### Saturday, July 2, 2022

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

### Russian strikes **Odessa** By CATE CADELL

**KAROUN DEMIRGIAN**, **ALEX HORTON** and ELLEN FRANCIS The Washington Post

At least 21 were killed and 38 injured in a Russian missile attack on an apartment block and recreation center in a resort town southwest of Odessa, local authorities said on Friday, the largest such toll in a single attack on the region since the war began.

Ukrainian officials said forces that Russian launched the missiles from three aircraft in a predawn raid on Serhiivka, about 30 miles from the port city of Odessa. One child was among those killed, while a further six were injured, said Serhii Bratchuk, a spokesman for the regional administration.

Photos and videos taken following the attack show rescue workers sifting through the remains of the shattered nine-story apartment building, which was stripped down to its concrete structure with debris, glass and personal belongings piled across its balconies.

It comes a day after Russian troops withdrew from Snake Island, a highly contested parcel of land in the Black Sea that was cap-tured by Russian forces early in the war and used as a base for attacks on the country's south. The Kremlin said the withdrawal was a "gesture of goodwill," a term it has used for previous battlefield retreats.

The island's recapture was a strategic victory for Ukrainian forces, the sparking hope that it would reduce the number of assaults on nearby es However officials on Friday characterized the attack on Serhiivka as revenge for the island's loss.

# attack Musical marshals



The Commercial Review/Jack Ronald

Lisa Butcher, Laurie Miller, Jeffery Jutte and Kim Cowan of the Jay County High School Marching Patriots accept the Indiana State Fair Band Day championship trophy from the state fair queen in 1992. Dave Humbert and Kelly Smeltzer, men who led the school's band program for its first 47 years, will be grand marshals of Monday's Jay County 4th of July Parade.

### Former Jay County High School band directors to be honored during Monday's 4th of July parade

#### By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review Dave Humbert and Kelly Smeltzer have been in plenty of

parades.

band program from its incep-

bert, who led the Jay County that as long as Humbert was in, he would be too.

tion with school consolidation "I'm glad I'm doing it with The parade is scheduled for in 1976 to his retirement in 2005. Dave," said Smeltzer, who had 11 a.m., with line-up at East "We had a great time working thought his parading career Jay Middle School beginning They'll be in different roles with the kids in Jay County and was complete after leading the at 10 a.m. The route runs north Marching Patriots in the Parade of Lights in December. "To me, he's the real deal from when this whole thing got started. ... "I'm glad that he was asked to be a part of it, too. I think that's pretty important that people understand the whole longevity of it. ...

"I'm truly honored to be doing this with him."

on Meridian Street, cuts briefly on Depot Street and then goes east on Votaw Street to Jay County Fairgrounds, where there will be activities, entertainment and food throughout the day-long celebration.

"Terror is a common tactic of Russia," said Kyrylo Tymoshenko, an adviser to President Ukrainian Volodymyr Zelensky.

See Strikes page 2

than they're used to Monday.

Humbert and Smeltzer, the only band directors in the history of Jay County High School prior to the former's retirement last month, will be the grand marshals for Monday's Jay County 4th of July Parade.

"It's a real honor," said Hum-

had such good support from everybody....

"Just great people, great kids. What a fun time.'

The Jay County 4th of July Committee contacted Smeltzer in January about the possibility of having the directors as marshals together. He responded

See Marshals page 12

## Retrospect Damage cleared \$1 million

this week, local farmers were reeling from the results of a summer storm.

The July 3, 1987, edition of The Commercial Review featured coverage of a hail storm from the previous evening from which damage was estimated at between \$1 million and \$1.5 million.

"People who live in the city don't realize what happened out here," said Jeff Smith, a Noble Township farmer who also worked as an agent for Farm Mutual Hail Insurance Co.

He and Jeff Beerbower, director of the Jay County Agricultural Stabiliza-

Thirty-five years ago process of trying to deter- area. The worst of the mine how much damage had been done. Even with that information, though, they said there was not much farmers could do Township. Hail the size about it.

Standing along the Wayne/Noble township line, Smith and Beerbower looked to the west and saw a field of young soybean plants that seemed as if it had been invaded by insects, leaving stripped leaves and naked stems. To the east was a field of battered and broken corn stalks with tattered leaves and few tassels.

Crops had been battered from Dunkirk to St. Anthony, Ohio, with a tion and Conservation band of hail about 8 Service office, were in the miles wide crossing the been expected.

damage was in a 1.5-mile band in northeastern Wayne Township and northwestern Noble of "shooter" marbles were propelled by winds estimated at 50 to 60 miles per hour.

pointed to Smith brown bruises on corn that had been hit by the hail and noted the lack of tassels.

"It won't even make good silage," he said, "because the leaves are so tattered. It's just stalks.'

He estimated that if beans were able to bounce back they might be able to yield about one-third of the crop that would have

Jay County farmer and hail insurance agent Jeff Smith, left, and county agricultural stabilization and conservation service director Jeff Beerbower examine a stalk of corn to assess the extent of hail damage from a July 2, 1987, storm.



The Commercial Review

#### Weather

The high temperature in Jay County reached 95 degrees Friday.

Skies will be mostly sunny today and Sunday with highs in the upper 80s. Lows will be in the 60s. There is a chance of showers beginning about 2 p.m. Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

#### In review

There are plenty of Independence Day celebrations this weekend.

A parade in Dunkirk is scheduled for noon today with festivities to follow throughout the day at Dunkirk City Park.

Redkey Junior League will host its Firecracker baseball and softball tournaments today at Redkey Morgan Park.

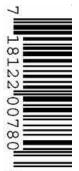
Both Dunkirk and Redkey will have fireworks at dusk today.

The 4th of July parade in Portland will begin at 11 a.m. Monday. A celebration will follow at Jay County Fairgrounds, including fireworks at dusk.

#### **Coming up**

**Tuesday** — Photos from this weekend's Independence Day events.

Wednesday — Coverage of Tuesday's Portland City Council meeting.



## **Strikes**

Continued from page 1

First, they cover their criminal actions with an 'act of goodwill' and then launch rocket attacks on our peaceful cities."

The strike was the latest in a series of fatal bombardments by Russian forces on civilian infrastructure, including attacks on a theater and hospital in Mariupol as well as a train station attack in Kramatorsk that killed 59.

not been able to reach Odessa, and the immediate region has so far been spared from the brutal assaults experienced by cities in the country's east where Moscow is now focusing its offensive.

Zelensky was quick to condemn the attack, accusing Russia of using unnecessarily powerful missiles in the strike.

Russian ground forces have carriers and other large war- hivka were used by the mili- fresh security and weapons ships, and the Russian army used them against an ordinary nine-story building with ordi-nary civilian people," he said.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Russia was not attacking civilian areas in Ukraine, and said its airstrikes were focused on buildings used to store ammunition and train troops. There "These missiles, Kh-22, were is no evidence, however, that designed to destroy aircraft the buildings targeted in Ser- elements of the \$820 million in Ukraine in earlier shipments.

tary.

A senior U.S. defense official said on Friday that Russia showed a pattern of using powerful weaponry in a "reckless fashion." The official said Russian forces used an anti-ship missile during a strike on a shopping center in central Ukraine's Kremenchuk on Monday that killed at least 18 people.

aid for Ukraine that President Biden announced a day earlier at the close of a NATO summit in Madrid. The latest tranche will focus on equipment needed to counter the grinding artillery offensive in the east, where Russia is slowly gaining ground. It will include 150,000 rounds of artillery rounds for use in Western-designed How-The U.S. on Friday detailed itzers that were sent to

### **CR almanac** Monday Tuesday Wednesday The

Sunday 7/3	Monday 7/4	Tuesday 7/5	Wednesday 7/6	7/7
Ņ.				
87/66	91/70	90/69	88/67	86/66
the forecast	thunder-	There's a 50% chance of thunder- storms Tues- day, with rain likely to con- tinue through the week.		Thurs- day's forecast shows a 40% chance of thunder- storms under partly sunny skies.

