

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Miss McClung

Sharon McClung escorts granddaughter Julia McClung, the 2020 Miss Jay County Fair Queen, during the pageant Sunday at Jay County High School. McClung later crowned 2021 fair queen Abby Benter. The Jay County Fair will run July 10 through 17 this year.

## JCC project creates options

*NBA All-Star Legacy Grant funded bulk of renovation*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

As with many things during the coronavirus pandemic, a renovation project at Jay Community Center dealt with some delays.

The organization finally celebrated its new space last week.

Jay Community Center held a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week for its \$70,000 renovation project that converted old restrooms into a multi-purpose space.

Kyle Cook, executive director of the community center, said Monday that the organization's board started in 2018 to identify upcoming wants and needs.

One of those was to renovate the restrooms that were located just south of the concession stand area into more usable space. (The restrooms were no longer necessary after the 2003 expansion and the construction of the senior center in 2016 both added restrooms to the facility.)

"We decided that we just needed a room that we can use for just anything," said Cook. "It's not big enough to make it a specialty room, but we just needed more space. It gives us more functional space. This is probably the last space that we can ... repurpose in our facility."

The renovation of the about 800-square-foot space started in late summer 2020 after some coronavirus-related delays.

It featured removing all of the fixtures from the restrooms and removing a section of a wall to eliminate a hallway. (It was also made redundant by the 2003 expansion.)

See **Project** page 2

## Infections surging in Africa

By FARAI MUTSAKA

Associated Press

ZVIMBA, Zimbabwe — For Pelagia Bvukura, who lives in a rural part of north-central Zimbabwe, COVID-19 had always been a "city disease," affecting those in the capital, Harare, or other, distant big towns.

"There was no virus for us. We only used to hear it was in Harare or other towns or when city people died and we buried them here," she said recently, referring to the custom in Zimbabwe where those who move to the city often are buried at their family's rural home.

That is changing now. A new surge of the virus is finally penetrating Africa's rural areas, where most of the continent's people live, spreading to areas that once had been viewed as safe havens from infections that hit cities particularly hard.

### *Rural areas are seeing increased spread of coronavirus*

With facilities in the countryside ill-prepared to fight the coronavirus, residents like Bvukura worry that the next graves being dug could be for their neighbors — or even themselves.

Her village of Zvimba, 110 kilometers (68 miles) from Harare, has yet to record a major spike in infections, but it sits in a province that is the current epicenter of the virus.

"It is now on our doorsteps. It's scary. We don't know how to pro-

tect ourselves. We have never dealt with such a problem before," she said.

Like many here, she wasn't wearing a mask and is yet to be vaccinated.

Africa has recorded over 5.3 million cases and is experiencing the worst of a wave driven by more contagious and deadlier variants. The continent recorded a 39% increase in new cases in the week from June 14-20, according to the World Health Organization.

With homesteads spaced far apart, few visitors and rare public gatherings, rural areas appeared so insulated that they drew some people from cities to escape both infection and economic hardship.

"It was a dangerous, false sense of security. Now a tragedy is unfolding," said Dr. Johannes Marisa, president of the Medical and Dental Private Practitioners of Zimbabwe Association in Harare.

The delta variant that has devastated India has been detected in at least 14 African countries including Congo, Mozambique, Namibia, Uganda, South Africa and Zimbabwe, and not just in the cities.

"We are starting to see an upward trend in the rural and marginalized areas," said Edward Simiyu, Uganda country director of the charity group Mercy Corps, in a statement earlier in June.

See **Surging** page 5

## Investigations promised

By TERRY SPENCER

Associated Press

SURFSIDE, Florida — Elected officials pledged Tuesday to conduct multiple investigations into the collapse of an oceanfront Florida condo tower, vowing to convene a grand jury and to look closely "at every possible angle" to prevent any other building from experiencing such a catastrophic failure.

Miami-Dade County Mayor Daniella Levine Cava said she and her staff will meet with engineering, construction and geology experts, among others, to review building safety issues and develop recommendations "to ensure a tragedy like this will never, ever happen again."

State Attorney Katherine Fernandez Rundle said she will pursue a grand jury investigation to examine factors and decisions that led to Thursday's collapse of the 12-story Champlain Towers South in Surfside. Another victim was recovered Tuesday, bringing the confirmed death toll

to 12, with 149 people unaccounted for.

Even as officials looked to the future to determine the cause of the collapse, they were resolute in vowing to continue the effort to find survivors.

On the sixth day of a painstaking search, Gov. Ron DeSantis evoked a well-known military commitment to leave no one behind on the battlefield and pledged to do the same for the people still missing in the rubble.

"The way I look at it, as an old Navy guy, is when somebody is missing in action, in the military, you're missing until you're

found. We don't stop the search," DeSantis said at a news conference.

"I think that's what is happening. Those first responders are breaking their backs trying to find anybody they can. I think they are going to continue to do that. They've been very selfless. They've put themselves at risk to do it."

Surfside Mayor Charles Burkett cited the case of a woman who was found alive 17 days after a garment factory collapsed in 2013, killing more than 1,000 people in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

See **Investigations** page 5

### *Nearly 150 are still unaccounted for following building collapse*



For The Washington Post/Maggie Steber

Volunteers gather to load up bags of donations of food, clothing and toys Sunday in Surfside, days after the collapse of the Champlain Towers South. Elected officials pledged Tuesday to conduct multiple investigations into the collapse of the tower.

### Deaths

**Wanda Ickes**, 83, Fort Recovery  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

The high temperature in Jay County climbed to 91 degrees Tuesday. The low was 72.

