

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Patriot preview

Jay County High School's Sousaphone trio, led by Trenten Hamilton, marches Tuesday during the first of the Marching Patriots' two Indiana State Fair preview performances after their ice cream social. JCHS's preliminary performance is scheduled for 2:27 p.m. Friday at the Indiana State Fair. Preliminary awards are at 4:45 p.m., with finals at 8 p.m.

Board OKs new cabinets

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

In addition to the repairs to the pool at Portland Water Park this summer, the concession facility will be getting a facelift.

Portland Park Board on Tuesday approved nearly \$13,000 in new cabinetry to be installed in the concession area of the water park's office.

Matt Shauver of the parks department explained, as he has in the past, that the cabinets in the concession area are warped and falling apart. (They were installed when the water park was constructed about seven years ago.)

Mark and Michelle Goldman of Pennville Custom Cabinetry looked at the space and its cabinets and suggested a new high-density polyethylene product. Michelle Goldman explained at the meeting that the material is designed for outdoor spaces and is highly durable, will not hold moisture and is resistant to humidity and ultraviolet light. She added that the materials used for the original cabinetry were not appropriate for the outdoor setting.

Pennville Custom Cabinetry offered to provide the cabinets at cost, with its quote coming in at \$12,952.46. (The estimated cost to have HandiCraft install the cabinets is \$3,250.)

Shauver said he attempted to get quotes from other suppliers, including for stainless steel countertops, but several said they could not be competitive and/or affordable. He added that the project is a need, as the existing cabinets have been cited as a problem by the county health department.

"I'm anxious for this and it needs to happen," Shauver said.

See Board page 2

Committee will recommend raises

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

A few more county employees and department heads may see raises next year.

Jay County Personnel Committee agreed to recommend 6% raises for Jay County coroner Michael Brewster and the next Jay County Emergency Management Agency director

for next year. They also agreed to recommend the next emergency management agency director's annual salary get bumped to \$45,000 for the remainder of 2022.

County officials are hoping to hire a new director for the emergency management agency in coming weeks, noted Jay County Commissioner Chad Aker.

One individual applied for the position before the application deadline.

Former Jay County Emergency Management Agency director John Hankins gave a two-week notice of his resignation July 11, but he's currently working on a part-time basis until the county hires a new director. Hankins' resignation came just

under two months after starting the job. He cited low pay in relation to the position's responsibilities as his reason for leaving.

Personnel committee members Jeanne Houchins, Ted Champ and Aker decided Tuesday to recommend the next director get a pay jump, putting their salary at the same amount as Jay County Country

Living director Melissa Blankley. (Jay County Council approved Blankley's raise retroactive to her full-time status March 27. The amount was calculated keeping in mind the suggested 6% across-the-board wage increase, which would bump her salary to \$48,000 in January.)

See Recommend page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Lingo launches

Drew Lingo of rural Portland tosses candy from the back of the F.C.C. Adams truck driven by his father Matt during the Swiss Days parade Saturday afternoon in Berne. The festival returned to its full form this year after being canceled in 2020 and then slimmed down in 2021 because of the coronavirus pandemic.

JCDC to seek help

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Jay County Development Corporation will be seeking some part-time help to fill in while it looks for its new full-time employee.

The organization's board on Tuesday approved its executive committee to search for a part-time employee and to negotiate and agree to a part-time contract with outgoing Jay County Community Development director Christy Shauver.

Shauver resigned from the position last week to take a job as assistant director of special education with a neighboring school district. She has agreed to stay on in a part-time capacity to assist with ongoing initiatives she has been a part of including the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP).

JCDC executive director Travis Richards suggested to the board that with the community development position open — Shauver held it for about 13 months — it would be a good time for the organization's executive

Organization hopes to hire temporary part-time employee

committee to review the job description and consider any possible changes. He also requested the board approve hiring a part-time employee at 10 to 20 hours a week for the remainder of 2022 to assist with gathering information, proofreading and other "leg work" that goes into various JCDC efforts. (Shauver is expected to work about 10 hours per week.)

That sparked several ideas from board members, with Faron Parr asking if hiring an outside consultant had been considered and Joe Johnston asking if universities involved in HELP might be able to provide assistance. Board member and Jay County

Commissioner Brian McGalliard pushed for Parr's idea saying he has concerns about making sure HELP and other major initiatives are carried through properly.

A lengthy discussion ensued with board president Doug Loy and McGalliard getting into a back-and-forth about the hiring process, the latter asking for more information to be shared with the full board and the former cautioning against micromanaging.

Shauver assured that she plans on seeing HELP through to completion.

"We're almost to the end, and that's why I'm staying on," she said.

See JCDC page 2

Deaths

Jack Grady, 73, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Tuesday. The low was 65.

A heat advisory is in effect until 8 p.m. tonight. The low will be 71 and there is a 50% chance of showers and thunderstorms. Thursday's high will be 83, with rain expected.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

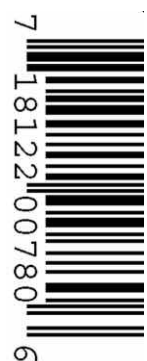
In review

The Jay County Junior High School cheerleading squad will hold its Indiana State Fair preview show at 5:30 p.m. Friday at East Jay Elementary School. The state fair competition is scheduled for 10 a.m. Saturday.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the Jay County High School girls golf team at the South Adams Invitational.

Saturday — Coverage of the Jay County Marching Patriots Indiana State Fair Band Day.



Board ...

Continued from page 1
Park board members Brian Ison, Shauna Runkle, Michael Brewster, Glen Bryant and John McFarland voted unanimously in favor of purchasing the new cabinets. They will be installed prior to the start of the water park's scheduled 2023 opening on Memorial Day weekend.

The money for that work will come from various water park-related line items that were not used this year because the facility did not open.

The board also awarded a project to install new roofing on the dugouts at the small softball diamonds on the east side of Portland Memorial Park to

Quotes provided for work on Hudson Family Park driveway and parking lots

Goodhew Roofing Service at a cost of \$2,775. Shauver had explained that the dugouts were in bad shape because of rotting wood.