### **Lotteries**

#### Hoosier

Midday Daily Three: 9-1-1 Daily Four: 4-1-7-2 Quick Draw: 1-2-3-10-12-13-19-23-26-29-31-32-38-41-49-54-61-65-66-79

#### Ohio

Midday Pick 3: 5-6-4 Pick 4: 4-2-6-2 Pick 5: 9-3-5-8-7 Evening Pick 3: 8-4-1

#### Estimated jackpot: \$130,000

20 - 29

Pick 4: 9-8-1-6

Pick 5: 3-9-3-3-8

**Powerball** Estimated jackpot: \$360 million

Rolling Cash 5: 7-13-15-

#### **Mega Millions**

Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Wheat ..... 8.06

Aug. wheat ..... 8.50

Late July corn ......6.85

Beans ......16.10

Late July beans.....15.90

Wheat ......8.09

Corn.....6.69

Oct. corn .....5.72

Beans .....15.74

Central States

Montpelier

Heartland

St. Anthony

### **Markets**

#### **Cooper Farms**

Fort Recovery	
Corn	7.08
Aug. corn	7.12
Wheat	7.96

#### **POET Biorefining** Portland 7.05

00111	1.05
Aug. corn	7.15
Oct. corn	5.82

#### The Andersons Richland Township

00111	0.90
Aug. corn	6.10
Beans	.15.98

### **Capsule Reports**

#### **Intersection crash**

Two Redkey residents sustained leg injuries after the vehicles they were driving collided at the intersection of county road 800 South and Indi-

ana 1 about 3:20 p.m. Friday.

Lora M. Otto, 49, was driving a 2020 Jeep Cherokee west on county road 800 South and stopped at the intersection with

Indiana 1. She continued into the intersection, hitting a southbound 2011 Dodge Avenger, driven by 20-year-old Tatiana M. Chambers.

The vehicle Otto was and \$20,000.

driving is registered to Stephen L. Deuser of Carmel.

Both vehicles were towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000

### Deeds

Matthew J. and Elizabeth Minnich to Indiana Michigan Power/American Electric Power, easement Part of Section 9, Wayne Township, 2.026 acres

Karen L. Hudson (deceased) and Ralph D. Hudson Life Estate to Triple H. Farms, quit claim deed — Part of Section 18, Greene Township, 24.64 acres; Part of Section 19, Greene Township, 2.63 acres

Howard A. Patterson (deceased) and Shirly A. Patterson (deceased) to Brett S. Patterson (also known as B. Shannon Pat-Lot 4, Block 25, original plat of Dunkirk

Stephen Shoemaker, Joyce Young and Cynthia Morris to Jennifer K. Fiechter, warranty deed — Section 2, Penn Township, 78 acres

Jean M. and Marvin C. Homan to Homan Family Trust, quit claim deed — Parts of Section 18, Wayne Township, 32.28 acres; Section 7, Wayne Township, 101.71 acres

Robert T. Manor II to Deborah A. Manor, quit claim deed — Part of Section 2, Madison Township, about 10 acres

Leanna M. and Monica L. Vore to Justin R. Vore, quit claim deed — Lots 104, 105, 106, 107, 108, 109 and 110, Daugherty Addition

Homan, warranty deed — Part of Section 36, Knox Township, 21.509 acres

David L. and Linda D. Lowe to Chad K. Homan, warranty deed — Part of Section 36, Knox Township, 3.025 acres

Chad K. Homan to David L. and Linda D. Lowe, easement—Parts of Section 36, Knox Township

Bill J. and Rebecca J. Bailev to Indiana Michigan Power/American Electric Power, easement — Part of Section 3, Greene Township, 0.797 acres

Christine E. and Donald L. Whitenack to Indiana Michigan Power/American Electric Power, easement — Part of Section 2, Greene Township, 1.203 acres

Margaret A. Reier to Michigan Indiana Power/American Electric Power, easement — Part of Section 4, Wayne Township, 0.68 acres

Brian Addington to Dunkirk Partners, warranty deed — Part of Section 8, Richland Township, 1.117 acres

Andrew T. and Tammy J. McCowan to Brian Addington, Dunkirk Partners and Phillip R. Hatfield, quit claim deed — Part of Section 8, Richland Township

Phillip R. Hatfield to Dunkirk Partners, warranty deed — Part of Section 8, **Richland** Township

baker) to Nila Joyce Collins Revocable Trust, quit claim deed — Lot 21 and Part of Lot 22, Mangold First Addition

Susan Haines to George Lopez and Ronald May, sheriff/marshall deed -

Lot 9, Dunkirk Heights Hess and Hess to 342 Lincoln Avenue Land Trust, quit claim deed — Part of Lot 1, Block 7, original plat of Dunkirk

Hess and Hess to 402 Lincoln Avenue Land Trust, quit claim deed — Part of Lot 5, Block 7, original plat of Dunkirk

Hess and Hess to 350 East Center Street Land Trust, quit claim deed — Lot 44, Sniff and Johnsons Subdivision

Hess and Hess to 9 North Meridian Street Land Trust, quit claim deed — Part of Lot 2, Boyce First Addition

Harriett L. Hutson (deceased) to Michael Humphrey, personal representative deed - Part of Section 34, Penn Township, 0.56 acres

Norman D. McCowan to Bryan A. Waldo and Heather R. Waldo, warranty deed — Lots 123, 124 and 125, Daugherty Addition

Rena Caldwell to Rex Caldwell, quit claim deed - Lot 14, Currents South Side Addition, Redkey

Tom W. Bailey Revocable iving Trust and Martina

Tom W. Bailey Revocable Living Trust and Martina J. Bailey Revocable Living Trust to B and B Bailey Farms, quit claim deed — Section 19, Noble Township, 80 acres

Linda Twigg to Linda Twigg 2022 Revocable Trust, quit claim deed -Part of Section 36, Greene Township, 74.925 acres

Lare Farms No. 4 to Sarah M. and Robert L. Armstrong, deed affidavit – Part of Section 11, Jefferson Township, 2 acres

Shirley A. and Tony W. DeHoff to Indiana Michi-Power/American gan Electric Power, easement – Part of Section 1, Greene Township, 0.962 acres

#### **SERVICES**

#### Today

Miller, Jason: I p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Tuesday Schoenherr, Vincent: 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery, Ohio.

Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE **OFFICE PRODUCTS** 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

Beans15.98	Oct. beans13.42
Aug. beans13.60	Wheat8.01

### **Today in history**

In 1881, President James A. Garfield was shot and fatally wounded by Charles J. Guiteau in Washington, D.C. Guiteau blamed the president for not choosing him for a job at the U.Š. Consulate in Paris.

In 1908, Thurgood Marshall, who served on the U.S. Supreme Court from 1967 through 1961, was born. He was the attorney for Brown in the landmark Brown v. Board of Education case and later became the first African American named to the Supreme Court.

In 1932, President Franklin D. Roosevelt coined the term "New Deal" while accepting the Democratic nomination for president.

In 1937, pilot Amelia Earhart's plane disappeared over the Pacific during her Ocean attempt to fly around the world. She was never found.

In 1962, Sam Walton opened the first Walmart store in Arkansas.

In 1976, North Vietnam and South Vietnam were officially reunited. In 1979, the United

States issued the first Susan B. Anthony dollar coin. The advocate for women's suffrage was the first woman to appear on U.S. currency. In 1989, American

jockey Steve Cauthen became the first rider to sweep the world's four major derbies (Kentucky, Epsom, French and Irish) by winning the Irish Derby riding Old Vic.

In 2017, the Portland Rockets won the 16-team Firecracker Tournament in Fort Wayne, dominating opponents by a combined score of 31-3 in four games. Garrett Scott shut out the Fort Wayne Jackers in the tournament championship game. In 2019, the Jay

County Summer Swim Team completed an unbeaten regular season with a 959-137 thrashing of Randolph County at Portland Water Park. Ben, Kaitlyn and Matthew Fisher, Lani Muhlenkamp, Raif Beiswanger, Maria Laux, Ralph Link and Erica Hathaway all won three events.

—The CR

### Citizen's calendar

#### Tuesday

5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.

7 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.

Town Council, town hall, St., Portland.

105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Cen-

#### Wednesday

7 a.m. — Jay County Board of Health, health 7 p.m. — Pennville department, 504 W. Arch

J. Thieman Sandra (deceased) to Alan J. Thieman, deed affidavit Parts of Section 18, Noble Township, 235 acres

Brenda S. Evans and Danny W. Evans to Lorry Brower, warranty deed -Tracts 1 and 2, Part of Section 15, Wayne Township

John D. Best (deceased) and Betty M. Best to Michael Best, quit claim deed — Lot 77, Votaws First Addition

and Janel Vogel, warranty deed — Part of Section 36, Wayne Township, 5 acres

Florence Beeson (deceased) and Willard G. Beeson to Troy Vore, quit claim deed — Part of Lots 6, 7, 8 and 9, Outlot 2, Block 3, Rants and Teagarden Subdivision

Sherri J. and Terry A.