Tonight's forecast calls for showers and possible thunderstorms with a low in the upper 60s. There is a 50% chance of rain Thursday with a high of 80.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Need to fill out a birth announcement, engagement or wedding form to have your special event announced in the newspaper? They're now available electronically. Just go to thecr.com, hover over "Forms" and select the form you'd like to fill out.

### Coming up

**Thursday** — A feature about the grand marshals for Sunday's 4th of July parade.

**Saturday** — Results from the Portland Rockets game at home Friday.



# State board warns poultry owners

By ENRIQUE SAENZ  
Indiana Environmental Reporter

The agency that oversees animal health in the state warns that hobby poultry flock owners should take steps to protect their poultry from an illness affecting songbirds across the state.

The Indiana State Board of Animal Health said owners should try to keep their chickens, ducks and other backyard poultry away from wild songbirds until more is known about the illness.

Songbirds with neurological

problems, eye swelling and crusty discharge have been reported in at least 15 Indiana counties, five other states and Washington, D.C.

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, the Indiana Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory and the U.S. Geological Survey National Wildlife Health Center are investigating the illness.

“Currently, we do not know what is causing songbirds to become ill or to die,” said Indiana State Veterinarian Dr. Bret

D. Marsh. “We are coordinating with Indiana DNR to investigate reports of sick birds. However, laboratory testing has not yet determined if this is a disease or some other agent.”

Samples sent to the laboratory have tested negative for avian influenza and West Nile virus, although final test results are pending.

DNR has recommended Hoosiers take down birdfeeders and bird baths until the source of the illness is discovered.

Marsh said poultry owners

should also keep their poultry away from songbirds by keeping them in fenced spaces and keep them in coops or barns at night.

Chickens should not be fed outdoors where wild birds can feed, and feed pans and waterers should be sanitized.

Marsh said small-flock owners should keep watching their poultry for signs of illness or disease, and any unusual or unexplained deaths or illness should be reported to the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Healthy Birds Hotline at (866) 536-7593.

## Obituaries

**Wanda Ickes**, Fort Recovery, March 1, 1938-June 28, 2021. A private family funeral service will be held Saturday.

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

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

## CR almanac

Thursday 7/1	Friday 7/2	Saturday 7/3	Sunday 7/4	Monday 7/5
<b>80/59</b>	<b>75/56</b>	<b>78/61</b>	<b>86/67</b>	<b>90/70</b>
There is a 50% chance of rain and thunderstorms under mostly cloudy skies.	Mostly sunny skies and warm temperatures. There is a small chance of afternoon showers.	The forecast appears sunny with highs in the upper 70s. Mostly clear night skies.	More sunny weather is expected on Independence Day.	Mostly sunny and hot, with a high of 90 degrees. A good day for a swim.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$88 million	15-29-32-35-36-40-49-50-51-53-55-57-64-65-68-70 Cash 5: 4-8-30-32-36 Estimated jackpot: \$290,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> 7-38-50-52-69 Mega Ball: 21 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$72 million	<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 8-8-0 Pick 4: 1-2-6-6 Pick 5: 6-8-3-1-5 Evening Pick 3: 0-8-9 Pick 4: 7-6-7-3 Pick 5: 3-5-4-9-3 Rolling Cash: 18-19-21-36-39 Estimated jackpot: \$256,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 3-8-7 Daily Four: 8-9-6-2 Evening Daily Three: 9-0-7 Daily Four: 1-6-5-9 Quick Draw: 3-4-5-10-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....6.36 July corn.....6.39 Wheat .....6.15	Wheat ..... 6.31 July wheat ..... 6.31
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....6.84 June corn .....6.84 Aug. corn .....6.09	<b>Central States Montpelier</b> Corn.....7.14 July corn.....7.12 Beans .....14.12 Nov. beans .....12.85 Wheat ..... 6.42
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....6.34 July corn.....6.34 Beans .....14.05 July beans .....14.05	<b>Sunrise St. Anthony</b> Corn.....6.57 July corn.....6.57 Beans .....13.77 July beans .....13.77 Wheat .....5.96 July wheat.....5.96

## Today in history

On June 30, 1971, the Supreme Court ruled, 6-3, that the government could not prevent The New York Times or The Washington Post from publishing the Pentagon Papers.

In 1865, eight people, including Mary Surratt and Dr. Samuel Mudd, were convicted by a military commission of conspiring with John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln. (Four defendants, including Surratt, were executed; Mudd was sentenced to life in prison, but was pardoned by President Andrew Johnson in 1869.)

In 1918, labor activist and socialist Eugene V. Debs was arrested in

Cleveland, charged under the Espionage Act of 1917 for a speech he'd made two weeks earlier denouncing U.S. involvement in World War I. (Debs was sentenced to prison and disenfranchised for life.)

In 1934, Adolf Hitler launched his “blood purge” of political and military rivals in Germany in what came to be known as “The Night of the Long Knives.”

In 1958, the U.S. Senate passed the Alaska statehood bill by a vote of 64-20.

In 1971, Portland Mayor Robert Ford named Ray “Bud” Williams as the city’s new fire chief.

—AP and The CR

## Citizen’s calendar

<b>Today</b> 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.	7 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	



Photo provided

Jay Community Center last week held a ribbon-cutting ceremony for its renovated multi-purpose room. The space was previously a restroom that was made unnecessary following the addition of new restrooms through expansion projects. A 2021 NBA All-Star Legacy Grant paid for the bulk of the \$70,000 renovation effort.