Looking ahead to projects for 2023, Shauver presented esti-

mates for sealing the driveway and parking lots at Hudson Family Park. He said those areas have received no attention since the park opened more than a decade ago. Of the two quotes, the lower was from

Chris Hasty at a cost of \$18,750. (The project is slated for next year because there are not sufficient funds in the budget remaining in 2022.)

Shauver also updated the board that stone and mulch were used to spruce up areas around the disc golf course at Hudson Family Park, specifically in the area of the Kelly Baggs Nature Trail entrance.

Also, park picnic tables have been painted with the exception of those in Haynes Park, with those slated to be done in the next couple of weeks. Portland

Memorial Park's shelter house, benches and dugouts have been painted, new trash cans have been placed in Hudson Family Park and structural issues with light poles at the baseball/softball diamonds in Weiler-Wilson Park have been addressed.

In other business: Ison asked his fellow park board members and parks department employees to think about how to improve the department's social media presence. Previously, there was a Facebook page for the water park only. Plans call for having one page to promote all of the parks and activities.

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns for days of the week (Thursday 8/4, Friday 8/5, Saturday 8/6, Sunday 8/7, Monday 8/8) and weather forecasts with icons and temperature ranges like 83/68, 84/69, etc.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$202 million
Mega Millions Mega Ball: 14
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 6-8-1
Quick Draw: 8-12-13-19-21-22-23-24-37-44-49-50

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn 6.56
Central States Montpelier Corn 6.67
POET Biorefining Portland Corn 6.82
The Andersons Richland Township Corn 6.72

Today in history

In 1492, explorer Christopher Columbus began his first trans-Atlantic voyage in search of a westward route to India, leaving Palos, Spain, with his three ships — the Niña, the Pinta and the Santa Maria.
In 1921, eight members of the Chicago White Sox were banned from baseball for life. They were accused of receiving bribes to intentionally lose the 1919 World Series.
In 1972, Jay County prosecutor Ardee Helm Jr. filed a lawsuit

Citizen's calendar

Thursday 4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, Community Room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
Monday 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners' room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Obituaries

Jack Grady

May 23, 1949-July 30, 2022
Jack Grady, age 73, of Portland passed away on Saturday, July 30, 2022, at his residence.



Grady

He was born in Portland on May 23, 1949, the son of Jerome and Esther (Martz) Grady. He was married on Jan. 29, 1971, to Maureen Dawn Bard and she passed away on Feb. 5, 2018.

Jack was retired from Kerr Glass. He served in the U.S. Air Force and was past commander at the D.A.V. and American Legion Post 211. He was a member of Knights of Columbus and Jaycees and was a Portland High School graduate. Jack enjoyed

Indiana University basketball and the Indianapolis Colts, collected Coca-Cola memorabilia and was a woodworker.

Surviving are two sons, David Grady of Portland and Chris Grady of Portland; and two granddaughters, Desiree and Adaira Grady.

He was preceded in death by a brother Jerome Grady.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be Friday, Aug. 5, 2022, at 10 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Fr. Peter Logsdon pre-

siding. Burial with military graveside rites will follow in the Hillcrest Cemetery in Redkey. Visitation will be Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.

Memorials can be made to American Legion Post #211.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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.

Recommend ...

Continued from page 1
Jay County auditor Emily Franks pointed out an increase of \$4,500 in the coroner office's budget for next year, which was tacked onto the coroner's pay.

secretaries and an administrative assistant. (Committee members previously suggested council bump wages next year for Jay County Sheriff's Office and Jay County Jail based on the matrix pay, but they didn't recommend implementing the pay scale in full, instead opting to make decisions on raises annually.)

with the suggested wage increase than if they were to receive a 6% raise instead. (The committee's suggestion to offer raises based on the matrix pay scale for the department leaves it out of the 6% raises originally intended for all county employees.)

had factored in an additional \$5,000 for the worker into their budget. Personnel suggested instead to give the employee a 6% raise.)

The personnel committee also reviewed a proposed matrix pay scale for employees at Jay County Courthouse who are paid out of the Jay County Sheriff's Office budget, which include security officers,

employees will receive less money

of the courthouse employees will receive less money

Council's 2023 budget review meeting is slated for 5:30 p.m. Sept. 7. First and second readings of the budget are set for 6 p.m. Sept. 21 and Oct. 5, respectively, with budget adoption scheduled for the later date.

JCDC ...

Continued from page 1
Street added that the board should trust Richards and Shauver to request outside consulting assistance if they feel it is necessary.

experience by learning about the people who work to make the county a better place," she read. "I have enjoyed my time here at JCDC and I appreciate having the opportunity to work for such a wonderful entity. ... I look forward to seeing the great things that JCDC continues to achieve for the residents of Jay County."

Region! website and its social media accounts.

Ultimately, McGalliard made the motion to approve Richards' initial request and it was approved unanimously.

Also Tuesday, an emotional Shauver read from a thank you note:

Board members gave reminders about the following upcoming events:

Also Tuesday:

Richards encouraged the board to continue to promote the Jay

—The Gas Boom Days festival Aug. 13 and 14 in downtown Redkey
—The veterans banner dedication ceremony at 4 p.m. Aug. 14 at Freedom Park in Portland
—A ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Pennville library renovation and expansion project at 10 a.m. Sept. 13

Felony arrests

Probation violation

A Dunkirk man was arrested Sunday for violating his probation.

Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. Jones is being held at Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

Heath E. Patterson, 35, 4738 S. 825 East, pleaded guilty to nonsupport of a dependent, a Level 6 felony, in Jay Superior Court on Oct. 13, 2021. He was previously placed on probation for 403 days.

Zaaron A. Lee, 22, 316 N. Pleasant St., Portland, was arrested Tuesday and preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony, along with a Level 6 felony for maintaining a common nuisance and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He's being held on a \$14,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Patterson is being held on a \$750 bond at Jay County Jail.

Christian M. Scott, 21, 824 W. Race St., Portland, was arrested Tuesday and preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with two more Level 6 felonies for possession of a schedule V drug and maintaining a common nuisance, and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She's being held in Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

Methamphetamine

Multiple Indiana residents were arrested recently for possession of methamphetamine.

Medicare has changed.

