

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jay rate for May is 3.2 percent

Local unemployment is tied for 16th-lowest in Indiana

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

Jay County slipped out of the top 10.

But its unemployment rate is still among the lowest in Indiana.

Jay County was tied for the 16th-lowest unemployment rate in the state, coming in at 3.2% according to estimates released Thursday by Indiana Department of Workforce Development.

The county had the seventh-lowest rate among Indiana's 92 counties last month at 2.7%.

The current unemployment rate is down dramatically from the same month last year, when Jay County came in at 14.3% as the state was in the midst of its coronavirus-related limitations and shutdowns. (Unemployment in the county peaked during the pandemic at 19.8% in April 2020.) The local unemployment rate was 2.6% in May 2019 and 3% in May in both 2018 and '17.

Jay County's unemployment rate — it was tied with Elkhart, Harrison, Hendricks, Huntington, Marshall and Montgomery counties — was lower than the statewide average of 4.5% in May, which was up by 0.3 percentage points from the previous month.

Adams County posted the lowest unemployment rate in the state for the second consecutive month at 2.5%. It was at 2.1% in April.

LaGrange County was second-lowest in Indiana at 2.6%, followed by Boone County at 2.7%.

Lake County had the highest unemployment rate in the state for the second month in a row at 8.3%. Howard County was next at 7.7%, and LaPorte County came in at 6.2%.

See Rate page 2



Getting in the swing

The Dave Bennett Quartet performed early swing and rock songs Thursday as part of the Arts Place summer concert series at Hudson Family Park. Vocal Trash will play Aug. 5 for the second performance of the series. Pictured above, Dave Bennett (right) and Ed Fedewa perform together in the amphitheater. At left, members of the crowd clap and dance along while Bennett sings and plays piano.

Commission denies casino license

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — The Indiana Gaming Commission on Thursday voted not to renew a gaming license for a planned new casino in Terre Haute that has already faced delays and forced ownership changes.

Commissioners said Lucy Luck hasn't hired an executive team to run the casino, and that full financing has yet to be secured.

"We're now a year and a half into this process and still talking about things that are prospec-

Terre Haute facility has faced delays, ownership changes

...tive in nature," said Sarah Tait, the commission's executive director.

The commission ordered staff to reopen the license application process, and noted that

Lucy Luck can reapply but that it must work out its deficiencies.

The casino's groundbreaking was slated to begin in late June or early July, with an open-

ing by fall 2022, but the commission put off voting to renew the license, saying they wanted to see more financial information from Lucy Luck's partners first.

Hard Rock International executive Jon Lucas told the Indiana Gaming Commission in May that the company had reached an agreement with Lucy Luck Gaming, the new casino's ownership group, to operate the new facility near Interstate 70 on Terre Haute's east side. Hard Rock also oper-

ates a casino that opened in Gary last month.

A year ago, casino officials outlined a plan to open the \$125 million Terre Haute facility in September 2021, but the commission forced two top executives to give up their ownership stakes in the project last year amid investigations into allegations of financial wrongdoings.

Terre Haute businessman Greg Gibson took over leadership of the project.

See Denies page 2

Biden backs bipartisan deal

By JONATHAN LEMIRE, JOSH BOAK and LISA MASCARO

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden has announced a hard-earned bipartisan agreement on a pared-down infrastructure plan that would make a start on his top legislative priority and validate his efforts to reach across the political aisle.

But he openly acknowledged Thursday that Democrats will likely have to tackle much of the rest on their own.

The bill's price tag at \$973 billion over five years, or \$1.2 trillion over eight years, is a scaled-back but still significant piece of Biden's broader proposals.

It includes more than a half-trillion dollars in new spending and could open the door to the

Senators reached agreement on pared-down infrastructure plan

...president's more sweeping \$4 trillion proposals for child care and what the White House calls human infrastructure later on.

"When we can find common ground, working across party lines, that is what I will seek to do," said Biden, who deemed the agreement "a true bipartisan effort, breaking the ice that too often has kept us frozen in place."

The president stressed that "neither side got everything they wanted in this deal; that's what it

means to compromise," and said that other White House priorities would be taken on separately in a congressional budget process known as reconciliation, which allows for majority passage without the need for Republican votes.

He insisted that the two items would be done "in tandem" and that he would not sign the bipartisan deal without the other, bigger piece.

See Bipartisan page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Graduation pledge

Jay County High School seniors, including Sadie Manson (center), say the Pledge of Allegiance during their commencement ceremony Sunday.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 81 degrees Thursday. The low was 61.

Tonight's forecast calls for showers and thunderstorms with winds gusting to 30 miles per

hour. More wind, rain and thunder are in the forecast for Saturday, when the high will be in the upper 80s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Redkey Town Council met briefly Thursday evening, approving payment of claims for the month. Council's next regular meeting is scheduled for 6 p.m. July 15.

Coming up

Saturday — The first story in our summer series about local graduates' plans for after high school.

Wednesday — Jay Community Center upgrades are complete.



Pence 'proud' of certifying election

By **MICHAEL R. BLOOD**
and **JILL COLVIN**
Associated Press

SIMI VALLEY, Calif. — Former Vice President Mike Pence has defended his role in certifying the results of the 2020 election, saying he's "proud" of what he did on Jan. 6 and declaring there's "almost no idea more un-American than the notion that any one person could choose the American president."

Pence, a potential 2024 presidential contender, delivered his strongest rebuttal to date of former President Donald Trump's continued insistence that he could unilaterally overturn the results of the last election, even though the Constitution granted him no such power. A mob of Trump supporters stormed the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6 in a bid to

Former Indiana governor's remarks came during address at Reagan Presidential Library

halt the certification process and transition of power, with some chanting, "Hang Mike Pence!"

Pence, in remarks at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library on Thursday, directly addressed those who continue to blame him for Trump's defeat to now-President Joe Biden, who won the Electoral College on a 306-232 vote.

"Now there are those in our party who believe that, in my

position as presiding officer over the joint session, that I possessed the authority to reject or return electoral votes certified by the states," Pence said. "But the Constitution provides the vice president with no such authority before the joint session of Congress.

"And the truth is," he continued, "there's almost no idea more un-American than the notion

that any one person could choose the American president. The presidency belongs to the American people and the American people alone."

Pence said he will "always be proud that we did our part, on that tragic day, to reconvene the Congress and fulfill our duty under the Constitution and the laws of the United States."

It was Pence's most overt attempt to date to distance himself from Trump's rhetoric about the election while painting himself as an heir to Trump's mantle and key to his accomplishments in office. Trump has continued to insist that he won the November election, even though his administration's own election experts, his attorney general, state election officials and numerous judges, including some he

appointed, have repeatedly and forcefully rejected his allegations of mass voter fraud.

Pence, speaking as part of a series organized by the Ronald Reagan Presidential Foundation & Institute, repeatedly praised Trump — as he has in other speeches since leaving office — and compared him to Reagan, whom Pence has hailed as a hero.

But he also argued that the American public needs to trust that Republicans will "always keep our oath to the Constitution, even when it could be politically expedient to do otherwise."

"Now I understand the disappointment many feel about the last election. I can relate. I was on the ballot," he added. "But you know, there's more at stake than our party and our political fortunes in this moment."