## Project ...

Continued from page 1  
The new multi-purpose space that was created got new flooring with a fitness pad underneath to help with shock absorption, mirrors on the south walls, a new sound system and new lights with motion sensors. Cook said he'd like to add a projector to the room as well.

A new sound system and flooring were also added to the room across the hallway to the east that hosts traditional adult fitness classes. And a storage area was renovated.

The project was funded entirely through grants, the bulk of which came in the form of \$50,000 from the 2021 NBA All-Star

Legacy Grant in connection with the NBA All-Star game that was slated for Indianapolis this year but was moved to Atlanta because of the pandemic. (Indianapolis is now slated to host the game in 2024.)

“It was on our radar,” said Cook of the project. “But it would have been more of a wish list without funding.”

“I don’t think we would have done it any time soon. (The 2021 NBA All-Star Legacy Grant) was the driving force for it.”

Additional grant funding in the form of \$10,000 each from The Portland Foundation and The Boren Foundation, which pro-

vides grants to not-for-profit organizations, covered the rest of the \$70,000 project.

The new room — construction was handled by T-N-T Construction of Portland — has not been used much since its completion in October. Coronavirus restrictions limited the types of programming the community center was able to offer.

But, in the last few weeks, it has been utilized for the organization’s summer day camp. It also opens options for boys and girls club activities and to add new programming.

“It’s going to be really nice for day camp and boys club because it’s more of a

quiet space,” said Cook. “Not every kid wants to come into the loud gym and do dodgeball or open gym. They can come in here and do legos and crafts, do activities, different things like that.”

The renovation was one of the bigger-ticket items on Jay Community Center’s wish list.

Other recent upgrades at the facility have included new LED lights — those are complete except for a few outside — and new touchless fixtures in the main restroom.

The future wish list includes facility-wide thermostat and public address systems and new flooring in the restroom.

## Felony arrests

### Drug possession

A Redkey man was arrested this morning for drug possession.

Christopher I. Miller, 28, 8856 W. 400 South, was preliminarily charged a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine, a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana.

He’s being held in Jay County Jail on \$10,000 bond.

### Probation violation

A Redkey man was arrested Tuesday for violating his probation.

Bradley A. Nunn, 27, 121 W. High St., has an original Level 6 felony charge for maintaining a common nuisance. He’s being held in Jay County Jail on \$800 bond.

### Domestic battery

A Portland man was arrested Tuesday for domestic battery.

Andrew J. Bailey, 33, 4438 E. 100 South, was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony. He’s being held in Jay County Jail on \$3,000 bond.

### Theft

A Portland woman was arrested Tuesday for theft.

Bethany J. Howard, 29, 128 W. Third St., was preliminarily charged a Level 6 felony. She’s being held in Jay County Jail on \$6,000 bond.

# Indy lifting COVID-19 rules

INDIANAPOLIS (AP) — order ended in early April.

Indiana officials are lifting all the city’s local COVID-19 restrictions as of Thursday, a move that will allow full capacity at restaurants, bars, sports venues and other businesses.

The action announced Tuesday comes after Indianapolis had kept a mask mandate for unvaccinated people and capacity limits for many businesses even after the statewide mask

Federal regulations continue requiring face masks for everyone in airports and hospitals and using

public transportation and private businesses can still require mask use, said Dr. Virginia Caine, director of the Marion County Public Health Department.

Caine cited the recent low levels of new coronavirus-related infections, hospitalizations and deaths as allowing the easing of restrictions.

**SERVICES**

Today  
Secret. David: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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Service listings provided by  
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**(260) 368-9129**  
TTD 1-800-743-3333

“This institution is an Equal Opportunity Provider.”

**Wendelin Tavern Grill** Holy Cow!  
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Located in the great metropolis of Wendelin  
419-375-2751  
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**Our NEW Thursday**  
Specials 4-8pm  
Our Famous!  
4pc. CHICKEN DINNER! .....only \$6.99  
Our Tender & Juicy  
14oz. NEW YORK STRIP! .....only \$9.99  
SMOKED PORK CHOP .....only \$8.99  
Hot or Bourbon BBQ  
10pc. CHICKEN CHUNKS! .....only \$6.99

**EVERY FRIDAY NIGHT**  
4-8pm!!!  
ALL YOU CAN EAT  
ALASKAN POLLOCK FISH or  
POPCORN SHRIMP DINNER .....\$8.99  
or FROG LEGS! .....\$18.99  
Our Own Thick Cut  
16oz. Marinated Chop! .....\$9.99

**Happy Birthday**  
WE ABSOLUTELY LOVE BIRTHDAYS AROUND HERE  
so all of our HAPPY BIRTHDAY PATRONS EAT FOR FREE! on the day of their birth!  
NO SHARING! Dine in only.  
Up to \$15.00  
No alcoholic beverages will be included

**Indiana Patrons Welcome!**

**Saturday 4-8pm & Sunday 11am-8pm**  
Soooooo Tender & Juicy  
14OZ. NEW YORK STRIP DINNER!!! .....only \$12.99  
Our Meaty & Tender  
**BABY BACK RIBS!!!** .....only \$12.99  
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Our Own Homemade  
**CHICKEN & NOODLES DINNER!!!** .....only \$8.99  
EVERY SUNDAY 11am-8pm  
**CHICKEN FRY!** Dine-in or carry-out  
4pc. Dinner with all the fixin’s .....only \$6.99!  
10pc. Chicken Bucket .....\$9.99  
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# FRMS announces fourth quarter honor roll

Fort Recovery Middle School recently announced its honor roll for the fourth quarter of the 2020-21 school year.