Kristine R. Jones, 54, 707 S. Luick Ave., and Lendol E. Reed, 57, 618 S. Shipley St., Muncie, were arrested July 27 and each preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, a Class A misdemeanor for domestic battery and a

Medicare has changed. Find out how it can affect you. Know critical dates for Medicare eligibility. Get options that can help limit your out-of-pocket expenses. Learn about Medicare benefits many retirees may not be aware of. For FREE Medicare Supplement information from Physicians Life Insurance Company, call: 1-844-750-9981

Call today and receive a FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF. SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB. 1-855-743-1911. Financing available with approved credit.

Mom acts inappropriately

DEAR ABBY: I have been with my 45-year-old boyfriend, "Doug," for six years. His mother, who was widowed five years ago, has moved here to Florida from New Jersey. Doug is very protective of her, which I kind of understand because she's 63. The kicker is, she has started flashing her breasts at us. I'm pretty sure she does it to Doug when I'm not around as well. I have mentioned to him multiple times about how disturbing it is, but he brushes it off and refuses to confront her. We have adult children, and she recently went into the pool with all of them with nothing on. It is starting to worry me. I don't want to be the one to confront her because it will get ugly. — FLASHED IN FLORIDA

DEAR FLASHED: Has Doug's mother always been a "free spirit" who thinks flashing and skinny-dipping are amusing, or is her exhibitionistic behavior something new? If she has always been this way, someone should point out that what she's doing is inappropriate unless it's clear that nobody minds. In this case, YOU mind, and I wouldn't be surprised if your adult children were also less than enthusiastic about the

Dear Abby



woman's performance. If her exhibitionism is something new, then she should be evaluated, first by a doctor who specializes in geriatric patients and, if necessary, referred to one who specializes in geriatric psychiatry.

DEAR ABBY: My wife and I have been married 36 years. Ask anyone who knows us, and they'll say we are the perfect couple — no major issues, loving, trusting, etc. I was diagnosed with Lewy Body Dementia three years ago, and my wife has been a godsend. I couldn't ask for a better partner.

The other day I overheard her on the phone, and something she said caught my attention. When I asked her about it, she confessed that she had cheated. She said it had happened two or three times, two or three years ago with her first boyfriend from college. He had contacted her to get together

for coffee, and he kissed her. The next time he came to our town, they met at his hotel room and had sex. Abby, I am devastated, but there is nothing I can do. I am 50% dependent on her, and it will only increase. She said I can ask her anything at all, and she will answer me honestly. I haven't yet, because I'm still in shock. Please help me figure out what to do. — FEW OPTIONS IN NEVADA

DEAR FEW OPTIONS: I can only imagine how hurt you must be, and for that you have my sympathy. Because you need your wife to care for you during the course of your illness, the most obvious thing I can suggest is that you not ask her these kinds of questions. Her infidelity may have happened because she was devastated by the medical diagnosis you had just received. The healthiest thing for both of you would be to respect her for her honesty and forgive her for her moments of weakness.

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.

Gardening also evokes beauty

By KWAME DAWES

There is, in English poetry, a long tradition of gardening poems.

Such poems find rich associations between the deliberate act of design, the organizing of nature, and the art of poetry.

While Jeremy Rock's, "Tender" does not slavishly echo the poetry of gardening of the seventeenth century, (the heyday of this tradition), one senses in his contemporary take, a recognition of the impulse of humans to see in gardening, something of the quest and

American Life in Poetry

delight in beauty that we find in poetry.

At the end of the poem, Rock's description of caring for tender plants that he renders as dreamers allows him to celebrate the deeply humanizing power of the imagination, the power, in other words, of poetry.

Tender

"Soft dirt makes for light work."

—Gisa Cecani

Not yet Spring, sunlight barely reaches past the slider, so I array houseplants like regents parading before the rabble

and lead with the blades. Just a few snips before they're done, cleaned of the veins and petals that looked ready to come off. It must always

be pruning season, looking at these hands. Sometimes I sit in the sun with them and drink dayglow slow with ice water. In red clay I keep the cuttings, sisters

and daughters mudded for new roots, and these wan stems finally learn to breathe. If not for the starving of idyllic hamlets, where

would the flowers grow? At night I bring them in so they can imagine what they're missing.

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Flesh-eating bacteria cases may rise

By MORAYO OGUNBAYO

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution
Tribune News Service

Cases of flesh-eating bacteria, which refer to any tissue-destroying infection, rise in summer when more people are cooling off in bodies of water. The most common bacteria, vibrio, is often found in seawater and has the potential to be deadly.

The infection can come from swimming in waters with high levels of bacteria or from eating raw shellfish. There are typically 20,000 cases in the United States every summer, and factors such as climate change have the potential to cause an increase, due to the melting of ice that may contain harmful bacteria.

It is most common in East Coast bodies of water, but can occur anywhere.

The CDC estimates 80,000 cases each year, with 100 deaths. Vibrio thrives in water temperatures above 55 degrees, which are becoming more common due to climate change as well.

While this situation may seem scary, there are many precautions you can take to keep yourself safe. One of the most important is covering any open wounds before going into a body of water. For an immunocompromised person, it may be the best decision to avoid bodies of water if they have any cuts or scrapes. To prevent getting cuts or scrapes while in the water, it may be

smart to wear water shoes or sandals.

The first signs of vibrio infection will be a concerning wound that quickly gets worse, as it reddens or spreads. This is usually followed by fever and dizziness. It is best to seek out medical attention at the first signs of infection, due to the illness's rapid rate of harm.

For some, vibrio infection can be cured with antibiotics and rest. For others, surgery may be required to remove the infected tissue.

While cases of vibrio infection are still uncommon, it is smart to take the right precautions and know the risks before your beach and lake days.

Community Calendar

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

Today

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday at Harmony Cafe, 121 N. Meridian St.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for

all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St.

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.

PENNVILLE FAIR BOARD — Will meet at 7 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month at the Pennville Community Center.

Thursday

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Sec-

ond 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 - BRIANNA'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.

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.

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.

Friday

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.

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.

Saturday

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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

BREAKING NEWS

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Column elicited many responses

(Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Aug. 3, 2005. As a columnist, some of the most satisfying pieces are those that elicit unexpected responses. We ran the column this one refers to a few weeks back. Maybe it jarred some memories again, as the original did.)