CR almanac

Saturday 6/26	Sunday 6/27	Monday 6/28	Tuesday 6/29	Wednesday 6/30
87/73	88/72	88/71	88/70	84/67
More potential rain and thunderstorms continue Saturday with a 60% chance.	The rainy weekend may continue with a 40% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Otherwise, sunny.	Rain is expected Monday as well with a 60% chance of showers and thunderstorms.	Cloudy skies will continue Tuesday with a 60% chance of thunderstorms.	Another potentially stormy day. There is a 60% chance of rain and thunderstorms.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$75 million	51-58-61-64-65-67-80 Cash 5: 1-3-11-17-21 Estimated jackpot: \$213,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$50 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 2-0-0 Pick 4: 6-2-3-8 Pick 5: 2-9-7-2-1 Evening Pick 3: 4-9-0 Pick 4: 1-0-2-7 Pick 5: 6-5-3-8-9 Rolling Cash: 20-28-30-31-36 Estimated jackpot: \$120,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 1-8-4 Daily Four: 7-4-5-3 Evening Daily Three: 9-4-5 Daily Four: 9-8-3-5 Quick Draw: 1-2-4-8-11-13-17-25-27-30-42-47-49	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery	Wheat 6.27 July wheat 6.27
Corn 6.21 July corn 6.24 Wheat 6.12	Central States Montpelier Corn 6.63 July corn 6.61 Beans 13.68 Nov. beans 12.41 Wheat 6.28
POET Biorefining Portland	Sunrise St. Anthony Corn 6.51 July corn 6.51 Beans 13.50 July beans 13.50 Wheat 5.93 July wheat 5.93
Corn 6.46 June corn 6.46 Aug. corn 5.96	
The Andersons Richland Township	
Corn 6.19 July corn 6.19 Beans 13.63 July beans 13.63	

Today in history

On June 25, 1962, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that recitation of a state-sponsored prayer in New York State public schools was unconstitutional.

In 1788, Virginia ratified the U.S. Constitution.

In 1876, Lt. Col. Colonel George A. Custer and his 7th Cavalry were wiped out by Sioux and Cheyenne Indians in the Battle of the Little Bighorn in Montana.

In 1942, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower was designated Commanding General of the European Theater of Operations during World War II.

In 1947, "The Diary of a Young Girl," the journal of Anne Frank, a

Jewish girl hiding with her family from the Nazis in Amsterdam during World War II, was first published.

In 1950, war broke out in Korea as forces from the communist North invaded the South.

In 1973, former White House Counsel John W. Dean began testifying before the Senate Watergate Committee, implicating top administration officials, including President Richard Nixon as well as himself, in the Watergate scandal and cover-up.

In 1996, Redkey Town Council discussed the possibility of annexation to make the town's boarders more uniform and increase its tax base.

—AP and The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.	Thursday 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
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The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Furry friend

Madilyn Laux, 4, hugs a rabbit Monday during the Silly Safaris presentation at Jay County Public Library.

Denies ...

Continued from page 1
Murray Clark, an Indianapolis attorney for Lucy Luck, told the Gaming Commission that Gibson had negotiated project financing commitments with a consortium of five Indiana banks that expire June 30.

"I am deeply disappoint-

ed in what came from today's meeting," Gibson said in a statement Thursday. "As for Lucy Luck, we may reapply, but I'm not sure if we will. Terre Haute deserves this casino, and I wish it could be alongside Lucy Luck Gaming."

The group projected the casino would hire 600

employees and earn \$120 million in its first year. The facility's plans included a Hard Rock Cafe, other restaurants and a 250-seat room for entertainment and meeting events.

The Terre Haute casino would be the state's 13th and the first in Indiana since 2008.

Felony court news

Drug possession

Kayla N. Cloyd, 29, 713 S. Lancaster Road, Muncie, pleaded guilty to possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court. She was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but

30 days suspended and given 30 days credit for 15 days served. Cloyd will be placed on a 335-day probation following her sentence. She was ordered to submit an evaluation within 30 days of her sentencing for substance abuse counseling. Cloyd

was fined \$25, assessed \$185 in court costs and ordered to pay a drug abuse, prosecution, interdiction and correction fee. As part of her plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor charge for possession of paraphernalia was dismissed.

Capsule Reports

Pole hit

A Montpelier woman's vehicle struck a pole about 12:10 p.m. Thursday.

Heather E. White, 41, was driving a 2008 Cadillac CTS west on county road 300 North near county road 200 West when she left the road, swerved back onto it, left the road again and collided her vehicle with a utility pole.

Her Cadillac was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

Failed to yield

A Union City woman's vehicle collided

with a Berne man's vehicle after she failed to yield at 2:05 p.m. Thursday.

Natasha S. Dubeanksy, 27, driving a 2015 GMC Terrain, registered to Tyler Dubeanksy, was stopped at the stop sign on Ship Street at the intersection of Walnut Street. Dubeanksy believed it was a four-way stop, according to a Portland Police Department report, and proceeded into the intersection where her vehicle crashed into Paul C. Tubbs, 85, who was traveling west on Walnut Street in his 2017 Ford Taurus. Damage is estimated between \$1,000 and \$2,500.

SERVICES

Saturday
Cliff, Rodger: 2:30 p.m., St. Stephen United Church of Christ, 905 E. Perkins Ave., Sandusky, Ohio.

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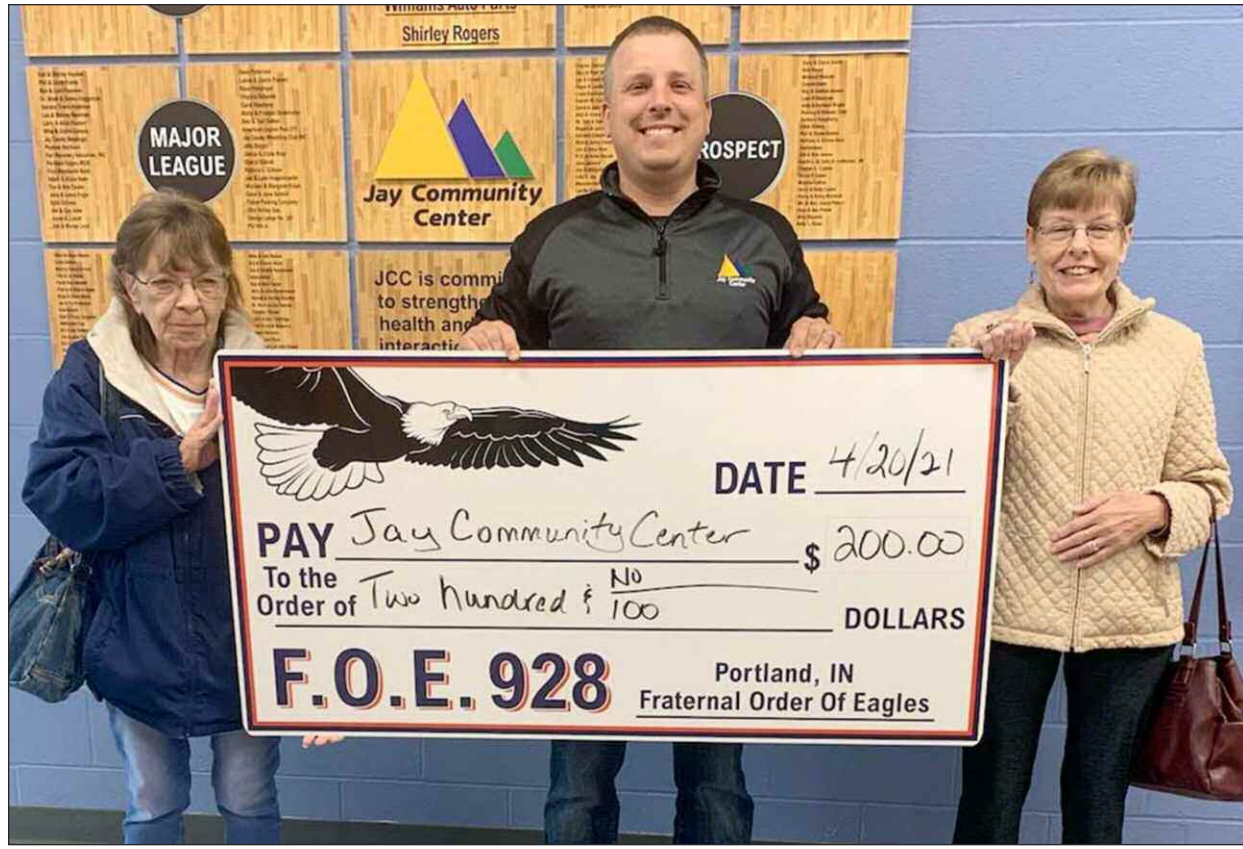