Andrew T. and Tommy J. McCowan to Dunkirk Partners, warranty deed Part of Section 8, Richland Township, 0.14 acres

Paul McDavid to Jeff and Tonya Upp, warranty deed Lots 17 and 18, Jaqua Second Addition

Kevin and Wanda Barcus to themselves, quit claim deed — Part of Section 27, Richland Township, 4.98 acres

Savvy IN to Wiper Corpo-Kyle Beavins to Alan M. ration, quit claim deed -Lot 5, Block 35, original plat of Dunkirk

Linda Clark-Webber to Frank Webber, quit claim deed — Part of Lots 3 and 4, Block 2, East Addition

Prater Family Trust to Tonya Smith, trustee deed Lots 1 and 2, Reese and **Daniel Addition** 

Nila J. Collins (also Finnerty to Chad K. known as Nila J. Blanken-



On a ship on the Potomac River, while attempting to visit the British in order to negotiate the release of a friend, Francis Scott Key wrote:

#### "THE STAR-SPANGLED BANNER"

This man was perhaps a perfect choice for the task, although nobody chose him to do so. It could be said that circumstances made the selection. During the course of the night, as his ship waited during intense British bombardment of Fort McHenry in Baltimore Harbor, Mr. Key and his party paced the deck until Dawn's Early Light, in order to see the outcome of the battle. As the first rays of sunshine lighted the fort, Key and company saw a flag which had been made by a fifteen-year-old girl named Sanderson and which measured forty-feet long and twenty-feet wide. Upon seeing The Flag Was Still There, Mr. Key wrote the poem text on the back of a letter he had in his possession. Even though the hymn was received by the multitudes, and accepted as "Our National Song," it was not until 1931 that the song was officially adopted as our national anthem.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home It's not a day in a life,but a life in a day. 221 N. Meridian Portland, IN (260) 726-7171

J. Bailey Revocable Living Trust to B and B Bailey Farms, quit claim deed – Part of Section 19, Noble Township, 51 acres



### Make **Firework Safety** a must for all celebrations



- 1. Read the warning label carefully and follow all directions.
- 2. Always light outdoors away from combustible material, buildings and plants.
- 3. Light only one firework at a time.
- 4. Never try to re-light a firework.
- 5. Wait for 15 to 20 minutes and then dump the firework in a bucket of water and let it soak.
- 6. If at all possible, don't store fireworks. If you must, keep them in a cool, dry place out of the reach of children.
- 7. Soak it in a bucket of water before disposing in the trash.
- 8. Carry fireworks in their original bag or box.
- 9. Except for sparklers, a punk should be used to light fireworks.
  - A match or a lighter is required for sparklers.



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## Family

## Be careful with sparks

#### By ELISE C. GREGG Miami Herald

**Tribune News Service** MIAMI — Leave the

fireworks to the professionals.

That's the Broward Sheriff's Office's theme for this Fourth of July. But if you plan on firing off your own fireworks, though, Battalion Chief Michael Kane has some tips on how to stay safe during Independence Day celebrations.

'If you're going to participate and partake in fireworks, do it safely," Kane said during a media demonstration of firework dangers at the Broward Fire Academy.

Firework safety tips may seem like common sense, but in the midst of the excitement celebrating with family and friends it becomes a little maintain safe distance easier for extremely

DEAR ABBY: My stepdaughter,

"Crystal," has a toxic relationship

with her mother. Both have battled

alcoholism. The mother did some

extreme damage that has ended the

possibility of Crystal regaining custody of her 6-year-old son. My

husband and I hired a lawyer to

help her fight for her rights, and we

have brought her to our home twice.

The last time was right out of the

hospital after she nearly killed her-

mend her relationship with her

mother, and now we have become

second fiddle. What used to be a

daily phone conversation happens

now only when I call. When we try

to visit them, they make excuses,

and they have visited us only twice

in the last six months. Her latest

plan is to stay overnight with us

and spend the following day with

We are swallowing our pride so

Fast-forward: Crystal is trying to

self with alcohol poisoning.

important practices to slip the mind.

One key safety tip shared was to move back quickly from fireworks after lighting them. While they look and sound fun, these are still controlled explosions that can cause serious injury if in close proximity.

Another common sense practice would be to only use legal fireworks, no reason to break the law to have fun, officials often say. In Florida, certain airborne explosive fireworks are illegal if not trained properly and sanctioned.

The HCA Florida Healthcare advises to follow the directions on the labels, as well as using long lighters that help from the actual firework.

Cleanup is just as dren, can important when it comes to firework safety.

"Make sure you properly dispose of your fireworks," Kane added. "The best way to do that is to take your fireworks or unburned fireworks, place them in a bucket or garbage can and then fill the garbage can with water overnight."

The water will soak the fireworks, making sure that they won't light or re-light later.

Kane explained that even legal fireworks, including sparklers, can cause severe injury.

"Some of these injuries that we often see can be compared to battlefield injuries," said Kane. "Even something as benign as a sparkler, which we use for birthday parties and we often give them to our chil-

also be destructive because they burn at 1200 degrees or higher."

The BSO bomb squad demonstrated the power of more explosive fireworks by blowing up some watermelons at the Broward Fire Academy.

The days leading up to Fourth of July are often busy for emergency workers, as fire and injuries (such as eye injuries and second- and third-degree burns) increase.

"On average each year, about 20,000 fires are reported in the days leading up to the Fourth of July," said Kane, citing the National Fire Protection Association.

Last year saw almost 3,000 injuries related to firecrackers and sparklers alone.

### **Marriage licenses**

Austin M. George, 19, Portland, and Harley D. Portland, and Kristen N. Ingram, 19, Portland

Danielle L. Ingram, 18, Portland, and Caytlyn M. Perry, 23, Geneva

Rachel T. Graber, 19, Bryant, and John H. Hilty Jr., 21, Geneva Sarah J. Paxson, 22,

Redkey, and Justin A. Penrod, 26, Montpelier

Jackie L. Alig, 26, Bryant, and Dylan M. Portland, and Beth A. Huff, 26, Yorktown

### **Births**

#### Eldridge

Blake Lee, a daughter, was born June 25 to Makenna Allen and Kenneth Eldridge of Winchester.

She weighed 6 pounds, 14 ounces.

Siblings include 6-yearold Braxton Perez. Grandparents are Brian Allen of Winchester, Angie Smith of Winchester and Kenny and Teresa Eldridge of Modoc.

#### Sipe

William Charles, a son, was born June 13 to Ben-

jamin and Rebekah (Plant) Sipe.

He weighed 8 pounds, 5 ounces.

Grandparents are Brian and Angela (Albright) Sipe of High Ridge, Montana, and Charles and Mary (Tish) Plant of Perry, Kansas.

Great-grandparents are Billy and Linda Sipe of Portland and Anita and Wayne Albright of Kokomo. Great-great grandparent is Peggy Tish of Glenmont, Ohio.



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we can see our 6-month-old grand-

Dear Abby

daughter, but our feelings are so hurt. Please help me take the high road. Do we talk to her or just feel crushed? — WOUNDED IN MICHI-GAN

**DEAR WOUNDED: Your trou**bled stepdaughter is trying to mend fences with her mother. Try not to take personally that she has tunnel vision right now. Ι do not think you should address this with her at this time. Let more time elapse, and if her distancing continues, talk to her about it then.

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I might consider.

**Stepmother misses relationship** live in southern Florida. My problem is our children, grandchildren and their spouses. When they come to visit, they only eat certain foods and need "healthy this" and "healthy that." I feel like we're being used as a hotel and restaurant. I want to see them, but it is becoming exhausting. What should I do? - ROLLING BACK THE WEL-

COME MAT DEAR ROLLING: Roll back that welcome mat. Talk to your children, grandchildren and their spouses. They may not realize the extent to which they have been imposing on you. Tell them that if they have special dietary requirements, they should buy their own foods, and you will make room in the refrigerator to accommodate them. If their presence in your home is becoming too taxing, provide a list of affordable hotels or rentals in the area they

## **Community Calendar**

a.m.

Notices will appear in FAST OPTIMISTS - Will Community Calendar as meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast CENTER — Free pregnan- Nazarene *space is available. To sub-* at Richards Restaurant. email

BRYANT AREA COM-

PREGNANCY CARE cy testing with ongoing Building across from the

p.m. every Tuesday at the Fellowship Hunter J. Gillette, 26,

Robert W. Guerrero, 36,

Amanda C. Bradburn,

Stephen D. McCollum,

Michael R. Alig, 53,

70, Pennville, and Carla

L. Rinker, 56, Pennville

Fouch, 46, Portland

31, Portland, and Trevor

Pennville, and Amanda J.