Making the all-A honor roll were eighth graders Drew Backs, Layla Bihn, Nicole Braun, Mason Diller, Cassidy Dues, Evan Evers, Gavin Evers, Ava Grisez, Caden Grisez, Kayla Heitkamp, Eva Kahlig, Cody Klenke, Bailie Muhlenkamp, Kennedy Muhlenkamp, Karlene Niekamp, Aleigha Overman Benjamin Reinhard, Ella Schoen, Kruise Siefiring, Mara Wenning and Emma Will.

Also seventh graders Evvian Briner, Elisa Evers, Alivia Grube, Brodie Hart, Aubrie Heitkamp, Jameson Heitkamp, Madison Heitkamp, Olivia Knapke, Georgia Wenning and Leah Wuebker.

Also sixth graders Brody Barga, Kenna Dues, Tyler Dues, Carter Fortkamp, Alexis Grisez, Makenna Huelskamp, Ian McCain, Cameron Muhlenkamp, Madelyn Schoenlein, Kiera Stump, Jennifer Wendel, James Westgerdes and Brynn Willmann.

Making the A-B honor roll were eighth graders Alivia Bergman,

Madison Bihn, Samantha Brackman, Kaleb Coleman, Brennan Dues, Gavin Dues, Marlee Fiely, Jacob Fortkamp, Sarah Fritz, Riley Grieshop, Brooke Hart, Ethan Hartnagel, Joelle Kaup, Gabriel Knapke, Lindsey Knapke, Emily Lauber, Norah Meyer, Keegan Muhlenkamp, Kylie Post, Olivia Rammel, Adam Schoenlein, Zach Schoenlein, Reid Timmerman, Eowyn Vela and Gage Zehring.

Also seventh graders Gabriel Acheson, Ella Bechtol, Douglas Bihn, Alexis Braun, Aiden

Brunswick, Ryker Brunswick, Kyliya Dues, Zoe Dues, Zackary Ervin, Josh Evers, Carson Fullenkamp, Alex Gaerke, Raymond Grube, Lillie Heitkamp, Maleiah Kaffenberger, Isabella Kahlig, Cayson Kaikala, Wesley Keller, Dylan Klenke, Brylee Kremer, Cora Kremer Reece LeFevre, Autumn Leuthold, Luke Lochtefeld, Troy Post, Anthony Roesser, Danielle Schmitt, Hayden Siefiring, Megan Weitzel, Reece Wendel and Tyler Wendel.

Also sixth graders Owen Boeckman, Deanna Brown, Kendall

Buckland, Reese Diller, Cadence Eber, Destiny Ervin, Brady Evers, Grant Fortkamp, Carter Fourman, Ava Fullenkamp, Sophia Guggenbiller, Russell Hart, Madelyn M. Heitkamp, Adyson Homan, Meredith Jones, Breaker Jutte, Grace Lochtefeld, Hudson McAbee, Jake Meyer, Trinity Rammel, Coby Schmitz, Cara Shoemaker, Aubrey Shuttleworth, Riley Stammen, Landon Sudhoff, Ava Timmerman, Ivy Tobe, Ethan Wenning, Reed Westgerdes, Will Westgerdes and Jase Wuebker.

## Arrangement causes strife

DEAR ABBY: My adult daughter is married. She also has a boyfriend. Both of these men live with her and share her bed. Her children are horrified by it and want nothing to do with their mother. They are embarrassed and ashamed, as am I. Her older children are of age but still in school. They would like to move out but can't afford to; the youngest is a minor and afraid of the boyfriend. My daughter's husband doesn't object to the share plan. Is there anything I can do to help the kids? — CROWDED BED IN COLORADO

**DEAR CROWDED:** Why is your youngest grandchild afraid of your daughter's boyfriend? Has he been physically or emotionally abusive or "grooming" her? If you don't know the answer, it is important you find out so you can intervene, if necessary. If there is physical abuse or possibly grooming going on, CPS should be notified. A potential solution might be to invite your grandchildren to live with you until they are out of school and able to live on their own. Your daughter, her husband and her boyfriend may be happier with all of the children out of the picture. Parents of the year, they are not.

DEAR ABBY: I need your advice on a certain topic. I'm in

Dear Abby



my early 30s, and my husband is in his early 20s. We're currently living with my mother-in-law, who has put a damper on my and my husband's relationship. She tells my husband what to do, tries to make decisions for him and doesn't give him a choice about anything.

My husband and I have been talking about moving when the time is right, but she continues to put her 2 cents in. I have been treated like crap by his mother after doing everything possible to help her. I don't know what to do at this point. I'm slowly pulling away from the man I love, and he doesn't seem to care. What should I do? — STUCK IN OHIO

**DEAR STUCK:** Your husband is barely out of his teens. It may have been an oversight, but you omitted the most important fact from your letter. **WHY ARE YOU TWO LIVING WITH HIS MOTHER?** She treats him like a child because that's the way she has always treated him. **If you want to save your mar-**

riage, move heaven and earth to get the two of you out of there so he can grow up to be independent.

DEAR ABBY: My husband's birthday is on the same day as our grandson's first communion. Our grandson's family lives out of town, about a day's drive. The problem is, my husband is not Catholic and doesn't want to go because he doesn't want to spend his birthday driving and sitting in a church. I am so torn. Should I push it? He was upset when I told him I wanted to go. He feels I should put him before the children and grandchildren.

**— IN THE MIDDLE**  
**DEAR IN THE MIDDLE:** Your husband is being childish and selfish. Your grandchild will have only one first communion, while you and your husband can celebrate his birthday on another day. Can you get to the site by other means of transportation to spare him the driving? He should be ashamed of himself. I hope his candle goes out before he makes a wish!