Photo provided

Eagles donate

Portland Eagles Lodge 928 recently made a \$200 donation to Jay Community Center's annual campaign. Pictured with JCC executive director Kyle Cook are Mary Brotherton (left) and Sonja Yohe of the Eagles.

Vacation Bible School set for July

Two churches will be hosting Bible school next month.

First Church of Christ of Fort Recovery and Christ Chapel will hold Vacation Bible School from July 19 through 22.

The school is for children ages 4 through sixth grade and will run from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Community Park. The theme will be "Be Strong & Courageous: Moses, David and Daniel."

Those who register by July 9 will receive a T-shirt.

For more information, or to register, call (419) 268-8156.

Registration open

Arts Place's Arts in the Parks program is underway.

The summer arts program for school-aged children offers classes in 14 communities, including Portland, Dunkirk, Redkey, Pennville and Fort Recovery. Classes are \$5 each with a maximum of

Taking Note

\$30 per child for the summer.

Information on the classes available in each community are available online at artsland.org.

Series continues

The Dunkirk Webster Depot Park Concert Series continues Saturday with a performance by Moment's Notice.

Concerts are at 7 p.m. each Saturday through the first weekend of August with the exception of July 3. The schedule is as follows:

- July 10 — Harmony Quartet
- July 17 — John Beatrice Band
- July 24 — Boot Hill Band
- July 31 — Jay Foxx Band
- Aug. 7 — Spittin' Image

Messiness gets in the way of budding romance

DEAR ABBY: I've become involved with a woman I've been friends with for some years. We became close over the course of 2020, and more recently have soft-launched dating (although she doesn't yet feel comfortable labeling it).

Not long ago, she expressed great disappointment because of my messiness when I last visited her. I had left an empty coffee cup on her car floor, my shoes in the middle of her kitchen and knocked some pillows off of the couch, among other things. I know her criticisms are fair, but they were also over the top.

I believe this is a trait I can fix, and I told her I would, but now she wants some space. She said she isn't sure she can become romantic with a messy

Dear Abby



person who "doesn't respect her space." While I understand where she's coming from, I'm afraid I won't have a chance to prove myself. We spoke a little after the incident, but I have tried to honor her request.

Do you have any advice about how to approach the situation? It would be sad if we parted ways after our first real challenge. I think it may be important to note that, in the past, she has dated men who weren't

respectful to her at all. — MR. MESSY IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR MR. MESSY: A serious — but nonconfrontational — conversation with this woman is in order. Does she have a touch of OCD? Or could she be reluctant to become further involved for some other reason — such as a fear of intimacy or her bad luck with prior men in her life? You need to ask what has caused your otherwise happy relationship to go so far off track, let her know you are willing to work on your "messiness," and ask her to lay her cards on the table about what else may be bothering her.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have a beautiful 8-year-old

daughter. She was a donor egg baby, as we had had three miscarriages and were unable to bring a baby to term. My question is, when is the right time to tell our daughter that her mother is not her birth mother? I was bullied extensively as a kid, and don't want this to become a topic to haunt the rest of her school days. — DOTING DAD

DEAR DAD: I'm sorry you were bullied as a child, and I'm glad you asked this question. If your wife carried your daughter to term, she IS the child's birthmother. She just needed a little "extra help" in the form of a donated egg.

Having reached the age of 8, your daughter is at an age when school curriculum may

begin covering reproduction. After she has learned the basics, consider slowly starting to educate her about the various pathways to parenthood. Then, when she is a little older, provide more details about the miracle of her birth. It is important that your child know she can always get honest answers from both of her parents, and at some point, the donor's medical history may be something she needs to know about.

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.

Saturday

PORTLAND FARMERS MARKET — Is open from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in the parking lot at The Rock Church.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. upstairs at True Value Hardware, Meridian Street, Portland. For more information, call (260) 729-2532.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for break-

fast at Richards Restaurant.

BRYANT AREA COMMUNITY CENTER — Walking from 9 to 10 a.m. every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

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

EUCHRE — For those 55 and older from 12:30 to 3 p.m. at West Jay Community Center in Dunkirk.

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

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

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 5:30 p.m., with the meeting at 6 p.m., in the fellowship hall at Evangelical Methodist Church, 930 W. Main St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5312.

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

Tuesday

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

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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

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Ignorance should be the biggest fear

To the editor:
The latest “bogeyman” to disrupt sleep, and cause handwringing angst on the right, is critical race theory and the 1619 Project; As if the country needed another reason to become more divisive.

Letters to the Editor

To paraphrase Franklin Delano Roosevelt, arguably one of America’s greatest presidents: “The only history we need to fear is history itself.”

Fear is a most potent weapon, whether in the hands of a would-be autocrat or in the messaging of ignorant partisans. This polemic is simply another take on the old “Lost Cause” argument that is propagated by some factions on the right.