Robbins, 22, Portland

Hoskins, 40, Pennville

A. Eicher, 30, Portland



## Leaf *U*Filter

BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND CLOG-FREE **GUARANTEE** 

item, un news@thecr.com.

#### Today

her mom.

PORTLAND FARMERS MARKET — Will be held from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. each Saturday in the parking lot at The Rock Church, 1605 N. Meridian St.

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

#### Monday

Level: Advanced

#### Friday's Solution

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

Filling's Solution											
4	5	9	6	8	3	7	2	1			
8	1	6	5	7	2	4	9	3			
3	2	7	9	4	1	6	8	5			
5	3	2	8	9	4	1	6	7			
7	9	4		1		8	5	2			
6	8	1	2	5	7	9	3	4			
1	6	8	4	2	5	3	7	9			
9	7	5	1	3	8	2	4	6			
2	4	3	7	6	9	5	1	8			

MUNITY CENTER Walking from 9:30 to 10:30 Monday, every Wednesday and Friday. PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 PORTLAND BREAK- Hoover St., Dunkirk.

located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

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 ANONY-

MOUS — 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.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the first and third Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

#### Tuesday

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

THE LANDING - A 12step program for those in sixth through 12th grade will meet at 5:55 p.m. each Tuesday at 2nd Chance at Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 703-0777 or (260) 726-5273.

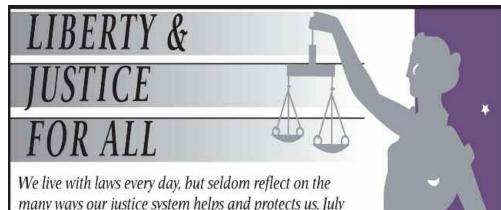
A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8

support during and after Nazarene church, 249 E. pregnancy. The center is Center St., Dunkirk. For Nazarene church, 249 E. more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

NARCOTICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. each Tuesday at Church of God of Prophecy, 797 N. Creagor Ave. in Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-9334.





many ways our justice system helps and protects us. July 4th is an opportunity to recognize those laws that allow us the freedoms we cherish. Thank the officers, administrators and personnel in our law enforcement and justice systems who make this community a wonderful, safe place to live.

#### Hinkle, Racster, Schemenaur

Attorneys at Law 121 W. High St. •Portland (260) 726-8104

#### Gregory W. LeMaster

Attorney at Law 226 S. Meridian Street. Portland (260)726-2470

## Opinion

## Leaking pipeline should be priority

To the editor:

Two of the most significant challenges facing Indiana are improving the educational outcomes for all K through 12 students and greatly elevating the postsecondary attainment levels of our adult workforce.

Currently, Indiana is behind its competitor states in the race to develop and establish a wellskilled, well-educated workforce for the jobs of today and tomorrow. There are literally twice as many job openings in Indiana as Our overall unemployment rate

### Letters to the **Editor**

there are jobseekers. And our workforce participation rate remains below pre-pandemic levels

Let's look at the breakdown.

4.6% for those with only a high school diploma and to over 7% for those with less than a high school diploma.

When it comes to workforce participation, the numbers are even more concerning. Just a little more than half of all Hoosiers with only a high school diploma are employed. For those with no high school diploma, over 60% are not in the workforce.

is now 2.2%, but that jumps to has a massively leaking talent most impact. This summer, our pipeline.

> We must concentrate our policy focus and state resources on improving the outcomes and skills of those at the bottom end of the educational attainment scale. That's one of the very best ways to improve our overall workforce participation rate and fill the open jobs we have.

The Indiana Chamber is seeking to frame this important conversation and push for transfor-These metrics show Indiana mative actions that will have the

organization is building out a workforce policy priority list for the Indiana General Assembly and governor, and we will share them publicly when available.

Bold action is what's needed to repair our leaking talent pipeline and lift up the educational attainment and workforce skills of our citizens.

Kevin Brinegar

President and CEO

Indiana Chamber of Commerce

## **Celebrate the Hoosier farmer**

#### **By JULIA WICKARD**

I like to describe the American farmer as a true conservationist and an incredible ambassador for our country, one who cares for the land for this and future generations.

As farmers across the country are monitoring the progress of their 2022 crops, it's important that we pause for a moment and salute and thank the first conservationist, the American farmer.

The men and women here in Indiana work day in and day out to conserve and protect the natural resources 365 days of the year to ensure the soil is ready for that next planting season. What a perfect time to celebrate Hoosier farmers than during the nation's birthday weekend.

As we reflect on the technological advances in agriculture, we have continually learned better ways to protect the land, water and air we all depend on to live by using modern production tools such as global positioning satellites, biotechnology, conservation tillage and integrated pest management. American farmers live the message of "natural resource management" daily because they reside and work on the land.

offers 75% of the nation's America's agricultural habitat. Decisions by the sincerelv producers depend on the earth's American farmer are productivity to support based upon the weather, their families and to provide food, feed, fiber and wind and the wildlife, fuel for the entire world. and each of these is ever-Farmers continually learn better ways to grow crops and seek improved ing that reduces soil loss methods for raising livestock. To assure an abundant food supply and a sustainable fuel and fiber industry, we all know we must first conserve natural resources. Farmers appreciate the fragility of natural resources and know it is important to safeguard the environment for the generations to come. Having grown up on the farm and still living there today, I have a great passion for agriculture the American and farmer. And, as an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency, I have an even deeper appreciation for those farmers who work closely with the agency staff at the local level. A farmer's watchfulness and care of the natural resources and livestock Hoosier farmer for all that inhabit the earth, they do for this country allows him to feed, clothe and provide the fuel, not only for America, but for the world. As we pause to *director of Indiana Farm* thank the American Service Agency.

Julia Wickard

American farmers live the message of "natural resource management" daily because they reside and work on the land.

farmer during this time

of year, we are reminded

that they are always look-

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ways to care for the

the day-to-day rhythms

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spend each day in nature.

In fact, agricultural land

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Farmers understand

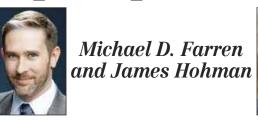
entire globe.



## Can we stop corporate giveaways?

By MICHAEL D. FARREN and JAMES HOHMAN Tribune News Service

Thirty years ago this summer, two former governors — Michigan's John Engler and Illinois Jim Edgar — arrived at the National Governors Association meeting with a radical idea: that states band together and stop handing taxpayer-funded subsidies to private businesses. The idea fizzled, and we've since seen everincreasing corporate handouts. As governors convene this year, sup-



healthy competition. This leads to even more waste as businesses shift their focus toward pleasing politicians rather than satisfying customers.

Unfortunately, and positive **benefits** is hard for lawmakers to ignore. That's why we're currently seeing a surge of subsidies, funded in part by the flood of federal grants from the American Rescue Plan. is exacerbating the problem, since research also shows that governors tend to increase corporate handouts during reelection years. At least eight governors running reelection for have already hitched their wagons to taxpayer-funded subsidies for flashy business projects, like the Rivian and General Motors electric vehicle plants in Georgia and Michigan, the Buffalo Bills and Tennessee Titans stadiums in New York and Tennessee, or the Intel and Samsung semiconductor plants in Ohio and Texas.



favorite companies from ers — either of which would lead to more economic growth than the subsidized projects. Some astute politicians

like Engler and Edgar have always understood the this. In fall 1991, Sally temptation of political Hernandez-Pinero, then New York City's Deputy headlines that comes Mayor for Finance and from granting subsidies Economic Development, gathered economic development officials from New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. With much pomp and circumstance in the New York City Metropolitan The upcoming election Gallery of Art, they signed a nonaggression pact, promising not to poach businesses and

an interstate compact constitutionally based treaty between states — is more durable. Compacts are contracts, meaning they can create legal accountability with agreed-upon penalties for violations. And the compact could protect early adopters with a trigger clause, such that it only takes effect when enough other states sign on.

The compact idea has strong bipartisan support. Legislators in 18 states have already introduced an initial version. Our experience is that policymakers who learn about it often exclaim 'Why haven't we heard about this before?!?' That's because plenty even economic development officials — don't like corporate arm-twisting. As Engler said: "You're always subject to one state being played off another." In the end, politicians offer subsidies mostly because they don't want to be seen as one-upped by their neighbors. To quote Edgar: "If you've got some states doing it, it's hard for the others not to do it. It's like unilaterally disarming." An interstate compact offers the perfect path toward multilateral disarma-Kansas and Missouri ment. This summer, let's hope our governors talk about using a comsubsidy war.

changing. Conservation tillage, a method of farmon cropland while using less energy, continues to grow across this country. As farmers increasingly integrate precision agriculture practices into their operations, we have seen farm productivity increase in the last 60 years while the use of resources, such as labor, seed, feed and fertilizer, has declined, leading to a shrinking environmental footprint for food and fiber production in the United States. These are the reasons American agriculture is the envy of the world.

