small school about an hour west of Chicago, I noticed that there were more letters than numbers in my calculus equations. So I figured I'd just expedite the process and make letters my thing.

See [Deeper](#) page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Chipping up

Alexa Ridenour chips onto the 15th green at Wabash Valley Golf Club on Monday morning during the South Adams Invite. The Patriots kick off the 2025 season in the tournament with one returner, one first-year golfer and three freshmen, including Ridenour.



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Pork Cutlets	\$3³⁹ lb		

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Rockets make top 6 but fall in bracket play

NAPERVILLE, Ill. — The Rockets clinched a spot in the World Series, but they weren't done yet. After going 2-1 in pool play, they earned a spot in the final bracket, but fell in their first matchup.

The Portland Rockets fell to the Berea Blue Sox 5-0 in the NABF World Series elimination bracket on Saturday to put a cap on the 2025 season.

The Rockets (26-10) held strong in the first inning, but Tyler Reynolds gave up four runs in the second on four singles, two walks and a groundout. Reynolds went two more innings on the mound without giving up another run. Jayden Simpson finished off the game with three frames with one run on two hits.

Portland had runners in scoring position in the first, fourth and fifth innings, but couldn't get any timely hitting to produce a run. Corban White led the team with a pair of singles.

During Thursday's pool play games, the Rockets beat the Hackensack Troasts 5-1 before falling to the Blue Sox 6-1.

Andrew Onuegbu and Simpson combined for a no-hitter against the Troasts. The sole run for Hackensack came in the second inning after an error got an initial runner on base and a hit batsman and a fielder's choice pushed him across the plate.

Joel Kennedy powered the offense in the victory with three hits, one RBI and one run scored.

Garrison Brege stuffed the loss to the Blue Sox in pool play after giving up six earned runs on seven hits and two walks. Aidyn Coffey drove in Portland's only run in the top of the first



Special to The Commercial Review/Samantha Murdock

Andrew Onuegbu finishes a pitch during the Portland Rockets' tournament opener against the Hackensack Troasts on Thursday. Onuegbu and Jayden Simpson threw a combined no-hitter for a 5-1 win to help get the Rockets to bracket play over the weekend.

inning with a double to center field.

Crosby Heniser played the hero in Friday's 4-3 win against the Lombard Orioles by driving in the go-ahead run on a double to lead off the eighth inning. Other offensive leaders were Garrison Brege and Evan Pearce with two hits and an RBI apiece.

Simpson earned the win after tossing the final 1 ½ innings while only surrendering one walk.

Teen runner earns world meet berth

By **GREG RIDDLE**
The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

Cooper Lutkenhaus did the unthinkable.

We're not just talking about running an insane time of 1:42.27 for 800 meters at the age of 16 to set a new under-18 world record.

On Sunday at the USATF Outdoor National Championships at legendary

Hayward Field in Eugene, Ore., the Justin (Texas) Northwest superstar beat two 2024 Olympians and the world's second-ranked half-miler to qualify for next month's World Championships in Tokyo.

As he prepares to start his junior year of high school, Lutkenhaus not only broke the high school outdoor national record in the 800 for the third time this summer — he obliterated it.

See [Earns](#) page 7