The Atlantic Magazine had an article in this month’s issue addressing

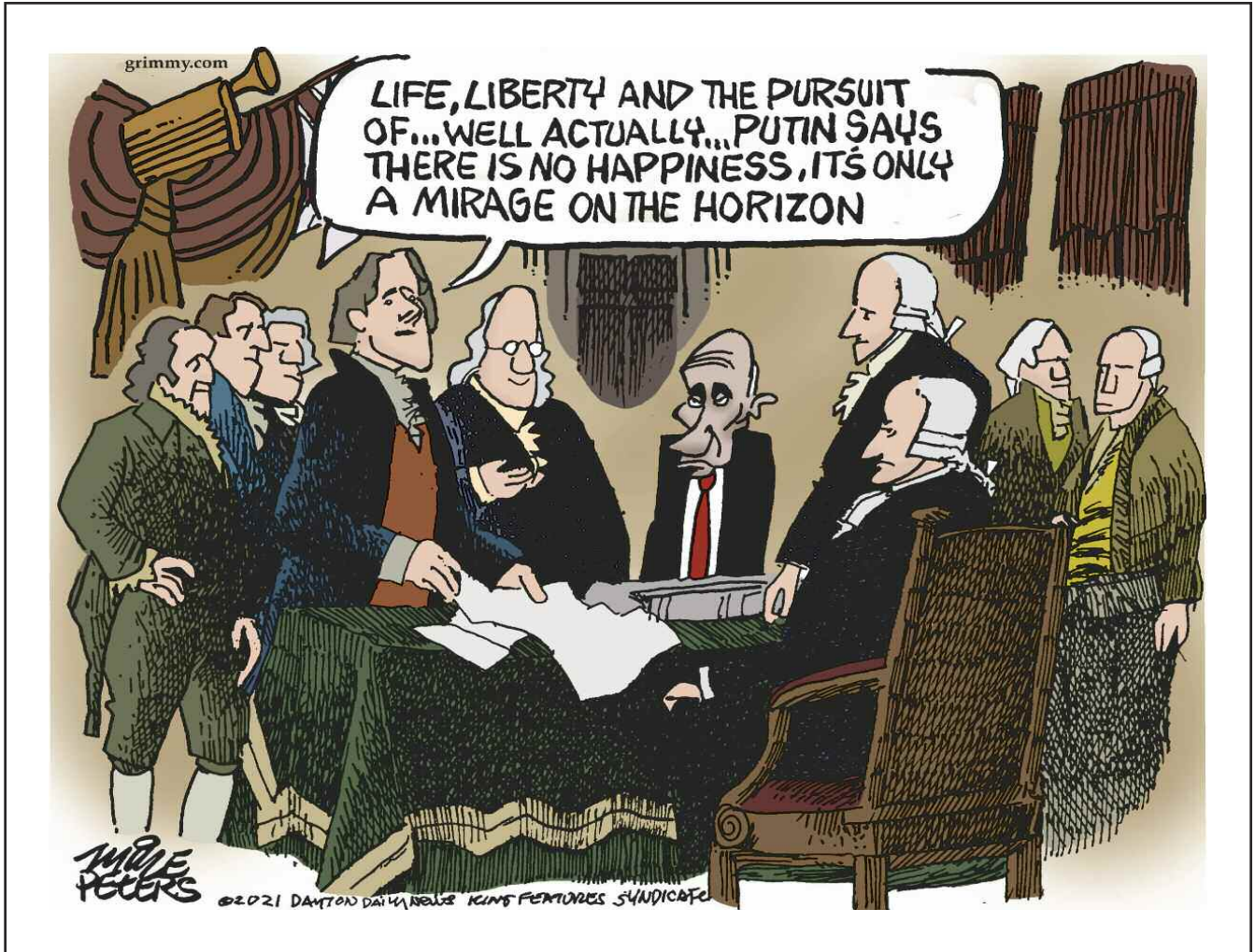
this very subject: “The War on Nostalgia: What will it take to end the myth of the Lost Cause?”

And, very appropriately to the subject of this letter, “The Neglected Origin Stories of Black America.”

To quote the multi-talented Johann Wolfgang von Goethe: “Nothing is more frightful than to see ignorance in action.”

What we should fear for both ourselves and for the future of our children isn’t the knowledge of history, but the ignorance thereof.

Michael S. Kinser
Portland



In silences, there is faith

By **ROBIN GIVHAN**
The Washington Post

There’s glory in the silences. Within the hushed folds of restraint and self-control, there’s an absence of judgment, bravado and brashness. What must it take for a politician, a talker with decades of tales, to say next to nothing?

The president goes to church regularly. He went over the weekend. And even as the complexities of Catholic orthodoxy have become a matter of politics and debate, with conservative Catholic bishops backing a document that could lead to limits on Holy Communion for President Joe Biden, he has refused to engage in public. Biden, the country’s second Catholic president after John F. Kennedy, has kept his thoughts private; he has remained mum. And in that quiet, he’s made space for people to contemplate the role of faith over religion in public life.

We’ve been at this crossroads before, where politics and religion converge — or more precisely, politics and abortion. We come to it regularly because we are a country in which people extol the sanctity of human life but then have trouble accommodating the range of thought and the countless imperfections that make up those precious lives.

Catholicism does not abide abortion. But Biden supports a women’s right to make her own decisions about her own body. And so, there are those in the Catholic hierarchy who believe that Biden — and other Catholic politicians who take a similar stance — should not be allowed to take Communion. This act of grace should be forbidden to them. It is as simple as that, they seem to believe. Perhaps religion is that clear-cut. But faith is far more complicated.

Faith is religion taken down to street level, where it bumps up against sinners and their sins and where the challenge of doing right in a confounding world can be as frustrating as trying to step into a rainbow.

The most unforgiving voices see religion as a set of rules to be followed in absolute terms, and failure to do so is an abomination to God. They see the church building as a clubhouse for the righteous and the sacraments as a reward for the good. But the faithful turn to the church as an oasis, a refuge, a port. The religious stalwarts may find dignity and community by promenading into church wearing their best finery. They

Robin Givhan



may honor God with their self-possession. But the faithful make room in their favorite pew for the homeless visitor who may have been drawn in more by a cool gust of air conditioning wafting from the open doors than the sounds of a well-rehearsed choir. Faith is its own reward.

The vice president went to church last week. Kamala Harris went to Ebenezer Baptist Church in Atlanta to tour a pop-up vaccination clinic. She came to the historic church where the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. preached to encourage those who are hesitant to be vaccinated to step up. She urged them to be their brothers’ keeper by helping to move their community closer to herd immunity. Harris didn’t speak of rule books or denominational discipline, only neighborliness.

“We’re here in church; church is always a healing place. It’s so appropriate that we’re doing this here,” she said to the assembled group of residents and politicians. “It’s also about love thy neighbor, and that’s what this vaccine is about.”

And then Sen. Raphael Warnock, D-Georgia, who is also the senior pastor at Ebenezer, punctuated her words with an “amen.”

Religion makes judgments about who’s worthy enough to walk through the church doors. It makes note of who has paid their tithes and who has carried favor with the minister or the priest. Faith flings open the doors and offers love without judgment.

The first lady went to church earlier this month. Jill Biden went to Abyssinian Baptist Church in New York’s Harlem neighborhood. She went to extend a hand of friendship and encourage people to be vaccinated against the coronavirus. She went there, not because church doctrine speaks either for or against vaccinations, but because people trust the members of the church to be full of care and concern. The church is a community of imperfect people who create a safety net for the fearful or the broken. The

Faith is religion taken down to street level, where it bumps up against sinners and their sins and where the challenge of doing right in a confounding world can be as frustrating as trying to step into a rainbow.

rules of religion matter; but they aren’t the essence of faith. One can have faith in man’s capacity to learn and evolve. One can have faith in science.

When religion enters the political arena, it’s centered on hierarchy and judgment. It files lawsuits and demands to be exempt from society at large. It is easily insulted and portrays itself as fragile and almost always on the verge of collapse. It can be unkind and unyielding. It is always needy.