So, during this Fourth of July weekend, as you partake in hometown parades, eat the delicious barbeque, ribeyes and watermelon, and celebrate all things red, white and blue, remember to celebrate the and world.

Wickard is executive

port for a change is growing again. And this time, they may have the right tool to put taxpayers over tax handouts.

The generous subsidies states offer to businesses to relocate (or to prevent businesses from moving someplace else) have been common for a long time. In 1936, Mississippi fired the first shot in the interstate subsidy war by targeting northern clothing manufacturers. Like many modern programs, it paid companies to do what they would have done anyway: shift production to a region with more affordable labor.

Research shows that most subsidies -7 in 8 don't sway a company's decision over where to locate or expand. Fundamental factors affecting production and profitability — like the availability of skilled workers and access to customers — are far more important to any business' long-run success.

Even worse, subsidies growth, not improve it. They make our economy less productive by insulating politicians'

This is not a small problem. Combined state and local spending on corporate handouts is estitend to reduce economic mated to be \$100 billion every year. Imagine if this money went to useful government services or

jobs from each other. Like Engler and Edgar's idea, it was revolutionary — and valuable. It would have freed up \$500 million to \$800 million for those governments every year. But because it amounted to a "let's play fair" agreement with no enforcement mechanism, it lasted about four days.

have had better luck. Their 2019 agreement schedule some time to ended the worst economic border war - but it's a pact to end the interstate fragile peace. The next Kansas governor will have the power to unilat-erally end the truce, and research fellow with the Missouri will need to renew it by 2025.

The problem is a lack of legal power to hold fiscal policy with the state and local govern- Mackinac Center for Pubwas returned to taxpay- ments accountable. But lic Policy.

#### .....

Mercatus Center at George Mason University. Hohman is the director of

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We welcome letters to the editor. Letters should be 700 words or fewer, signed and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit letters for content and clarity. Email letters to news@thecr.com.

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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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### Nation

# There is always room

### New Jersey teacher keeps an empty chair available

#### By SYDNEY PAGE Special to The Washington Post

All 26 chairs in Dan Gill's middle school classroom are occupied — aside from one, which he leaves vacant.

For the past 30 years, the social studies teacher at Glenfield Middle School in Montclair, N.J., has kept an empty seat in the front corner of his classroom. It represents a childhood memory — which, Gill said, not only propelled him to become a teacher but also shaped the way he teaches.

"The chair symbolizes that we will always have room in the classroom for anyone," said Gill, 75, who described Glenfield Middle School as having a diverse student body. "It symbolizes acceptance."

As a 9-year-old boy in New York City, Gill and his best friend at the time, Archie Shaw, went to a friend's birthday party together. When they knocked on the door of the friend's apartment, the child's mother looked disapprovingly at Archie — a Black boy. She invited Gill inside, then told Archie he had to go home because "there are no more chairs," Gill recalled her saying

"I can still see this woman's face," he said, adding that he offered to sit on the floor and give Archie his seat. "She said: 'No, you don't understand. There are not enough chairs.""

"That's when it hit me," Gill continued. "She was judging him because of the color of his skin."

Although he was only a child, he had some sense of the racial inequalities that plagued society. At the time, it was the beginning of the civil rights movement.

"I felt so bad because he had been humiliated," Gill said. "We gave her the presents and I said we're going to go to my house, where there are plenty of chairs."

In hindsight, Gill presumed the child's mother did not know her son had invited a Black boy to his birthday party. "I don't think she would have allowed it," he said.



Both boys, confused and hurt really well through metaphors," first time, to understand what it impression on the whole comby what had happened, cried he said. So, he decided to add an meant to be privileged, and munity. He was also heavily when they got back to Gill's empty chair to his classroom what it meant not to be," Horn involved in the school's desegrehouse, he said. His mother took about 30 years ago — and it has said. "That was really powerful gation efforts in the 1970s. tor us all. "It helped me understand the idea of belonging, and that everyone deserves to feel like they belong," she added. "It helped me understand that everyone deserves a seat quite literally." Amid America's racial reckoning in 2020, Horn said the chair was the first thing that came to mind. "I thought of Mr. Gill's story, and how timely it still is today, she said.

I often refer to him as our anchor," said Erika Pierce, the principal of Glenfield. "He is an amazing force to have in the building, and such a wealth of knowledge for all of us." Students throughout the school — including those who have not been taught by Gill - are aware of the chair story, she added, explaining that he has shared it at schoolwide assemblies. "The chair really speaks to his educational philosophy about inclusion and making sure that everyone feels that they have a place and a space, and that they're valued," Pierce said. Now, Gill is getting the oppor-"When I think about the les- tunity to tell the story to a wider sons that I learned from Mr. audience. Last month, he won an impromptu book pitch at the Montclair Literary Festival, securing himself a publishing contract for a children's book he

Courtsey of Dan Gill

Dan Gill, 75, a teacher at Glenfield Middle School in Montclair, N.J., always keeps an empty chair in his classroom. "The chair symbolizes that we will always have room in the classroom for anyone," said Gill, 75, who described Glenfield Middle School as having a diverse student body. "It symbolizes acceptance."

He had no intention of participating in the "Pitch-a-Palooza," but at the last minute, he decided to give it a shot. Writing a book about the chair, Gill said, "has always been in the back of my mind." Gill's one-minute pitch won against 13 contenders, an experience he called "so surreal. The text for the book is complete, and Gill is now working with an editor to refine the writing. He is also in the process of finding an illustrator, and he hopes the book will be published within a year. He plans to retire in 2023, but "through this fortuitous opportunity, I'm going to be able to still teach," Gill said. "I'm real-ly happy that I now have a wider audience to share the story. He will be dedicating the book to Archie Shaw, who passed away last year. "It's wonderful to be able to share this meaningful story that can touch other people, and motivate them to open up their hearts," Gill said.

poet.com/portland

ice cream to them for them up.

Gill lost touch with Shaw as they got older, but that day stayed seared in his mind and influenced his desire to become an educator.

"When I look back now, I think that really made me want to help young people," he said, explaining that he hoped to set a positive example. "Any bad behavior that kids have, they get it from an adult, and any good behavior they have, they get it from an adult.'

When he began his teaching career 52 years ago, he started a tradition of telling the story to his students annually on Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, "as a way to punctuate what the day means in the lives of ordinary people, and how they should act when confronted with racism," Gill said.

remained there ever since.

"It's been a really effective tool," said Gill, who teaches students in grades 6 to 8. The chair embodies "the idea of opportunity; it's the idea of welcoming; it's the idea of treating people with respect."

Over the years, the chair - and, more importantly, the story behind it — has resonated with students. One teen even made a customized necklace with a chair on it, Gill said.

Naturally, there have been a few students "that don't get it," Gill said, "but the group psychol-ogy of it is that the kids that do get it will explain it.'

For Maggie Horn, 16, learning about the chair in 2017 left a strong impression on her. It's a story she regularly remembers and references often in conversations with peers.

"Its message was something As he honed his teaching skills, that could speak to sixth-

It is most rewarding, Gill said, "when they come back and visit me, and kids say, 'I always remember the chair.'

Emily McCarthy, 25, is one such former student.

Gill, I think a lot of them started with that chair," she said.

School administrators said that Gill, who has been at the Gill said he realized "kids learn graders and allow us, for the school for 45 years, has left an wrote, titled "No More Chairs."





## **Business**

### Bank donates

First Bank of Berne last month donated \$5,000 to Youth for Christ. Pictured, from left, are Bethany Bailey and Dennis Shaffer of the bank, Ryan Biegel of BIGJAWS Youth for Christ, Adam Stout of South Adams campus life, and Tracy Carpenter and Erica Bennet of the bank. BIGJAWs Youth for Christ ministers to the students in Jay, Blackford, Grant, Adams and Wells counties.



## The CR will publish special edition

For the first time in more than two years, The Commercial Review will publish a Monday edition.

Editor and publisher Ray roundup Cooney announced this week that The Commercial Review will publish a special edition on Monday, July 11, for coverage of the Jay County Fair.

the first year The CR covered a full-scale fair without a Monday edition. (The newspaper reduced from six days a week to five by eliminating Mondays at the end of May 2020, and that year's fair was scaled back because of the coronavirus pandemic.)