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.

## Life still full after sacrifice

By KWAME DAWES

In this typically plain-spoken poem by North Carolina poet, Terri Kirby Erickson, from her new collection, "A Sun Inside My Chest," there is, humming below the still surface of language, a rich pulse of hope, of everyday survival — a body's defiance that she captures in that final image.

Erickson was born in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. She has won

### American Life in Poetry

the Joy Harjo Poetry Prize, Nazim Hikmet Award, Atlanta Review International Publication Prize, Nautilus Silver Book Award and the Poetry for Their Freedom Award.

### New Bathing Suit

My friend is wearing her new black bathing suit. It came with the proper cups, made to fill with one breast and the memory of another—which is not to say emptiness—but the fullness that comes to us, with sacrifice. There is no one more alive than she is now, floating like a lotus or swimming, lap after lap, parting the turquoise, chlorine-scented water, her arms as sturdy as wooden paddles. And when she pulls herself from the pool, her new suit dripping—the pulse is so strong in her wrists and throat, a little bird outside the window will hear it, begin to flap its wings to the beat of her heart.

American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation (poetryfoundation.org), publisher of Poetry magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2020 by Terri Kirby Erickson, "New Bathing Suit" from A Sun Inside My Chest, (Press 53, 2020). Poem reprinted by permission of Permissions Company, LLC and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2021 by The Poetry Foundation.

## Community Calendar

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

**Today**  
**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 - BRANNA'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.

**STRESS AND ANXIETY CLASS** — Meets each Wednesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-9625 or (260) 703-0534.

**Thursday**  
**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.

**A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Thursday at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St., Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

**PORTLAND LIONS CLUB** — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

**SENIOR CITIZENS CARD CLUB** — Will meet at 1 p.m. on the first, second, third and fifth Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

**FORGET-ME-NOT** — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

**Friday**  
**SOFT SHOULDERS** — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

**DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY** — Is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

**CINCINNATUS LEAGUE** — Will meet at noon Friday, July 2, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

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



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# Is it about time to stop writing?

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

Let's have a show of hands. Should I just shut up? Should I just put a sock in it?

A recent 50th wedding anniversary and a recent 55th high school reunion have me very aware of the passage of time.

I came home to Jay County in August of 1974 as part of the newsroom staff of The Commercial Review. Theoretically, I was second banana in the newsroom. Mostly that meant I got to work every other Saturday morning. The CR's Saturday paper came out in the early afternoon in those days.

But beginning in January 1977 I took over duties writing the daily paper's editorials. That's more than 44 years ago.

That's a lot of verbiage, a lot of opinion, and more than enough times to irritate even the most loyal reader.

It's also enough time to contra-

## Back in the Saddle



dict myself. Attorney Phil Frantz nailed me on that a long, long time ago.

At the start, it was as if the floodgates had been opened.

I had opinions on everything. Or, more accurately, I had a space to fill on the editorial page as often as possible.

I'd bang out something on the typewriter in those pre-computer days, hand it to the composing room and hope it made sense when the page was proofread later. For the most part, the editorials made sense.

They may not have been profound, but I liked to think that they were thought provoking. If

they didn't persuade, at least they made you consider another point of view for a few minutes.

Still, they ruffled feathers, especially when I touched on local issues.

At one point in the late 1970s, a local judge threatened me with contempt of court after I ridiculed a couple of egregious rulings. Sheriffs also tended not to like me very much. Some mayors, council members, commissioners, state representatives and school board members fell into the same category.

That's OK. It goes with the territory.

When the floodgates were completely open, I was writing six editorials a week, 52 weeks a year. No wonder I contradicted myself.

I also wrote a few that I came to regret.

Anyone who deals in words can tell you they'd like to have some of them back.

From the beginning, I insisted

upon putting my initials on each editorial. That's what my father had done back in the 1960s. That's what Tom Witherspoon and Dan Rottenberg did when they were in the same role.

Doing that is not a normal American newspaper tradition. Usually, editorials run without attribution. But I figured — as my dad had figured — that if we were going to require people to sign their names to letters to the editor, then we ought to have the courage of our convictions and let readers know whose words they were reading.

Eventually, the flood of editorials slowed, though the writing didn't stop. About 25 years ago, I started writing a column for The News and Sun — this column. About 20 years ago, the column also started running in the daily.

Now you'd think that writing an editorial and writing a newspaper column would be pretty much the same thing. But you'd be wrong.

An editorial is a much more formal statement. It attempts to make a point, suggest an idea, set an agenda, voice a criticism, applaud good works and essentially be the voice of the newspaper.

A column, like this one, is just my voice, not the newspaper's. So its aims are more personal and lighter in tone. An editorial is serious business; a column doesn't take itself too seriously.

But now, looking back over the decades, I find myself wondering if you've heard about enough from me.

I figure I've written more than 1,300 columns. Editorials? At least six or seven times that many.

Multiply by an average of about 500 words and you're getting into crazy numbers.

So, I ask you, as I approach the end of the first full year of my "retirement," is it time for me to put a sock in it?

Let's see a show of hands.

## Breakthrough is win for democracy

The Washington Post

In the White House's lengthy fact sheet explaining the bipartisan deal on infrastructure President Joe Biden announced Thursday, this sentence stood out: "Democracy requires compromise."

It certainly does — yet that obvious fact could not go unsaid in a Washington whose recent history has been all about conflict — furious, partisan conflict. How refreshing, and how potentially restorative, for U.S. politics it was not only to have a bipartisan deal on a major policy issue, but also to have an occupant of the White House for whom consensus and agreement are long-standing values, not dirty words.