Most recently, religion is feeling censored and silenced. It’s fending off barbarians at its gilded gates.

Faith thrives in church basements. In food drives and homeless outreach. In pop-up vaccination clinics and community engagement. It is not doctrinaire. In the silences, there’s faith. There’s an unyielding belief in the wonders and worth of people, not despite their imperfections but because of them.

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Givhan is senior critic-at-large writing about politics, race and the arts.

NFL needs to catch up

By **DREW GOINS**
The Washington Post

When writers for the Advocate magazine in 1975 went poking around Major League Baseball to see whether there might be a story in “players living gay lifestyles” during the first years of the gay liberation movement, they quickly met with a warning from staff at the Minnesota Twins: The writers had better stop “attempting to extend your perversion to an area of total manhood.”

Has all that much changed in the sporting world in the 4½ decades since? To listen to the video that Las Vegas Raiders defensive end Carl Nassib posted Monday night on his Instagram, you’d certainly think so. “What’s up, people?” he said to the camera. “I’m at my house here in West Chester, Pa. I just wanna take a quick moment to say that I’m gay.”

No juke, no flea-flicker, just “I’m gay.”

But this gimme field goal of a coming out belies a wild fact: Nassib is the first active NFL player — ever — to come out as gay. If his historic announcement was casual, it’s not because football changed. It’s because the world did. Once upon a time, sporting society helped lead the way in racial integration; now, when it comes to sexuality, it’s the rest of society dragging sports along with it.

Football, the most manly, rough-and-tumble of the sports — sorry, 1970s Minnesota Twins — has been particularly behind the times. Nassib had forebears, but they were few and far between: Michael Sam made headlines in 2014 as a draft pick who had come out, but he was cut before the season began. A number of former players have come out in retirement. Many recounted the pressures of being in the closet, and the casual (or acute) homophobia in the football world that kept them there.

A Post reporter tweeted after Nassib’s video that he had asked an NFL coach as recently as 2013 whether a gay player would ever be welcomed in the league. The coach said no,

Drew Goins



“because nobody wants to shower with a fa---.” In a sports setting that still prides itself on being “an area of total manhood,” it’s easy to imagine how queerness might not exactly flourish.

Hints of Nassib’s brushes with that sort of toxicity appear as one gets past his video’s breezy opening: It took him 15 years to share this part of himself. He says he “agonized over this moment,” even as he thanks his NFL family for its support while he worked up the nerve. He seems to recognize the momentousness of his coming out. And given that his act of courage will steer young athletes away from depression, maybe even save lives, it is momentous.

The problem is, it shouldn’t be. Were Nassib coming out in almost any other field, the act would not be groundbreaking. Acceptance of LGBTQ people has rocketed skyward in such a way that coming-out announcements barely register in certain corners of the country. Last year saw a decently successful gay presidential candidate and a decently successful gay Hallmark movie. America got a gay Bachelor before it got a gay defensive end.

Nassib wishes during his video for a world where such a video isn’t even necessary. All he wants, as he takes “a quick moment” in his yard in West Chester and asks the media not to bother him too much, is a chill coming out. He wants to be, as former NFL player Wade Davis said to The Post, “an NFL football player who is gay,” not the “gay NFL player.” The world may not yet have made it to the place Nassib hopes it will, but at least it’s in the red zone. Now, the NFL needs to get there, too.

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Goins is an assistant editor in the Opinions section.

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HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus



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First cruise ship set to leave U.S.

By ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
Associated Press

MIAMI — The first cruise ship to board passengers at a U.S. port in 15 months is set to sail Saturday from the industry's South Florida hub in a symbolic stride toward normalcy that will be watched closely by health experts as vaccines curb the coronavirus' spread in the country.

Industry officials hope the Celebrity Edge's voyage serves as a bookend for people for whom the gravity of the pandemic first hit home in the alarming reports last year of deadly outbreaks on crowded ships, with guests quarantined for weeks, vessels begging to dock and sickened passengers

carried away on stretchers at ports.

"We are excited to be part of that," said Russ Schwartz, a Florida school principal who is honeymooning on the ship and is confident it will be smooth sailing. "Things have changed drastically. Back then we really didn't know much about the virus. Cruises at that point weren't prepared."

Celebrity Cruises, one of Royal Caribbean Cruises' brands, says at least 95% of those boarding the Celebrity Edge have been vaccinated against the coronavirus in line with health requirements from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the ship will run at a reduced capacity.

It will be a luxurious voyage aboard a boat that was unveiled in December 2018 featuring a giant spa and multi-floor suites. The \$1 billion vessel will be led by Capt. Kate McCue, who in 2015 became the first American woman to captain a cruise ship and has drawn a following of more than 1 million on TikTok and 250,000 on Instagram.

The stakes are high for cruise lines as they emerge from a CDC-imposed shutdown that lasted 15 months. During that period the three industry giants — Carnival, Norwegian and Royal Caribbean — have had to raise more than \$40 billion in financing just to stay afloat without any revenue.

Collectively they lost \$20 bil-

lion last year and another \$4.5 billion in the first quarter of 2021, according to Securities and Exchange Commission filings.

"The cruise lines are getting up off their knees after getting crippled by COVID-19," said Michael Winkleman, a maritime attorney. "There's just too much money at stake for the cruise lines not to get it right."

To comply with both the CDC's 95% vaccination requirement and a new Florida law banning businesses from requiring customers to show proof of vaccination, Celebrity Cruises is simply asking guests if they would like to share their status, spokeswoman Susan Lomax said.

Those who don't voluntarily show proof of vaccination will

be treated as unvaccinated and be subjected to additional protocols such as wearing face masks and being restricted to designated seating areas in common areas like dining rooms, casinos and theaters.

Last year the CDC castigated the cruise industry for keeping bars, gyms and self-service buffets open and continuing to allow crew members to gather even as the pandemic raged.

Beginning in March 2020, data showed 3,689 confirmed or suspected cases of COVID-19 on cruise ships in U.S. waters, and at least 41 deaths. The CDC says it spent 38,000 person-hours handling just the cruise response to COVID-19, including contact tracing for 11,000 passengers.



For The Washington Post/Saul Martinez

A view of the 12-story condo tower partially collapsed Wednesday night in Miami, Florida. So far, four have been confirmed dead with more than 150 still missing.

Still missing

Four have been confirmed dead, more than 150 still unaccounted for after building collapse in Florida

By TERRY SPENCER and ADRIANA GOMEZ LICON
Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Fla. — About 160 people were still unaccounted for Friday after an oceanside condominium building collapsed into a pile of rubble, and searchers combing through a twisted, shifting heap of concrete and metal feared the death toll of at least four could go much higher.

With scores of firefighters working overnight to reach any possible survivors both from under and atop the remains of the building, hopes rested on how quickly crews using dogs and microphones to sift through the wreckage could complete their grim, yet delicate task.

"Every time we hear a sound, we concentrate on those areas," said Assistant Miami-Dade Fire Chief Raide Jadallah.

Two heavy cranes began removing debris from the pile using large claws Friday morning, creating a din of crashing glass and metal as they picked up material and dumped it to the side.