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## **Business**

The four-page special edition Cooney noted that last year was will feature coverage from the weekend's events at the fair. It will be available only at Portland newsstands, online at thecr.com and at the secretary's office at the fairgrounds.

The newspaper will resume its regular publishing schedule on Tuesday, July 12.

#### **Everheart hires**

named Angie Dider as its new chief quality officer.

Didier earned her nursing degree from Excelsior College. She is also a certified dementia practitioner.

"I love EverHeart's mission Mercer announces and commitment to providing quality care to those they serve," she said. "I have worked alongside EverHeart Hospice through my work in healthcare and have always been impressed with the care and compassion of the EverHeart staff.'

services in Jay, Adams, Black- women experiencing complicat ford, Delaware, Randolph, ed or high-risk pregnancies. EverHeart Hospice has ford, Delaware, Randolph, Grant and Wayne counties in Indiana and Mercer, Auglaize, Darke, Allen, Miami, Preble, Shelby and Van Wert counties in Ohio.

Mercer Health has announced a partnership with Maternal Fetal Medicine of Dayton, Ohio.

Mercer Health Women's Health Services and OB/GYN will partner with the organization to offer virtual visits to patients. Maternal Fetal Medi-EverHeart provides hospice cine provides services for pregnancies."

"By providing virtual visits, patients are able to continue to receive prenatal care by their Mercer Health Medical Group OB/GYN at Mercer Health but also have access to advanced, specialty providers," said Mercer Health vice president of provider practices Martin Sheĥan in a press release. "Virtual, or telehealth, visits give patients quicker access to specialists and save them time and travel. We are excited for this partnership and enhancing the care for women during their

## Farmers battle floods, heat

By KIM CHIPMAN, ZIJIA SONG and **TARSO VELOSO RIBEIRO** Bloomberg News

Tribune News Service Global grain markets are at a pivot point, with prices finally starting to ease after a dizzying surge earlier

this year. Where things go

from here could end up

BREAKING

TREETY SUALER

ers like Justin Sherlock and the extreme weather that's hitting parts of the U.S. crop belt.

For Sherlock, like most of America's farmers, crazy weather isn't anything new. But this year has been exceptional. Forget puddles. This spring, the rains were so hard it was more like his farm got dotted with miniature lakes.

"It's been a struggle," said Sherlock, who got about 75% of his planned

being determined by farm- into the ground. "It's been knows, 2022 is anything but such a long, kind of horrible spring, that I'll do what I can to grow the best crop I can this year, but I basically already decided to put

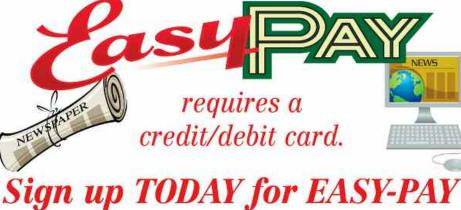
my hopes on 2023.' In any normal crop year, flooding on a field like Sherlock's might not matter that much in the bigger picture of the global agriculture market. After all, North Dakota is a smaller player when it comes to corn, and powerhouses like Iowa and Illinois saw better conditions for spring plantcorn and soybean crops ing. But as everyone

a typical year.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has stifled exports from a region that's known as the world's breadbasket. The disruption has sent crop futures to near-record highs, with stockpiles extremely tight. That's adding to rampant food inflation and raising fears of global grain shortages. Markets have finally started to calm in recent weeks on optimism that key producers like Australia and the U.S. will reap harvests large enough to help replenish war-pinched reserves.



## **The Commercial Review**



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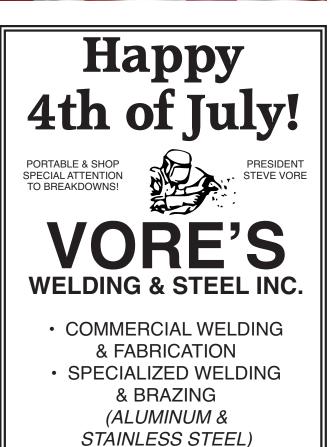
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### Marine Jay Cooper Blakely

There's a man who lives in Redkey, on the corner of Meridian and Main. This man is 82 years young and he's got some fame. Joining the Marines three times was this good man's game. Once he joined in Peace time and 2 times he joined in war. The first time he joined to serve his country, The next two times he joined out of love for the Marine Corp. His Marine medals are hanging on his dining room wall Believe me he's got more medals than this Seabee ever saw. Jay Cooper Blakely is the most dedicated Marine I ever did see. As long as America has dedicated men like Blakely, we will be Free!

Watermellon Jim



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But in order to keep food inflation at bay, every bushel of U.S. acre will need to see maximum yield potential. And every bushel of grain will count.

"U.S. production will play an important role this year in stabilizing markets and any 'bad news' will push prices up on world said David markets," Laborde of the International Food Policy Research Institute in Washington.

There's concern over drought this summer for parts of Iowa and Illinois, a U.S. government outlook shows. That could further endanger yields as climate change makes extreme weather events more likely to occur and more severe.

Already, scorching heat in parts of the Midwest means farmers may have "lost the top end of the yields and productivity," said Mark Licht, a professor at Iowa State University.

Despite this year's surge in prices, which some hoped would lure farmers to increase acres, analysts are expecting the USDA report will show little deviation from growers' original intentions after the field delays.

Corn planting is seen at 89.8 million acres, according to the average estimate from analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. That compares with 89.5 million from the USDA's March prospective plantings survey.

Matt Bennett and his partners at commodities brokerage AgMarket.net expect a "slight increase" in both corn and soybean acres. Even if plantings are higher, Bennett warns not to forget about drought potential in some areas that could dent national production.

"There's a ton of concern right now that you might be the farmer that doesn't catch the rain this year because there's so much money invested in these crops," Bennett said.

## Puzzles



#### Good to the last drop

be made

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North	East	South	West
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2 🌲 👘	Pass	6 🔶	
Opening	lead	queen of 1	icarls.

When a contract appears to be hopeless, that's the time declarer should put on his thinking cap and see whether he can pull some kind of miracle out of the air. We ve all had the experience of biting off more than we can chew, but occasionally an overly ambitious contract can be salvaged in an unexpected manner.

Take this case where South is in six spades. The outlook is certainly dim. It seems declarer must inevita-

Contract

Bridge

length in clubs. Accordingly, he cashes the K-A of hearts and ruffs a heart high in dummy. He then leads a low diamond, winning in his hand with the king, (East can't afford to rise with the ace, which would give South an extra diamond trick and the contract.) Declarer next plays four rounds of trump. producing this position: North ♦Q6 ♣K 8.6 West East Immaterial ♦Q19 South €9 A 7 3 When South now cashes the nine of spades and discards a club from dummy. East can't afford to part with a club, so he diseards the jack of diamonds. Declarer thereupon leads the seven of diamonds and plays low from dummy, forcing hast to win with the ace, and the

ing 24 Texas city 28 July 4th queen of diamonds becomes South's 12th trick. destinations 32 Santa —

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heart to West's queen and get a club ruff to sink the contract. But West erred by cashing the heart queen before shifting to a club. Declarer won the club with the ace, led a spade to the king and continued with the jack. Fast took the ace and returned the ace of hearts, hoping dummy would have to ruff with the queen. But Robm-son trumped in his hand, led a spade to the queen and returned to

spade to the queen and returned to his hand with the acc of diamonds. He then led his remaining club. East's play to the first trick had not been lost on Robinson, who finessed dummy's ten to make the contract! Had he not finessed, he would have eventually lost a dia-mond to West's queen and gone down one down one.

At the second table, the Washington East found a better way to steer West in the right direction. Instead of playing the heart deace on the king at trick one, he overtook the king with the ace and shifted to his

singleton club. The Chicago declarer saw what was going to happen if he played a trump immediately, so he made a valiant try to save the contract by leading a diamond to the jack. Had the finesse worked, he would have discarded dummy's heart on a high diamond, But when West turned up with the queen, declarer quickly found himself down two, giving found himself down two, giving Washington a gain of 820 points on the deal

Tomorrow: Cutting a vital link.