We say this fully aware of two key shortcomings in the deal, which calls for \$973 billion in spending over five years, of which \$579 billion is over and above already-approved plans. (That figure includes \$312 billion for transportation projects, \$55 billion for water infrastructure and \$65 billion for broadband, while low-carbon vehicles get a total of \$15 billion and the power grid \$73 billion.)

The first problem is how the Republican and Democratic senators and the White House propose to pay for the new spending: not too convincingly. Instead of "hard" revenue, such as the corporate tax increases Biden supports or higher fuel taxes, which the GOP had proposed, there are one-shot money-makers, such as sales from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, or accounting gimmicks, such as claiming the federal government can net \$72 billion by rooting out unemployment insurance fraud.

The second problem, of course, is political. The infrastructure deal is just the first in a series of bargains that will have to get done, probably before the current fiscal year ends on Sept. 30.

The next one would have to be among Democrats — Biden, party progressives led by House members, and Senate moderates such as Joe Manchin III, D-West Virginia — on the size and scope of a subsequent domestic spending package supported only by Democrats. In this regard, Biden may have committed an unforced error on Thurs-

## Guest Editorial

*Everyone involved should keep talking, and stay focused on the big picture, which is that the bipartisan package would make substantial ...*

day. Trying to reassure progressives, he asserted that the Democrats-only measure must pass before he will sign the newly-struck deal with the GOP — a pledge that surprised and angered Republicans and may give them a reason to back out.

"That's not the way to show you're serious about getting a bipartisan outcome," Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Kentucky, fumed.

Meanwhile, Democratic progressives continue to trash the bipartisan deal as too skimpy, and insist that Biden make good on his promises of major new spending on climate, home health care and other needs, paid for by higher taxes on corporations and wealthy individuals.

There is still plenty of time to sort through these issues. Everyone involved should keep talking, and stay focused on the big picture, which is that the bipartisan package would make substantial, much-needed investments in the economy's future productivity, paid for with at least some plausible up-front savings (such as \$100 billion from enhanced tax enforcement). What's more, the deal reminds the American public — indeed, the world — that compromise might not be a lost art in Washington after all. Which means that democracy has a future, too.



## News content has value

By GARY ABERNATHY  
The Washington Post

The three newsrooms where I worked in the 1980s and '90s employed roughly six to 20 people, using an industry standard of one staff member for every 1,000 subscribers. Today, those newsrooms are lucky to have three or four staffers. I'm aware of some papers that function with only one.

Why the cutbacks, when the demand for local news endures? One big reason is that platforms like Google are functioning less as navigator and more as gatekeeper. An analysis of data from the Web analytics firm Similarweb found that nearly 65 percent of Google searches in 2020 ended without a click on a result. People are increasingly satisfied with search engine summaries and don't click through to the original sources, depriving the content creators of digital ad revenue.

Small and medium newspapers are suffering most. Following the lead of a landmark suit filed in January by HD Media in West Virginia, owners and publishers of smaller newspapers are fighting back. Jeremy Halbreich is CEO of AIM Media, which owns small and midsize newspapers including the Times-Gazette in Hillsboro, Ohio, where I served as publisher and editor until 2018. Halbreich is among the publishers of 125 newspapers in 11 states who filed lawsuits in April against Google and Facebook. When the suits were announced, Halbreich said, "As found by recent investigations conducted by both federal and state agencies, Google and Facebook have monopolized the digital advertising market and restricted the monetization of local news by local news organizations."

The investigations referenced by Halbreich centered on an alleged sweetheart deal between Google and Facebook that resulted in antitrust lawsuits filed by 10 state attorneys general in December. "The disclosure of the deal between the tech giants has renewed concerns about how the biggest technology companies band together to close off competition,"

## Gary Abernathy



the New York Times reported. "The deals are often consequential, defining the winners and losers in various markets for technology services and products."

The publishers' lawsuits cite studies demonstrating how Big Tech's tactics harmed local newspapers — advertising revenue plummeted from \$49 billion in 2006 to \$16.5 billion in 2017, industry jobs declined by 60 percent from 1990 to 2016, and about 20 percent of newspapers closed from 2004 to 2018 — with others operating as ghosts of their former selves.

Google and Facebook deny any wrongdoing, arguing that deals like the one between Facebook and Google did not harm competition and were common in digital advertising, according to the Times. In an effort to appease critics, they committed hundreds of millions of dollars to support news outlets globally. "But several media analysts and news business executives [said] that the funding — set to last three years — does not nearly compensate for the tens of billions of dollars publishers lost as the tech companies gobbled up the digital advertising market," Reuters reported earlier this month.

While the lawsuits are adjudicated, bipartisan legislation has been introduced in Congress — co-sponsored in the Senate by John Neely Kennedy (R-La.) and Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.), who aren't often aligned — that would allow publishers to collectively negotiate terms with the Big Tech platforms.

Both the lawsuits and legislation have the support of News Media Alliance, which represents roughly 2,000 U.S. news organizations. Danielle Coffey, senior vice president and general counsel for NMA, told

me the fight is similar to battles waged by the music industry for fair treatment by emerging platforms and negotiations of local TV stations with the cable giants.

Coffey pointed to Australia as a trailblazer in this fight. It recently passed laws, as detailed by the Verge, "requiring Google and Facebook to negotiate with news outlets to pay for their content or face arbitration." Facebook and Google initially pushed back, but seem to be acquiescing to the new reality.