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

You never know what's going to prompt a response from readers.

Sometimes you write a piece expecting significant feedback and instead hear the sound of crickets chirping in the distance.

Other times, the phone starts ringing.

A couple of weeks ago, I wrote a column about trying to locate a long-abandoned angling road that used to run northwest across eastern Jay County from the Ohio line.

Even before I'd received my own paper at home I was getting comment on it.

Over the course of about ten days, I heard from Marvin Starr

Back in the Saddle



and Ron Lingo, both of whom live in the area the old road once cut through. I talked with Darrell Borders, pastor of the Westchester United Methodist Church and maybe the unofficial mayor of Westchester, who flew over the route with Gary Gibson, looking for traces of the road.

Crop coverage, of course, made that next to impossible. And Darrell remembered being told by Madonna Miller, a long-time expert on Indiana and Jay County history, that what was left of the road was most easily visible in winter after a light snow.

By e-mail, I heard from John Young, who also has a copy of the 1876 atlas map, and from

former Jay resident Mike Votaw, whose parents farmed in Noble Township when he was a child.

Votaw told me the woods at the east end of his parents' property ran at an angle where the old road would have been. "When farming this area, the ground was very compact and difficult to plow just adjacent to the angled woods," he said via e-mail. "As kids we also found many arrow heads along the same stretch of land."

Both of those points make sense. It was at one time a corduroy road and had originally been an Indian trail.

Janice Stucky of the Jay County Historical Society told me it used to be known as the Huntington Trail.

But of all the responses, the one that stood out most was from Fern G. Thomas Schmieman of Nampa, Idaho.

She wrote to say she was born in Jay County in 1923 on the family farm which was right along the old road. She moved from the county in 1941.

"My great-grandparents moved to the United States from Alsace and on May 20, 1837 they purchased 360 acres of land in Jay County," she said. "This was approximately twenty-five years before the Homestead Act. The family oral history stated one dollar per acre was paid for it. It was bordered on the north by what was later referred to as the Westchester Road. A church, known during my childhood as the Westchester Evangelical United Brethren Church, stood on the northwest corner of the original farmland. Directly across the road to the west was the red brick one-room Westchester School."

About 1850, the family (originally Stoltz, but later changing the spelling to Stolz) built a large house on the farm, facing the angling road. That house, on property now owned by Jeff Smith, has long since collapsed as has the barn.

For many years, the farm was owned by Max Thomas, Fern

Schmieman's brother. He died in March of 2004.

"When I was a child," Mrs. Schmieman wrote, "the men in my family would always have to lift the plows and disks while doing farm work that necessitated crossing the old angling road. Nothing would penetrate the hardness of that road!"

"I learned, with my brother's help, to drive a Model T on that road. It had a nice slope going in a northwesterly fashion in front of the house and Max would park the car atop the rise and allow me to drive down towards Bear Creek. That is also where he would tell me to curl up in a tire and he would send me off down the hill. (Ah, to be that trusting again!)"

Mrs. Schmieman hasn't been back to Jay County in about 50 years, saying it would be too emotionally difficult to revisit the old homestead.

But she added, "That place will always be met with fondness in my heart."

Social media must be held responsible

The Dallas Morning News
Tribune News Service

We are glad to see the consequences for the devastating lies that conspiracist Alex Jones promoted about the 2012 Sandy Hook massacre begin to materialize this week in an Austin courtroom.

But as much as Jones is the culprit for the defamation campaign that painted the families who lost children as liars or actors, and that caused at least one family to move a dozen times after being doxxed and threatened, so too are the social media companies that allowed this false narrative to catch fire on their platforms.

When users on these websites make baseless, incendiary and defamatory claims in the way Jones did — describing the murder of children as a government plot and saying families faked their own children's deaths — it can create echo chambers in comment sections or topical pages that suck in casual scrollers. Algorithms often facilitate and even boost this material. For their role in this, social media giants enjoy near total immunity from any liability.

That protection stems from a law created in 1996 called Section 230, which safeguards websites from lawsuits targeting third-party posts. The law was drafted to help the internet grow, since so much of its material is third-party content hosted on platforms. But what may have made sense then does not now.

Whether the "false flag" conspiracy originated first on the internet, and Jones amplified the vicious distortions, or the opposite occurred, the level of malice directed at these families would not be possible without Twitter and Facebook.

As a society, we cannot continue to allow people to pose vile falsehoods online without repercussions for the platforms that permit those lies to fester and spread.

Jones, who has now admitted the inaccuracies of his Sandy Hook claims, along with others want to make this a free speech question. While we wholly support the fact that people's constitutionally protected right to free speech extends to online expres-

Guest Editorial

As a society, we cannot continue to allow people to pose vile falsehoods online without repercussions for the platforms that permit those lies to fester and spread.