Amid the work, Faydah Bushnaq knelt on the beach near the build-

ing's remains and scratched "Pray for their souls" in the sand.

"We were supposed to be on vacation, but I have no motivation to have fun," said Bushnaq of Sterling, Virginia. "It is the perfect time to say a prayer for them."

Three more bodies were removed overnight, and Miami-Dade Police Director Freddy Ramirez said authorities were working with the medical examiner's office to identify the victims. Eleven injuries were reported, with four people treated at hospitals.

Miami-Dade Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said rescuers were at "extreme risk" going through the rubble.

"Debris is falling on them as they do their work. We have structural engineers on site to ensure that they will not be injured, but they are proceeding because they are so motivated and they are taking extraordinary risk on the site every day," she said.

With searchers using saws and jackhammers to look for pockets large enough to hold a person, Levine Cava said there was still hope of finding people alive.

Those missing from what was left of the 12-story Champlain Towers South included people from around the world: a beloved retired Miami-area teacher and his wife. Orthodox Jews from Russia. Israelis. The sister of Paraguay's first lady. Others from South America.

State Sen. Jason Pizzo of Miami Beach told the Miami Herald he watched as tactical teams of six worked early Friday to sift through the debris. He said he saw one body taken in a yellow body bag and another that was marked. They were taken to a homicide unit tent that was set up along the beach.

Many people remained at the reunification center set up near the collapse site early Friday morning, awaiting results of DNA swabs that could help identify victims.

Officials said no cause for the collapse has been determined.

Video of the collapse showed the center of the building appearing to tumble down first and a section nearest to the ocean teetering and coming down seconds later, as a huge dust cloud swallowed the neighborhood.

Bipartisan ...

Continued from page 1
House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and progressive members of Congress declared they would hold to the same approach.

"There ain't going to be a bipartisan bill without a reconciliation bill," Pelosi said.

Claiming a major victory five months into his presidency, Biden said, "This reminds me of the days when we used to get an awful lot done up in the United States Congress." Biden, a former Delaware senator, said that as he put his hand on the shoulder of a stoic-looking Republican Sen. Rob Portman of Ohio as the president made a surprise appearance with a bipartisan group of senators to announce the deal outside the White House.

But the next steps are not likely to be nearly so smooth.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell complained that Biden was "caving" to Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer's plan to "hold the bipartisan agreement hostage" for the president's bigger package of what he called "wasteful" spending.

"That's not the way to show you're serious about getting a bipartisan outcome," McConnell said.

And there is plenty of skepticism on Biden's own left flank. Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal of Connecticut said the bipartisan agreement is "way too small — paltry, pathetic. I need a clear, ironclad assurance that there will be a really adequate robust package" that will follow.

Thursday's deal was struck by the bipartisan group led by Portman and Democrat Kyrsten Sinema of Arizona, including some of the more independent

lawmakers in the Senate, some known for bucking their parties.

"You know there are many who say bipartisanship is dead in Washington," Sinema said. "We can use bipartisanship to solve these challenges."

And Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, said, "It sends an important message to the world as well that America can function, can get things done."


The proposal includes both new and existing spending on long-running programs and highlights the struggle lawmakers faced in coming up with ways to pay for what have typically been popular ideas.

The investments include \$109 billion on roads and highways and \$15 billion on electric vehicle infrastructure and transit systems as part of \$312 billion in transportation spending. There's \$65 billion toward broadband and expenditures on drinking water systems and \$47 billion in resiliency efforts to tackle climate change.

Rather than Biden's proposed corporate tax hike that Republicans oppose or the gas tax increase that the president rejected, funds will be tapped from a range of sources — without a full tally yet, according to a White House document.

Money will come from \$125 billion in COVID-19 relief funds approved in 2020 but not yet spent, as well as untapped unemployment insurance funds that Democrats have been hesitant to poach. Other revenue is expected by going harder after tax cheats by beefing up Internal Revenue Service enforcement that Portman said could yield \$100 billion.

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Cubs' no-hitter ties MLB season record

By GREG BEACHAM

LOS ANGELES — After Craig Kimbrel struck out pinch-hitter Will Smith to end the game, the Chicago Cubs' closer was curious why catcher Willson Contreras celebrated with a bigger-than-usual fist pump.

Fellow reliever Ryan Tepera then ran onto the field at Dodger Stadium and whispered in Kimbrel's ear: "You have no idea what happened."

The Cubs' fearsome bullpen had just teamed up with starter Zach Davies for the first combined no-hitter in franchise history — and none of the three

relievers who followed Davies onto the mound had any idea they were pitching their way into history until after they finished.

The four Cubs combined for the seventh no-hitter in the majors this year, matching the most in a season since 1900, as Chicago blanked the Los Angeles Dodgers 4-0 Thursday night. The Dodgers drew eight walks, getting at least one from each opposing pitcher, but managed no other baserunners.

The tension was palpable in the Cubs' dugout, where Davies watched with trepidation after reluctantly agreeing with man-

ager David Ross' decision to pull him for a pinch-hitter after 94 pitches. Davies (5-4) issued five walks while scrapping through six spotless innings against the defending World Series champions.

"I think every pitcher wants to continue in the game, regardless of his pitch count, but it worked," Davies said. "Chafe, Tep and Craig shut the door. A part of history. I'm excited for the guys that were on the field. I can't complain at all."

But incredibly, the relievers remained blissfully oblivious to the stakes as Tepera, Andrew Chafin and Kimbrel went to the

mound and preserved a zero they couldn't see, thanks to the position of the Dodger Stadium bullpen.

"The whole bullpen had no idea," said Chafin, who pitched the eighth. "It was completely oblivious. But in our defense, in that bullpen, from our perspective on the field, all we can see is batting averages and the count, stuff like that. We can't see the scoreboard with the hits."

Tepera and Chafin each walked a batter during their inning on the mound, but Los Angeles couldn't capitalize.

Kimbrel then walked Chris Taylor leading off the ninth, but

the ferocious closer struck out Cody Bellinger, Albert Pujols and Smith to finish the Cubs' 17th no-hitter since 1880.

"I think they all needed to get a walk in, just to make my heart rate go up a little bit," Ross said. "You get to the ninth, I don't know I've been as nervous in a long time with a 4-0 lead and Craig Kimbrel on the mound as I was tonight."

Javier Báez homered in the first inning and Contreras added a two-run shot in the sixth for the Cubs, who happily celebrated the franchise's first no-hitter since last Sept. 13, when Alec Mills blanked Milwaukee.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Serenity swings

Serenity Lehman of the Redkey All-Stars connects with a pitch Thursday night during her team's victory over Winchester in tournament action.

Local ...

Continued from page 8
Jordyn Hutzler led the attack with a double and two singles. Kendel Rowles and Hallie Schwieterman contributed two singles apiece. Carley Trinidad, Adriene Denney and MacKenzie Cramer all singled.

Brooklyn Bright led Masonic Lodge with a double and a single, and Calie Yates also doubled. MaKaylah Brainerd, Nevaeh Armstrong and Jasmine Esparza each singled.

Holds off

Pak-A-Sak successfully held off Matt's Garage for a 14-11 win on Thursday in their P.J.L. Rookie baseball contest.