Reining in the tech giants is overdue on a number of fronts. Their algorithm-driven manipulation of news feeds contributes to keeping Americans ensconced in their political bubbles. Their claim to be mere aggregators of information — and therefore exempt from the legal risks faced by traditional publishers — is belied by their increasing activism as editors and censors.

Local communities suffer without a Fourth Estate watchdog keeping tabs on tax dollars, holding public officials accountable and highlighting the achievements of students and civic organizations. Countless communities have lost their newspapers already, and others hang by a thread. "The freedom of the press is not at stake," the publishers' lawsuits presciently note. "The press itself is at stake."

The Times-Gazette, my old stomping ground, is doing better than some. But even there, the staff has been reduced to seven — that's advertising, circulation and the newsroom combined. Earlier this year, their offices had grown so sparsely occupied that everyone was squeezed into a corner of the building to save money on the lease while the landlord seeks a second tenant.

Around the same time, Google announced plans to spend more than \$7 billion on real estate to expand offices and data centers across 19 states. Apparently, content has value, for some.

.....  
Abernathy, a contributing columnist for The Post, is a freelance writer based in southwestern Ohio.

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

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## Surging ...

Continued from page 1  
In Zimbabwe, three of the four districts under strict lockdown and declared as epicenters of the outbreak are in the predominantly rural Mashonaland West province, which recorded over half of the 801 cases reported last weekend. Other hot spots also are largely rural, a first for this country.

"We are going to see a lot of deaths, especially arising from rural areas. COVID-19 is now coming from the rural areas," said Marisa, attributing the spike to "a high degree of complacency," a lack of information and few vaccinations, with urban areas prioritized.

The virus can also spread at funerals when city dwellers return to visit rural relatives.

"I was at a funeral in a rural area recently and people were surprised to see me wearing a mask," he said.

Rural areas are ill-equipped to deal with the surge, and urban health care facilities are under strain in treating an increasing number of people from the countryside. Zimbabwe's major referral hospital, Parirenyatwa in Harare, is prioritizing beds for COVID-19 patients.

"Parirenyatwa is almost full. These are not people from Harare. Health facilities in rural areas are miserable, so all those people are being referred to city hospitals," Marisa said.

In Mozambique's remote Tete province, a hotbed of infections where the delta variant was recorded, President Filipe Nyusi expressed worry.

"We don't have many beds. ... We don't have many health staff in Tete either," Nyusi said.

Because health care facilities in the countryside in places like Uganda are more poorly staffed than those in urban areas, "a penetration of COVID-19 infections in these rural and vulnerable regions is likely to be devastating, ... risking more people slipping deeper into poverty, further worsening social inequities, divisions, and conflict," said Simiyu of Mercy Corps.

Rural residents are finding it difficult to get vaccinated because of weak public health systems and vaccine distribution problems. Only 1% of Africa's 1.3 billion people have been vaccinated, according to the WHO and the Africa Centers for Disease Control.

The Zvimba Rural District hospital only had just a small number of coronavirus vaccines, reserved for second doses, its staff said.

But even after the vaccine becomes available, "the ability of health systems to absorb those doses and get them distributed — particularly in rural communities — is the next huge problem on the horizon," said Sean Granville-Ross, Africa regional director for Mercy Corps, in an interview with The Associated Press.



Bloomberg/Valeria Mongelli

## EU considering

Mateusz Morawiecki, Poland's prime minister, speaks to journalists Friday as he arrives at a European Leaders summit in Brussels. The European Union is working on potential legal action against Poland over its crackdown on LGBTQ rights.

## Investigations ...

Continued from page 1  
"No one is giving up hope here. ... We are dedicated to getting everyone out of that pile of rubble," Burkett said.

Also Tuesday, the White House announced that President Joe Biden and first lady Jill Biden would travel to Surfside on Thursday.

Martin Langesfeld, whose sister, 26-year-old Nicole Langesfeld, is missing in the collapse, also expressed hope that there are still survivors.

"We're not alone in this. There's hope. I really believe miracles do happen. Things like this have happened around the world," he said during a vigil Monday night on the beach near the collapsed building.

The collapse has drawn scrutiny of the safety of older high-rise buildings throughout South Florida. Cava ordered a 30-day audit on whether build-

ings 40 years old or older are complying with a required recertification of their structural integrity, and that any issues raised by inspections are being addressed.

On Tuesday, the mayor said building inspections have found four balconies in one building in Miami-Dade County that "must be immediately closed due to safety concerns."

Previous grand juries in South Florida have examined other large-scale disasters, such as the 2018 collapse of a pedestrian bridge at Florida International University, which killed six people. That investigation is ongoing.

Criminal charges in such matters are possible, such as the third-degree felony murder and manslaughter charges brought in the 1996 crash of ValuJet Flight 592, which killed 110 people in the Everglades.

Work at the site has been

deliberate and treacherous. Debris fell onto the search area overnight from the shattered edge of the part of the building that still stands. That forced rescuers to mark a "don't go beyond here" line and focus their efforts on parts of the debris pile that are farther from the structure, Burkett told Miami television station WSVN.

Kevin Guthrie of the Florida Division of Emergency Management said his agency requested an additional search team. He said state officials want to rotate some of their teams out so they can be on hand in case of severe weather in the coming days.