(2022 King Features Syndicate Inc

	(2022 King Features Syndicate Inc.
*≎ <sup>8</sup> *	By Steve Becker

#### Famous Hand

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₩E <sup>4</sup> ◆84 ♥KQ ◆Q8	ST 10.8 3	<ul> <li>EA</li> <li>★ A</li> <li>★ A</li> <li>★ 10</li> </ul>	\ST_
<b>₩</b> J75	501 ♦KJ ♥J7 ♦AK ∳86	532	
The bide			
West	North	East	So
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The bidding:						
West	North	East	South			
Pass	Pass	Pass	L 📥			
Pass	2 🔶	2 ¥	2 👲			
Pass	4 🌲					

Opening lead — king of hearts. There's no law against declarer intercepting the opponents' signals. In fact, sometimes he might be able

to make better use of thein than the opponents themselves. **Take this case** from the 1988 Grand National Team final between Chicago and Washington, D.C. The bidding shown occurred at the table where Washington's Steve Robinson was South. **West led the** heart king, and East tried to steer him to the winning defense by playing the deuce. Had West shifted to a elub at this point. East would win the ace of spades to make better use of them than the

East would win the ace of spades whenever a trump was led, lead a

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#### Page 8

### Comics

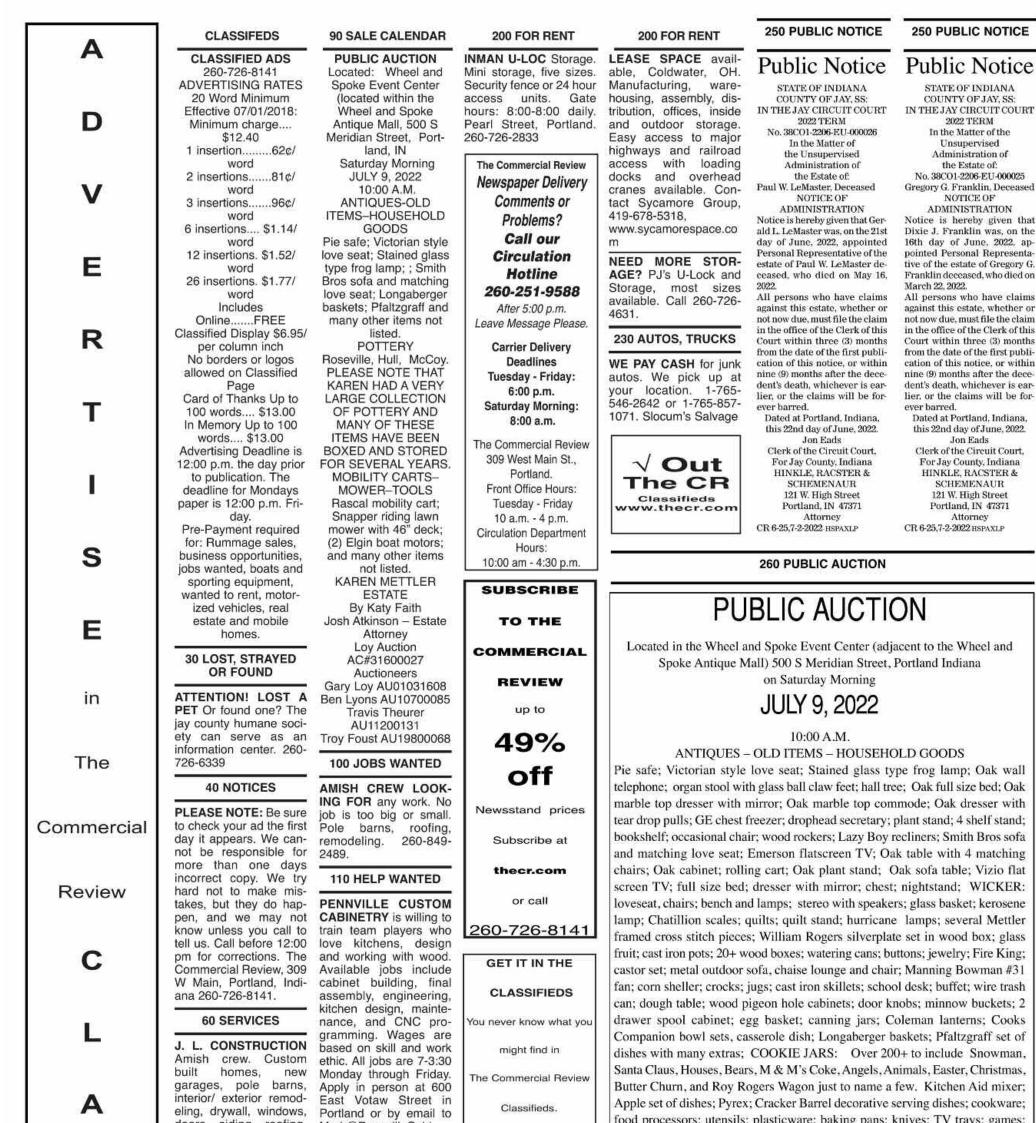


Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review We Deliver

aughter

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## Sports

## **Moves are all** about the money

By RYAN PRITT The Charleston Gazette-Mail Tribune News Service

When it comes to conference realignment, none of us should be surprised ... by anything.

If news were to break tomorrow that the Southeastern Conference was in talks with Oxford University, my initial reaction would be something like, "Well, it is near London, a major market. I could see it.'

Yet, Thursday's news still somehow caught me off guard. UCLA and USC to — checking notes... and then an atlas — the Big Ten?

In case you missed it, reports began to surface early Thursday afternoon linking the Pac-12 stalwarts to the Big Ten as first reported by Jon Wilner of Pac-12 Hotline.

But what is it all leading to? A popular theory is that we are headed toward four super conferences — the Big Ten, the SEC, the ACC and whatever remains of the Pac-12 and Big 12.

Could the two merge? Will one pick off the best of the other?

Maybe those steps come next. Personally, I think four leagues is a little short-sighted. It sure seems to me like the Big Ten and the SEC are in an arms race, one in which the other major conferences are not equipped to compete.

This news sure seems a lot like a response. Picking off two prestigious, historical programs from another Power-Five league sounds familiar right? Maybe a lot like what started this whole wave of realignment a little short of a year ago when reports of Texas and Oklahoma leaving the Big 12 for the SEC began to surface last July.

We all wondered what was next and how the other Power-Five leagues would respond.

The Big 12 added BYU, Cincinnati, Central Florida and Houston. There was plenty of subsequent moving and shaking at the Group-of-Five level. That's all well and good, but it's not landing the likes of USC and UCLA.

Make no mistake, this would be the first, legitimate answer to the SEC's shot to the bow of college football. In this landscape of college football, it's eat or be eaten and from where I sit, we're Ryan Pritt

one phone call away from the solidification of two super conferences. Not four.

Yeah, I know there are agreements and contracts and yada, yada, yada - all of which are supposed to bind teams to the leagues they're in for now. That means about as much as a onedollar bill at a gas pump these days.

So, assuming that all of that is fluid, which it undoubtedly is, what keeps the SEC from calling Clemson today? Say they also give either Miami or Florida State a call. What if that's the next move?

Would it cripple the ACC? You bet. Take Clemson out of there and tell me that the ACC is in any better shape than the Big 12 or Pac-12 currently are, even if USC and UCLA bolt. Oregon is probably a better program in terms of recent history than any of the other teams in the ACC. And the Big 12, for that matter.

We all know that geography means zilch in all this. But Clemson and one of the Florida schools actually makes sense for the SEC there as well. Almost like a bonus, right?

It's just a thought, accuse me of being a doomsday theorist if you'd like. How would a two-conference sport work and what would that look like? Would each have 20 teams? 30?

I'm not sure any of that matters. It makes sense for both leagues on the bottom line and if we've learned anything, that's all that matters. Loyalty, rivalries, tradition — all of it apparently has a price. Should USC and UCLA go through with this move, that amount will apparently be worth sacrificing long-standing series against the likes of in-state rivals Cal and Stanford for road trips to Maryland and Rutgers.

In college athletics, all that matters is the almighty dollar. If you don't buy that, you're

California dreamin'.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### **Championship catch**

Catcher Jordyn Hutzler of All Circuit Electrical makes a grab in foul territory during her team's 11-2 victory over Masonic Lodge in the Portland Junior League Major softball championship game Wednesday.

## Chicago storms past the Red Sox **Bv CHRIS COTILLO**

masslive.com Tribune News Service

CHICAGO — Early on, Friday's matinee looked like it had the makings of a Red Sox blowout. Then the Cubs stormed back.

Boston led 4-0 before the fourthplace Cubs put together back-toback three-run innings en route to a 6-5 victory in the opener of a three-game series at Wrigley Field.

In the sixth, Christopher Morel tied the game with a two-run homer off Hansel Robles and Willson Contreras scored the game-winning run on a Jake Diekman wild pitch.