Henry Teeter hit a triple and singled three times for Pak-A-Sak. Cash Reynolds and Koltyn Garringer both hit a triple and two singles. Oliver Jackson collected a double and three singles, and Sawyer Young tallied four base hits.

Easton Steed paced Matt's with four singles, and Ethan Peterson and

Lavaughn Ballard had three hits each.

Emerges victorious

Flamespray Machine Service emerged victorious by edging Lions Club, 8-7, on Thursday in their P.J.L. Willie Mays matchup.

Cooper Reynolds doubled, singled and had two RBIs in the win, and Brayden O'Brien added a single and an RBI.

Alex Miller singled and knocked in three runs for Lions Club, which also got a double and two RBIs from Logan Wendel.

PG wins

PG-14 earned a 15-2 win against Portland Optimist in their P.J.L. Willie Mays contest on Thursday.

Sam Wiggins led the winning effort with a double, two singles and four RBIs, and Alex Huntsman tallied two singles and drove in a pair of runs. Grant Fennig also finished with two RBIs.

Wiggins also struck out seven batters in three innings.

Optimist stats were not provided.

Heads ...

Continued from page 8
The Pacers know exactly what they're getting in Carlisle — a disciplined, details-oriented, old-school coach who spent three seasons as Larry Bird's assistant during the most successful era in franchise history. Those traits could help the Pacers defense, which allowed 115.3 points per game and was ranked 25th last season.

The bigger question might be whether Carlisle is the right fit.

After an embarrassing season-end-

ing loss to Washington in the play-in round, Pritchard acknowledged Pacers players described Bjorkgren as a micromanager in end-of-season interviews. The problems even spilled into public view during an in-game shouting match between backup center Goga Bitadze and assistant coach Greg Foster amid reports of locker-room drama.

Carlisle had similar issues in his 13th and final season in Dallas.

Two-time All-Star Luka Doncic occasionally showed his anger by

making animated gestures toward the coach during games and there were reports of "simmering tension" between the two before Carlisle resigned last week. Team owner Mark Cuban said Carlisle made the decision to leave, one day after general manager Donnie Nelson also left.

With all five starters under contract, Pritchard believes the Pacers can contend quickly — with a healthy roster, a stronger defense and better coaching. He also wants to see more leadership from the players.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Portland Rockets vs. Fort Wayne Lumbejacks - 7 p.m.
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs - 7:05 p.m.

Saturday
Fort Recovery Eels at Celina Pen-tathlon - TBD
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs - 7:05 p.m.

Sunday
Fort Wayne TinCaps at South Bend Cubs - 2:05 p.m.

Local notes

Outing Is July 23
The Jay County Chamber Classic Golf Outing will be July 23 at Portland Golf Club.

Cost is \$250 per four-person team, and they must be members of the Jay County Chamber of Commerce. Lunch will be provided. Registration begins at 9 a.m. with a 10 a.m. shotgun start. Deadline to register is July 12, and sponsorship opportunities are available.

For more information, call the chamber office at (260) 726-4481.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

How many points does the responder indicate by his rebid in the following three sequences?

- | | |
|---------------|------------------|
| Opener | Responder |
| 1. 1♦ | 1♠ |
| 2♦ | 2 NT |
| 2. 1♥ | 2♥ |
| 3♣ | 4♥ |
| 3. 1♠ | 1♦ |
| 1♣ | 2♣ |

1. Ten to 12 points. Two notrump in this sequence is invitational, not forcing. Opener's two-diamond opening announced a hand of minimum opening strength (13 to 15 points) and a willingness to have the bidding stop if responder holds a weak hand.

If responder next bids two notrump, he is saying in effect that game is still possible if opener has maximum values for his minimum rebid (i.e., closer to 15 points than to 13). Opener may then pass two notrump, sign off by bidding three diamonds or continue on by bidding three clubs, three spades or three notrump with the appropriate hand.

Typically, responder might have one of these hands:

- ♠9763 ♥KQ6 ♦J4 ♣A85
- ♠KJ84 ♥AJ3 ♦Q2 ♣9862
- ♠KQ98 ♥Q96 ♦973 ♣A104

2. Eight to 10 points. Responder's two-heart bid shows six to 10 points, including distributional values. When opener now bids three clubs (a "help-suit" game try), he is trying to find out whether responder has minimum or maximum values for his heart raise. Three clubs is forcing, and responder then indicates how good or bad his two-heart bid was by bidding game with a maximum or retreating to three hearts with a minimum. Any close decision is resolved by responder's club holding. A jump to four hearts would be proper with any of these hands:

- ♠10 ♥Q853 ♦108742 ♣KQ4
- ♠Q852 ♥K96 ♦9643 ♣K2
- ♠A963 ♥J754 ♦72 ♣Q14

3. Eight to 10 points. The second-round raise in spades shows four-card trump support and is mildly encouraging, catering to the possibility that opener might have 16 to 18 points, which is entirely possible on the bidding. With six or seven points, responder would normally pass one spade, since game is highly unlikely in the absence of a jump-shift by opener to indicate 19 or more points. A typical two-spade bid could be based on:

- ♠KQ62 ♥107 ♦Q9432 ♣J3
- ♠A764 ♥93 ♦K10872 ♣74
- ♠J1095 ♥64 ♦AQ95 ♣J62

6-25 CRYPTOQUIP

CY DSHDRS IZS IROIKP

ILLSWDLCLUT LH OHH LAS

BCLCJSUP HY CLIRK'P BIDCLIR,

IZS LASK ZHWIUCJSZP?

Yesterday's Cryptiquip: MYSTERY TALE INVOLVING A SWEET, RING-SHAPED TREAT THAT TURNS UP MISSING: A WHO-DONUT.

Today's Cryptiquip Clue: D equals P

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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Jay County Fairgrounds - Round House/Industrial Building
June 26, 2021
10:00 A.M./ 10:30 Double Ring

GUNS - AMMO - GUN SAFE - KNIVES - MISC MILITARY - CAMPER - VEHICLES - TRAILER - GOLF CART - ATVs - MOWERS - TOOLS - WOODWORKING EQUIPMENT - HOUSEHOLD - PRIMITIVES - COLLECTIBLES - ADVERTISEMENT - NEW MERCHANDISE - SECURITY CAMERA MISC - OFFICE MISC - OTHER MISC

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110 HELP WANTED

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CDL OTR DRIVER - FLEXIBLE home times. 2019 Coronado 13 spd / Cascadia/Auto. Can get \$1500+ weekly. 3 yrs. CDL exp. req. RGN, SD exp. helpful. All miles, drops, downtime, and weekends paid if out. Call 260- 273-1245

\$12.00/HOUR. First shift. Door & Cabinet Sander. Benefits include matching HSA & IRA. Apply in person at Pennville Custom Cabinetry -600 East Votaw Street, Portland, IN.

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF SUMMONS THROUGH PUBLICATION TO: Vicki Coons, Respondent.

You are hereby notified that a Petition for Dissolution of Marriage has been filed in the Jay County Superior Court in re the Marriage of Floyd L. Coons and Vicki Coons, Cause Number 38D01-2105-DC-000040. The Court has been asked to divide the marital estate, and determine matters of child custody and maintenance.