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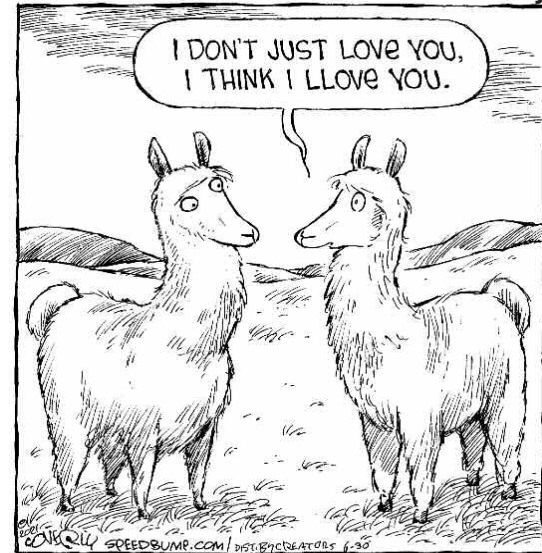
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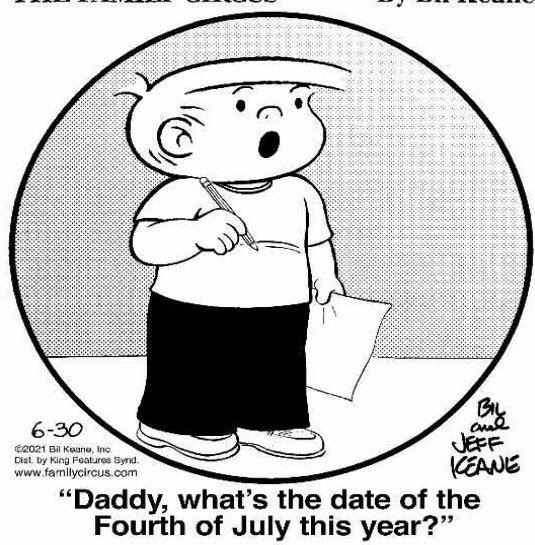
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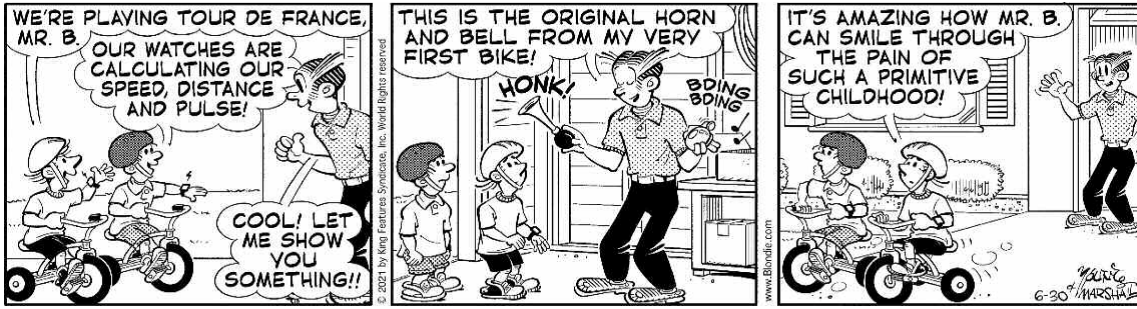
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# Sports



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Rockets fall in 12 innings

*Portland missed opportunity for walk-off in ninth*

It's been a challenging season for the Rockets.

They had a chance Tuesday to give their home fans a walk-off win. They just were unable to find a way to move the final 90 feet.

The Portland Rockets had the potential game-winning run on third base with one out in the bottom of the ninth inning. But that's where it stayed as the game continued into the night with the Fort Wayne Dirtbags finally scoring seven times in the top of the 12th inning for an 8-1 victory.

Portland (4-12), which

has lost five of its last six, got a lead-off single from Chris Krystofiak in the bottom of the ninth inning to set the stage for what they had hoped would be a celebration at Portland Memorial Park's Runkle-Miller Field. Arturo Casas followed with a bunt single to put runners on first and second bases.

Then things started to go awry.

Noah Collins tried for a sacrifice bunt to move up both runners, but instead the ball went right back to pitcher Zach White who threw to third to cut down Krystofiak. Still, the Rockets seemed to be in good shape when Casas and Collins advanced to third and second, respectively, on a passed ball.

But the Dirtbags were able to keep Casas at third on a grounder from Kasey Henderson, and then Jake VanPelt hit a grounder to third baseman Dominic Deisler to end the threat and send the game into extra innings.

It wasn't until the bottom of the 12th that Fort Wayne finally broke through, with Cameron Miller starting the frame with a single.

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Portland Rockets' pitcher Peyton Smith awaits a throw at home plate as Dominic Deisler of the Fort Wayne Dirtbags comes sliding home following a passed ball in the top of the 12th inning Tuesday night. The Rockets had runners on second and third with one out in the bottom of the ninth but were unable to bring home the game-winning run. Fort Wayne finally broke the game open with seven runs — Deisler's was the second — in the top of the 12th inning for an 8-1 victory.

## Jay swimmers renew dominance vs. RC

Jay County had its first close meet of the season Monday.

Tuesday's competition did not follow suit.

The Jay County Summer Swim Team rolled to 7-0 by win-

ning all 20 relays and 57 of 60 individual events for a 4,779-1,268 victory over host Randolph County.

The list of triple-event winners was long for Jay County,

with a boy and a girl accomplishing the feat in each age group.

For the 8-and-younger swimmers, Sawyer Hemmelgarn took the top spot in the boys butterfly,

backstroke and short freestyle. Addisyn Champ picked up wins in the girls backstroke, breaststroke and short freestyle.

In the 9-10-year-old division, Ben Fisher's victories came in

the boys butterfly, backstroke and short freestyle while Maria Laux was first in the girls long freestyle, individual medley and short freestyle.

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