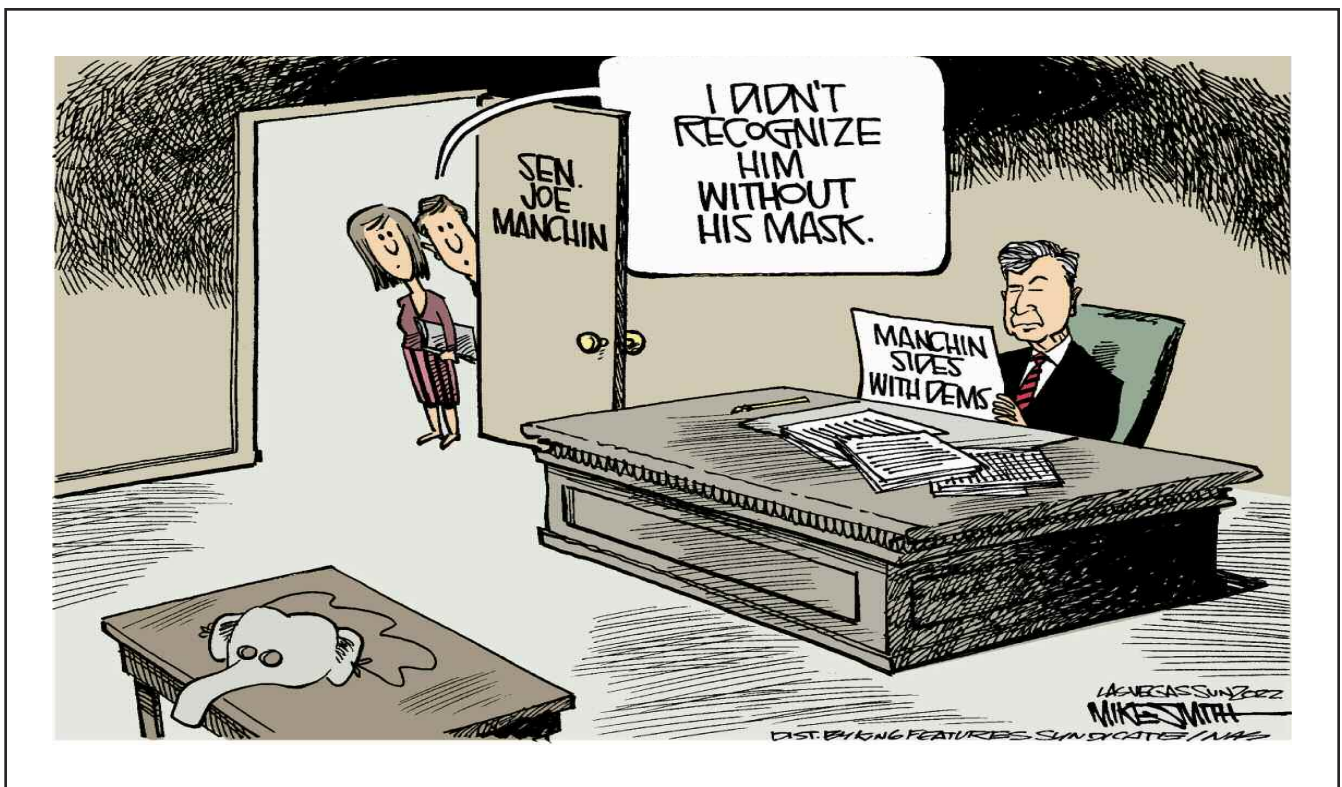
sion, the First Amendment is not a blanket protection from civil liability. Far from it.

The problem at hand is the uncontrolled sprawl of false and libelous content — whether under the banner of "fake news" or hate speech — that has driven a wedge among people in this country even as it has helped technology platforms ring the cash register.

Free speech protections do not shield American citizens or most American companies from accountability for libel and defamation. But these protections do shield social media.

Even today, after the Uvalde massacre that killed 19 children and two teachers or the Highland Park, Ill., shooting on July Fourth, where seven people died, groups on Facebook and Twitter are spinning "false flag" lies, aiming to pin the responsibility elsewhere.

What happened with Sandy Hook poured salt into the most devastating wound a parent could receive. But it is a byproduct of how we allow the internet to operate. The problem stretches further than Jones. Legal accountability must also be imposed on Big Tech.



Take a stand on Tunisia

By BOBBY GHOSH
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

On the day Tunisia's democracy died, it fell to a State Department spokesperson to deliver the Biden administration's mealy-mouthed pieties. Asked about the July 25 constitutional referendum that allowed President Kais Saied to institutionalize one-man rule in the North African nation, Ned Price offered the following observations:

"Well, we note the outcome that has been reported by the Independent High Authority for Elections and civil society election observers. The referendum has been marked by low turnout. That is something we do note. A broad range of Tunisia's civil society, media, and political parties have expressed deep concerns regarding the referendum. And in particular, we note the widespread concerns among many Tunisians regarding the lack of an inclusive and transparent process and limited scope for genuine public debate during the drafting of the new constitution. We also note concerns that the new constitution includes weakened checks and balances that could compromise the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms."

Note the absence of any direct criticism of the man who has garroted the Arab world's most promising democracy. Instead of calling out Saied for his appropriation of near-absolute authority, the Biden administration once again failed to live up to its own billing as a defender of democracy.

There would have been plenty to criticize. Saied seized control of the election commission ahead of the vote, in addition to muzzling the media, jerry-rigging the judiciary, and jailing political opponents. And the overwhelming majority of Tunisians chose not to vote, undermining the autocrat's attempt to legit-

imize his power grab by refusing to participate in the stage-managed exercise.

Even taking at face value the election commission's claim of a 30.4% turnout, it was an abysmal showing for Saied. (In contrast, the Egyptian strongman Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi managed a 38.6% turnout for his 2014 constitutional referendum.) The president offered the lamest of excuses: More people would have voted if they had had two days, instead of one, Saied said.

In the days ahead, Saied's opponents will make the most they can of the poor turnout to question the lawfulness of the new constitution — and by extension, the president's right to rule. Like autocrats everywhere, Saied will seek alternative sources of legitimacy. Expect government-supported rallies celebrating the constitution in Tunis and expressions of fealty from the armed forces.

The president will also draw legitimacy from the willingness of foreign leaders — and especially leaders of democratic states — to do business with him. He will be reassured by reluctance of democracy's defenders to even criticize, much less condemn, his sham of a referendum.

Saied will hope that the Biden administration does for him what the administration of President Barack Obama did for el-Sissi: Accept the new constitution as a fait accompli and look the other way as the Tunisian president uses it to tighten his grip over all levers of the state.

President Joe Biden should deny



Bobby Ghosh

Saied that satisfaction. Instead, the U.S. president can start making up for his failure to protect Tunisia's democracy by making it clear his administration has done more than "note" Saied's attempt to institutionalize authoritarianism.

Biden is no slouch at using strong language in situations like this. Only last November, he condemned Nicaragua's Daniel Ortega for staging a "pantomime" election. Saied should get similar treatment.

Presidential rhetoric aside, the official U.S. position should be that the referendum was too flawed for the results to hold any validity. And any move by Saied to exercise the powers arrogated to the presidency in the new constitution should be met by full-throated condemnation and, where possible, economic sanctions.

Biden should demand that Saied restore the independence of Tunisia's judiciary as well as the freedom of its press, and work with opposition parties toward a power-sharing arrangement and fresh elections.

If Saied refuses, the U.S. should withhold all aid for Tunisia and encourage its European partners to do likewise. The Biden administration should also be prepared to exercise the U.S. veto on any International Monetary Fund assistance for Tunisia.