The attorney for the Petitioner is Brandon C. Elkins-Barkley (#34967-49) of Cordell & Cordell, P.C., 101 W. Ohio St., Suite 1100, Indianapolis, IN 46204. The whereabouts of the Respondent, Vicki Coons, are unknown. You are further notified that you must file an answer or other pleading or otherwise appear and defend against the aforesaid Petition 30 days after the last notice is published. If not, judgment by default may be entered for the relief demanded by the Petitioner. CR 6-17,25,7-3-2021 HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT COUNTY OF JAY CAUSE NO: 38C01-2106-EU-000019 IN THE MATTER OF THE UNSUPERVISED ESTATE OF: ROBERT E. PRYOR SR. Deceased

NOTICE OF UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION Notice is hereby given that Chastity A. Bland and Robert E. Pryor Jr. were appointed as Co-Personal Representatives of the estate of Robert E. Pryor Sr. deceased on the day of June 2021. Who died on the 8th day of June, 2021. 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 this 15th day of June 2021.
Jon Eads
CLERK OF THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
COLDREN, FRANTZ & SPRUNGER
Attorneys at Law
P.O. Box 1013
Portland IN 47371
CR 6-25,7-2-2021 HSPAXLP

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Sports

Jay downs eastern neighbors

Hope Evers, bottom, of the Fort Recovery Eels, and Avery Snow of the Jay County Summer Swim Team compete in the backstroke leg of the 9-and-10-year-old girls 100-yard medley during their meet on Thursday at Portland Waterpark. Evers teamed with Rozlyn Diller, Isla Kaiser and Kayden Ranly to take second behind the Jay County team of Jordyn Champ, Kenna Arnold, Kali Wendel and Lila Wendel as Jay County topped Fort Recovery 732-394.



The Commercial Review/Chris Schanz

Forty one total event wins help Jay County top Eels and move to 5-0 on the season

Jay County hosted its friends to the east Thursday. It resulted in yet another victory. Jay County Summer Swim Team moved to 5-0 on the season with a 732-394 win against the Fort Recover Eels at Portland Water Park. Fort Recovery, meanwhile, dipped to 2-2 on the year. Addisyn Champ (8-and-younger), Kali Wendel (9-10-year-old), Ben Fisher (9-10-year-old) and Eliza Bader (15-and-older) were each triple winners for Jay County. Champ got her victories in the long freestyle, butterfly and backstroke events, while

Wendel won the butterfly, individual medley and short freestyle. Fisher beat his opponents in the long freestyle, backstroke and IM, while Bader touched the wall ahead of the field in the long freestyle, butterfly and breaststroke races. Carson Fullenkamp and Makenna Huelskamp were the lone triple winners for the Eels. Fullenkamp got victories in the short freestyle, long freestyle and breaststroke while competing in the 13-and-14-year-old division, and Huelskamp was first in the IM, long freestyle and butterfly in the 11-and-12-year-old age group.

The Beiswanger boys had two wins each for Jay County, with Tony getting his in the 9-and-10-year-old division. Rockland and Raif both had a pair of victories in the 11-and-12-year-old age group. Anna Fisher (8-and-younger), Morgan DeHoff (13-14-year-old), Timo Minnich (15-and-older) and Kyle Sanders (15-and-older) also had two wins in their respective divisions. Konner Sommers won the 200-yard open freestyle and got a 15-and-older victory as well. For Fort Recovery, Maverick Huelskamp (8-and-younger), Joelle Kaup (13-and-14-year-old)

and Teigen Fortkamp (15-and-older) had two wins apiece. Jay County swimmers with individual victories were Sam Benirschke, Kenna Arnold, Jordyn Champ, Lila Wendel, Grant Glentzer, Jaxson DeHoff, Aryan Montes, Aubrey Millspaugh, Lauren Fisher, David Keen, Matthew Fisher, Lincoln Clamme and Nico Minnich. Earning single wins for the Eels were Leo Faller, Korbin Ranly, Hailey Wenning, Kendall Ranly, Livy Timmerman, Sophia Guggenbiller, Paige Fortkamp and Ava Bubp. Jay County had wins in 14 relay races, while the Eels picked up five relay victories.

Carlisle heads back to Pacers

By MICHAEL MAROT
AP Sports Writer
INDIANAPOLIS — When Kevin Pritchard hired a new coach in October, he took a calculated risk. This time, the Indiana Pacers president of basketball operations went for the known commodity. Pritchard hired long-time Dallas Mavericks coach Rick Carlisle on Thursday, reuniting the 61-year-old with the team that helped relaunch his head coaching career almost two decades ago. “Rick is a proven winner with a championship and will be a Hall of Fame coach,” Pritchard said in a statement. “He has demonstrated throughout his career an ability to build something with sustainable success. He has great respect for our franchise and our fans from his previous times here. We are very happy to welcome him back to Indiana.” Clearly, the Pacers believe Carlisle can bring stability to a veteran team that battled a severe rash of injuries last season. The result was a losing record and their first play-off absence in six years. Carlisle will get a chance to make a quick fix with the same organization he led from 2003-07 and took to the Eastern Conference finals in his first season with the team. This time, he becomes the third Pacers coach in less than 12 months. Nate McMillan was fired in August following his fourth straight first-round playoff exit, just weeks after signing a contract extension. His replacement, Nate Bjorkgren, lasted one tumultuous season in his first NBA head coaching gig. “I wanted to take a risk,” Pritchard said while announcing Bjorkgren’s firing June 9. “I wanted to take a chance and have something that had a lower floor but a higher ceiling. This year, maybe it’s skewed down and we look at something a little bit different.” See **Heads** page 7

Reynolds, Rockets stumble at Indiana Tech

FORT WAYNE — Tyler Reynolds was back pitching on his collegiate mound. His time there didn’t last long. Reynolds surrendered eight runs while recording just one out as the Portland Rockets suffered their worst loss of the season, 19-2, on Thursday against the Northeast Kekionga at Indiana Tech. Reynolds, a former pitcher for the Indiana Tech Warriors, allowed eight runs — six earned — on five hits, including a home run, in just one-third of an inning. He also walked three. The Kekionga added nine more

Local roundup

runs over the next three innings and were ahead 19-0 before the Rockets (4-11), who have lost four of their last five games, broke the shutout. Jared Holley scored on a passed ball in the sixth inning, and Mario Lopez reached home in the seventh on an error.

Cameron Pratt, Keith Shepherd, Caleb Richardson and Lopez had singles for the Rockets. **Team effort** Seven players had four or more hits in leading Barnett’s Auto Parts to a 24-9 victory against Williams Auto Parts in their Portland Junior League Rookie baseball game on Thursday. Emmett Betz led Barnett’s by hitting a double and four singles, while Jordan Wendel and Zayden Jester had five singles apiece. Maddox Hampton chipped in four hits, including two doubles, as

Cody Klopfenstein, David Elmore and Madden Barnett each finished 4-for-4. Liam Schreiber, Hayden Franks and Lee Page had three hits apiece for Williams, which also got two hits from Parker Huntsman and LJ Carter. **Balanced attack** Six girls combined for 10 hits in leading All-Circuit Electrical to its 17-4 triumph over Masonic Lodge on Thursday in Portland Junior League’s Major softball division. See **Local** page 7

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