The series opener started off just about as well as it could have for Boston. Jarren Duran, who returned after three days on the restricted list, sent Adrian Sampson's first pitch of the game over the center-field wall. The Sox then opened things up in the second when Jackie Bradley Jr. who entered the day hitless in his last 26 at-bats — cleared the bases with a three-run double.

Starter Rich Hill cruised early before running into trouble (and an injury) in the fifth. Nelson Velazquez put Chicago on the board with an RBI triple, then Morel cut the score to  $4-\bar{2}$  with an RBI groundout. After Hill departed, Tyler Danish walked in a run to make it a one-run game.

A Duran RBI single in the sixth put the Sox back up two runs. But Robles ran into two-out trouble in the bottom of the inning, walking Andrelton Simmons before Morel tied the game with his eighth homer of the season. Two walks and a double later, Diekman came in and bounced a slider that got away from Christian Vázquez and allowed Contreras to score.

Chicago's bullpen shut down Boston's offense for the final three innings, allowing just one baserunner in the final three frames. David Robertson needed eight pitches to record a 1-2-3 ninth and secure his 10th save of the year.

Boston had just one baserunner in the final three innings.

## Sports on tap

Local schedule

3 p.m. — Golf: John Deere Classic (CBS)

Noon — College soccer: National championship (CBS)

Monday Tennis: Wimbledon 6 a.m.

Local notes

Registration forms are available at the chamber office, 118 S. Meridian S Portland or by emailing tabby@jaycounty chamber.com. The deadline is July 11. For more information, call (260) 726-4481.

Portland Rockets doubleheader at Battle Creek Merchants - 1 p.m.

**Tuesday** Jay County Summer Swim Team vs. Union City and Huntington North - 6 p.m.

#### **TV** schedule Today

8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN) 1 p.m. — WNBA basketball: Phoenix Mercury at Chicago Sky (ESPN) 1 p.m. — Basketball: BIG3 – Power vs. Enemies, EHM vs. 3s Company and Triplets vs. Ball Hogs (CBS)

2:30 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Xfinity Series – Henry 180 (USA)

4:10 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Atlanta Braves at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana); Oakland Athletics at Seattle Mariners (FS1)

7 p.m. — Canadian Football League: Saskatchewan Roughriders at Montreal

Alouettes (ESPN2) 7:15 p.m. — Major League Base-ball: Boston Red Sox at Chicago Cubs (FOX)

8 p.m. — Auto racing: Camping World SRX Series - Stafford Motor Speedway (CBS) 10 p.m. — UFC 276 (ESPN)

#### Sunday

8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN) 10 a.m. — Auto racing: British Grand Prix (ESPN2)

12:30 p.m. — IndyCar – Indy 200 at Mid-Ohio (NBC)

1 p.m. — WNBA basketball: Washington Mystics at Connecticut Sun (ESPN)

1:40 p.m. — Major League Baseball Atlanta Braves at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

3 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour - John Deere Classic (CBS) 3 p.m. — WNBA basketball: Seattle

Storm at Atlanta Dream (FOX)

3 p.m. — Auto racing: Chevrolet Grand Prix (NBC)

7:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Louis Cardinals at Philadelphia Phillies (ESPN) 8:05 p.m. — Soccer: Liga MX – Mon-

terrey at Santos Laguna (FS1)

(ESPN2)

8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN) 6:40 p.m. — Major League Baseball: New York Mets at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — WNBA basketball: Phoenix Mercury at Los Angeles Sparks (ESPN) 9 p.m. — Soccer: USL Champi-onship – San Diego Loyal at Colorado Springs (ESPN2)

**Tuesday** 8 a.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN, ESPN2) 6:40 p.m. — Major League Baseball: New York Mets at Cincinnati Reds (Bally

Indiana) 7 p.m. — WNBA basketball: Seattle Storm at Indiana Fever (FOX)

Portland Mayor John Boggs will host his Mayor's Golf Outing July 8 at Portland

Golf Club. The event will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Registration will run from

11 to 11:45 a.m. The outing will be limited to the first

20 four-person teams to sign up. Registration forms are available at city hall, 321 N. Meridian St., Portland, or by emailing Ikelly@thecityofportland.net.

#### Chamber outing set

Jay County Chamber of Commerce will hold its annual golf outing July 22 at Portland Golf Club. The event will begin with a shotgun

start at 9 a.m. It will be limited to 20 teams.

#### 5K circuit continues July 4

The Run Jay County 5K Circuit will continue with a race on Independence Day.

The next event in the eight-race circuit is the Firecracker 5K, which begins at 8 a.m. Monday at Jay County Fairgrounds. Registration is \$20.

Other races in the circuit include the Sculpt Fitness 5K on July 16 and the JRDS 5K on Aug. 6. . . . . . . . . .

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



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### Harness Racing (Featuring Indiana Sired Horses)

**July 13** 3 pm post time August 6 11 am post time **October 1** 11 am post time

**At: Jay County** Fairgrounds, Portland, IN





The Commercial Review

The Jay County High School Marching Patriots band staff, including Kelly Smeltzer and Dave Humbert, reacts to the news that the group finished as the Indiana State Fair Band Day runner-up in 1989. They would finish second in each of the next two years before breaking through for the championship in 1992.

## Marshals

Continued from page 1 Humbert worked at Redkey, Pennville and Portland high schools before becoming the director of the Jay County High School band when the county's five remain-ing high schools were consolidated into one in 1975. After finishing 10th or lower in their first several years of the Indiana State Fair Band Day competition, the Marching Patriots jumped up to fourth place in 1980. They were second in 1985, '89, '90 and '91 before winning the title with a show featuring selections from "West Side Story" in 1992. (By that time, Smeltzer was one of Humbert's assistant directors along with Pete Vogler.)

Jay County reached the top again in 2001.

"Obviously the two state fair wins were cool," said Humbert, who now lives in Fishers, before quipping that he felt the Marching Patriots should have won more but "they

didn't let me count the Patriots started evening votes."

"We had the chance to take the five schools into hanging around home. one, so we kind of got to create our own little monster," he added. "At first, people didn't really think that one school was the answer. ... But the band worked through that. It was just a great place to be. It really was.

Smeltzer took the helm following Humbert's retirement at the conclusion of the 2004-05 school year. He led the Marching Patriots to 10 top-five finishes at the state fair, including a runner-up effort in 2006.

Since retiring after the June 5 commencement ceremony, Smeltzer and his wife Jamie have taken a trip to Michigan with visits to Mackinac Island, the Gerald Ford Presidential Library and Tahquamenon Falls. They also took in a Billy Joel concert at Notre Dame Stadium.

When the Marching saying hi."

practices June 20, he made sure he wasn't (He lives on Dorothy Drive, just across county road 75 South from Jay County Junior-Senior High School.) Being away helped make the adjustment a bit easier after his more than three decades with the band.

Monday will be a new experience, too, for both Smeltzer and Humbert as they'll be riding along the parade route rather than leading a group of high school students. Smeltzer said he's looking at it as a Joit of reunion." "drive-by

"It's very different," said Smeltzer. "I definitely have not put a whole lot of thought into it. It will be exciting to see a parade from a different perspective.

"Maybe I'll get a chance to communicate a little bit more with the people standing on the side and

# 2022 Jay County July 4th Celebration At The Jay County Fairgrounds ELEBRATION \*\* TIME \*\*\*\*

### IN THE MORNING

7:00 AM 5K Run Registration Morton St Entrance At Fairgrounds 8:00 AM start of 22nd Annual Firecracker 5K Run 10:00 AM Parade Lineup 11:00 Parade Begins

**Grand Marshalls** "Dave humbert & Kelly Smeltzer"

### IN THE EVENING

9:50 PM Innvocation **Pastor Bruce Phillips** 7:00 PM Band Located in the North Grounds

THIS PAGE COURTESY OF

### IN THE AFTERNOON

12:15 Flag Raising Ceremony

Jay co Ham Radio Demos

**Farmers Stage Entertainment** 

"John Beatrice Band"

"Nick Dittmeiers & The Sawdusters"

Museum of the Soldier Freedom Flyers Flag

Waterball

Weather Permitting **Hot Air Balloon Rides**  **Garden Tractor Pulls** 

Indiana Wild

Live Animal Show

Arch Bridge Cruisers Special Guest "Čaptain America"

C.A.S.A de Portland Soccer Tournament

Steve Norman Karaoke

Inflatables

**Pretty Fancy Balloons** 

Face Painting by Deb Price

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