That would hit Saied where it hurts the most. He desperately needs foreign funding and the IMF's help to start repairing Tunisia's crumbling economy. Failure to deliver on that front will swiftly remove even the limited support he enjoys, and put paid to any claims to legitimacy.

Biden has much to answer for his failure to live up to his professed values. In Tunisia, he has an opportunity to do something of note.

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Ghosh is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering foreign affairs.

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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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Myers sweeps awards at 4-H sheep show

Kylinn Myers did it again.

The young 4-H member showed the grand champion market lamb, a Hampshire, for the second year in a row and the grand champion ewe, a commercial blackface, at the 4-H Sheep Show July 13 at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Myers showed the champion Hampshire, blackface cross and natural-colored market lambs, as well as the champion commercial blackface and hamp ewes. She also took home the reserve grand champion market lamb award and was named junior showman.

Levi Willmann took home senior and advanced showmanship awards. He also won champion dorset advantage/white face cross ewe and first and second place in the rate of gain competition. Madi Paxson was awarded intermediate showman, and Jenna Walker won the beginner showmanship competition.

Jenna and Taylor Walker showed the champion pair of market lambs, with Tinley and Colton Walker showing the reserve champion pair. (The Walker family also showed the champion and reserve champion pair of breeding ewes.)

Other results were as follows:

Ewes

Dorset
Champion: Tinley Walker
Reserve champion: Levi Willman
3. Ayden Spradlin



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Kylinn Myers showed the grand champion ewe (left) and grand champion market lamb (right) during the Jay County 4-H Sheep Show on July 13 at the Jay County Fair.

Advantage/White Face Cross

Class 1
1. Levi Willmann

Class 2
1. Tinley Walker
2. Kadilynn Stout

Reserve champion: Tinley Walker

Hampshire

Class 1
1. Levi Willmann

Class 2
1. Kylinn Myers

2. Levi Willmann
3. Luke Fugiett

Reserve champion: Levi Willmann

Commercial blackface

Class 1
1. Kylinn Myers

Class 2
1. Kylinn Myers
2. Tinley Walker
3. Chailey Muhlenkamp
4. Makinsey Murphy

Class 3
1. Trevin Dunnington

2. Ayden Spradlin
3. Elizabeth Link
4. Mabrey McIntire

Reserve champion: Tinley Walker

Natural-colored

Class 1
1. Colton Walker

Class 2
1. Tinley Walker
Champion: Colton Walker

Reserve champion: Tinley Walker

Reserve grand champion: Levi Willmann

Market lambs

Corriedale
Champion: Ty Paxson

Dorset

Champion: Luke Fugiett
Reserve champion: Ty Paxson
3. Levi Willmann
4. Ayden Spradlin

Hampshire

Reserve champion: Trevin Dunnington

3. Madi Paxson
4. Raven Dale
5. Elizabeth Link
6. Ayden Spradlin
7. Elizabeth Brunswick

Natural-colored
Reserve champion: Kohen McIntire
3. Kadilynn Stout

Oxford
Champion: Tinley Walker

Reserve champion: Kienzly Blunk
3. Ivan Brunswick

Shrop
Champion: Chailey Muhlenkamp
Reserve champion: Tinley Walker
3. Carter Link
4. Makinsey Murphy
5. Luke Fugiett

Southdown
Champion: Ty Paxson

Blackface cross
Class 1
1. Kylinn Myers
2. Jenna Walker
3. Chailey Muhlenkamp
4. Taylor Walker
5. Colton Walker

Class 2
1. Madi Paxson
2. Kylinn Myers
3. Levi Willmann
4. Mitchel Brunswick
5. Chailey Muhlenkamp

Reserve champion: Madi Paxson

White face cross
Champion: Dillon Dunnington
Reserve champion: Levi Willmann
3. Carter Link
4. Kadilynn Stout

Rate of gain
3. Ivan Brunswick

Seventy-nine projects advance to state fair

Seventy-nine projects from the Jay County Fair qualified to advance to the state fair level.

Results from Jay County 4-H projects, which were on display in the Bob Schmit Memorial Exhibition Hall during the fair, are as follows:

Achievement

Intermediate
Blue ribbon: Madi Paxson

Advanced
Blue ribbon: Adrianna Aker and Ty Paxson

Aerospace
Blue ribbon: Keisha Adair

Aquatic science
Grand champion: Keisha Adair
Reserve grand champion: Rachel Skirvin

Arts and crafts
Beginner
Champion: Ayva Pitman

Reserve champion: Joshua Starr

Intermediate
Champion: Keisha Adair (state fair)
Blue ribbon: Karyssa Denney, Malloary Hudson and Madi Paxson

Advanced
Champion: Ty Paxson (state fair)
Reserve champion: Kelsey Braun (state fair)
Blue ribbon: Makinsey Murphy (state fair), Ralyn Chaffins, Joseph Kunk, Emily Starr

Grand champion: Ty Paxson
Reserve grand champion: Ayva Pitman (state fair)

Beekeeping
Grand champion: Rachel Skirvin (state fair)

Reserve grand champion: Claire Skirvin

Cake decorating
Beginner
Champion: Gillian Keller (state fair)
Blue ribbon: Ayva Pitman

Intermediate
Champion: Abby Fifer (state fair)
Reserve champion: Madi Paxson
Blue ribbon: Keisha Adair, Jaycee Hall and Allie Westfall

Advanced
Champion: Katlin Schoenlein (state fair)
Reserve grand champion: Austin Schoenlein
Blue ribbon: Katie Haffner, Makinsey Murphy and Emily Starr

Grand champion: Katlin Schoenlein

Reserve grand champion: Austin Schoenlein

Cat poster
Beginner
Champion: Jayme Harker

Intermediate
Champion: Keisha Adair

Grand champion: Keisha Adair
Reserve grand champion: Jayme Harker

Collections
Beginner
Champion: Jayme Harker
Blue ribbon: Danielle Somers and Nicholas Somers

Intermediate
Champion: Camden Buckland
Blue ribbon: Dominic Steveson

Advanced
Champion: Rachel Skirvin
Blue ribbon: Cayden Buckland

Grand champion: Rachel Skirvin

Construction and architectural replica
Beginner

Champion: Kyler Morehouse
Reserve champion: Benton Langenkamp
Blue ribbon: Emmett Betz, Kyler Morehouse, Charlotte Muhlenkamp, Alivya Schwieterman, Alyssa Schwieterman, Alexis Tipton

Intermediate
Champion: Creed Beiswanger (state fair)
Reserve champion: Jakob Lawrence

Blue ribbon: Allie Westfall, Keisha Adair, McKayla Jones, Kelsey Muhlenkamp, Mavrick Reier, Kent Siegrist
See page 7

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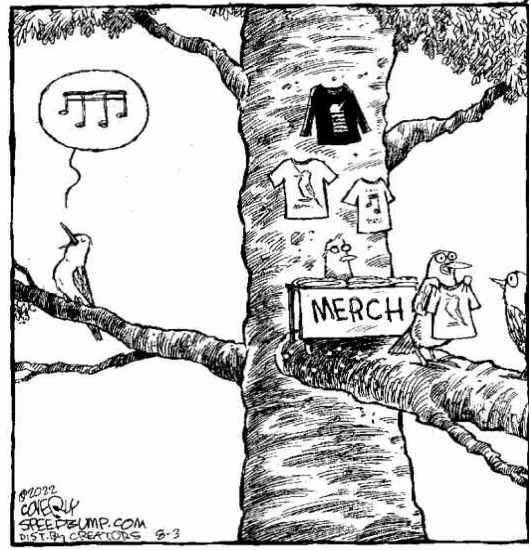
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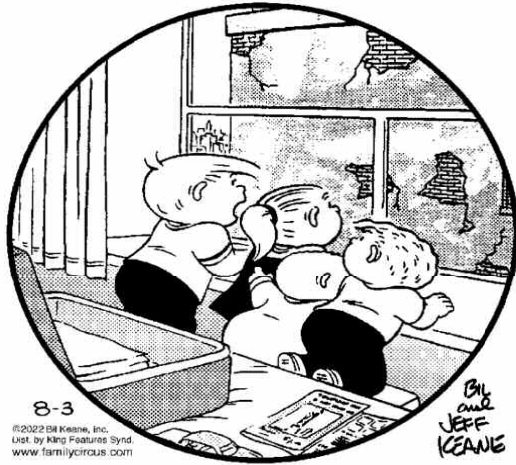
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Wow! We could see ALL OVER New York if it wasn't for that building next door."

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Thinking things through

East dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: A 4, A 10 5, 10 9 4 3, K 10 8 7. WEST: K J 9 5 2, J 7 6 3, K 6 2, S. EAST: Q 8, Q 9 8 2, 7 5, 9 6 4 3 2. SOUTH: 10 7 6 3, K 4, A Q J 8, A Q J.

The bidding: East Pass, South 1 NT, West Pass, North 3 NT. Opening lead—five of spades. Good card-reading is an art unto itself. Declarer does not actually see the defenders' hands as each card is played, but many times he can visualize their holdings just as if they were in open view.

let it ride. West won with the king and cashed his spades, and South went down one.

The simple fact is that declarer's focus at the start of play is to where his ninth trick might come from was basically misplaced. Instead, he should have expended more energy on determining the meaning of West's opening lead.

West's five-of-spades lead was highly revealing. It was inconceivable that he would have led the five from a holding of, say, the K-Q-J-5-4, in which case he would have led the king. Declarer could therefore assume that East had the king, queen or jack, which in turn meant that the ace was the right play from dummy at trick one.

Observe what happens in the actual case if declarer takes the first spade with the ace. Whatever East plays on the trick, the defenders cannot cash four spade tricks after declarer takes a losing diamond finesse at trick two. If West leads a spade to East's queen, East has no spade to return, while if West cashes the K-J of spades, South's ten becomes a stopper.

If it turns out that East's original holding is three spades headed by an honor, which is certainly possible, there's still nothing to fear. In that case, West started with only four spades, so the defenders cannot score five tricks.

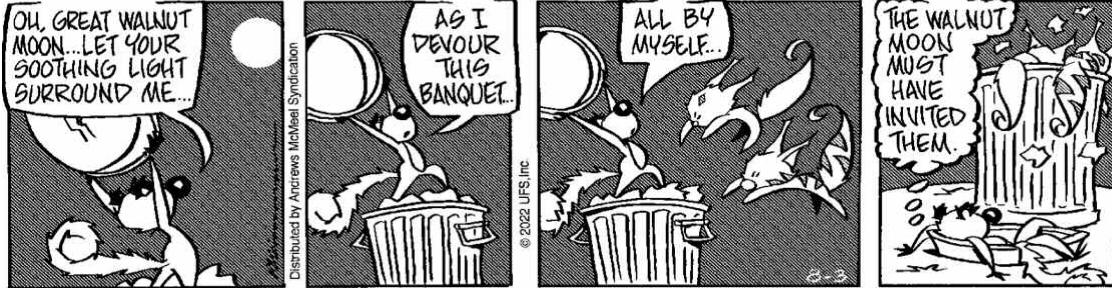
Tomorrow: Deceptive defensive play.

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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



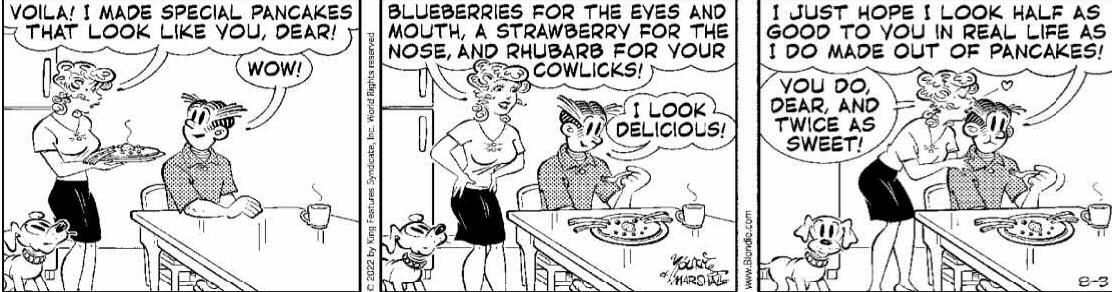
Hi and Lois



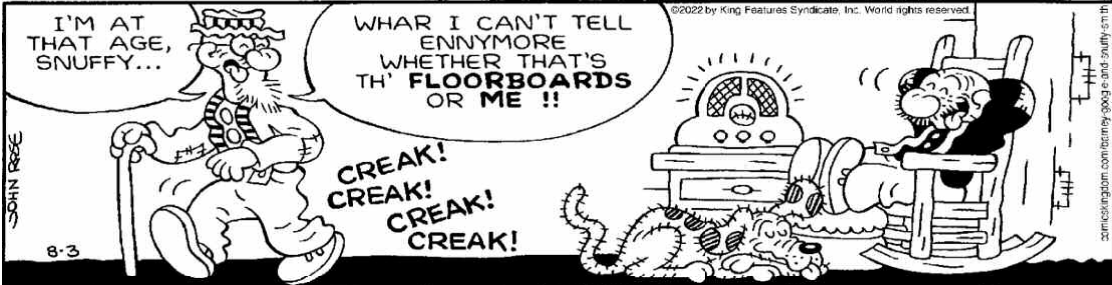
Funky Winkerbean



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



8-3

CRYPTOQUIP

HC V QVQT PNE JVZA V GHUGFT
AJQVLLVBBHYU QFXYZAL, H
BXOONBA RGV R ENXFZ QA V
PVFC UVCCA.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: HOME SUBSCRIBING TO SEVERAL DIFFERENT TELEVISION PROGRAM PROVIDERS: THE HOUSE OF SEVEN CABLES.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Q equals B

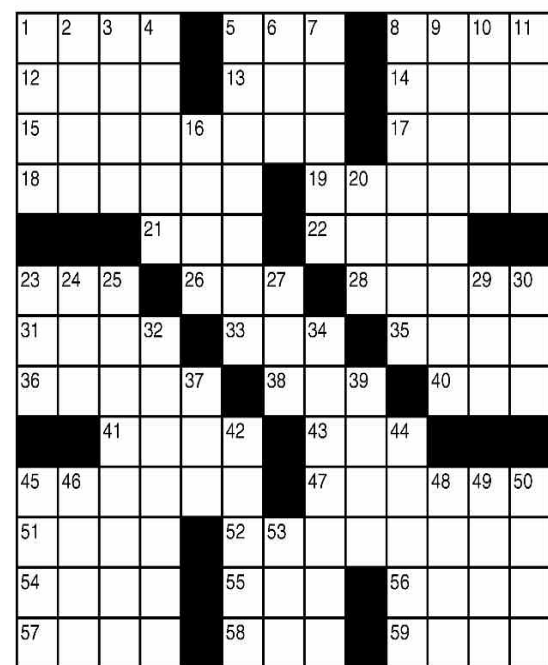
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Water-loo group, 5 Financial pro, 8 Sci-fi vehicles, 12 Starring role, 13 Royal Highness, 14 Worn-down pencils, 15 Nose and mouth covering, 17 Move like a butterfly sock, 18 Short curved fasteners, 21 Shoe width, 22 Tropical tree, 23 Santa's helper, 26 Highland hat, 28 Prettify, 31 Painter Joan, 33 Coffee vessel, 35 A few, 36 Glasses, slangily. DOWN: 1 dir., 2 Legume others (Lat.), 3 Support (Lat.), 4 "Skyfall" singer, 5 French vineyard estate, 6 Math ratios, 7 Invite to one's loft, 8 Develops, 9 Spectacular lunar phase, 10 Last write-up, 11 Bygone fliers, 16 Bump into, 20 Sheepish remark, 23 German river, 24 Sass, 25 Comp for a foodie, 27 "Miniver", 29 LBJ's successor, 30 Formerly known as, 32 Spencer of "Hidden Figures", 34 Falls, 37 Blue, 39 Round table titles, 42 Certain jabs, 44 Maestro Zubin, 45 Genuine, 46 Big name in scat, 48 Latin 101 word, 49 Type, 50 Online auction site, 53 Science room.

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-3



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READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

Scully dies at age 94

By DAVID WHARTON
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

LOS ANGELES — The way Vin Scully called a baseball game, it felt like bumping into an old friend. There were stories to tell and memories to share, his soothing banter as familiar as green grass and warm breezes on a sunny afternoon.

Generations of Southern California fans knew this, listening for hours on end, at home and in their cars, pressing transistor radios to their ears even as they sat watching at the ballpark.

“Hi, everybody, and a very pleasant good afternoon to you wherever you may be,” Scully would invariably begin. “Pull up a chair and spend part of the day with us.”

The renowned Dodgers

broadcaster died Tuesday, the team announced. He was 94. The Dodgers said he died at his home in Hidden Hills.

“We have lost an icon,” Dodgers President and CEO Stan Kasten said. “The Dodgers’ Vin Scully was one of the greatest voices in all of sports. He was a giant of a man, not only as a broadcaster, but as a humanitarian. He loved people. He loved life. He loved baseball and the Dodgers. And he loved his family. His voice will always be heard and etched in all of our minds forever.”

It was Scully’s feel for the ebb and flow of the game that made him a Hall of Famer during more than six decades in the booth. He could weave a narrative between balls and strikes, transforming nine innings

into a folksy tale, raising even a lowly bloop single to literary status when he called it “a humble thing, but thine own.”

Veteran sports commentator Bob Costas spoke of Scully’s “command of language and quality of expression, the sheer sound of his voice.” The son of Irish immigrants also knew when to keep quiet, letting the roar of the crowd speak for itself.

Add to these traits the gift of longevity, a career that spanned Dodgers history from Jackie Robinson to Clayton Kershaw and included network television stints covering football, tennis and golf. Scully presided over some of baseball’s greatest moments: Sandy Koufax’s perfect game, Kirk Gibson’s World Series heroics and Hank Aaron’s eclipse

of the all-time home run record.

As players came and went, the voice of the Dodgers remained a constant, fans voting Scully the most memorable personality in team history.

Born in the Bronx on Nov. 29, 1927, Vincent Edward Scully was only 7 when his father died of pneumonia and his mother moved the family to Brooklyn. Sports ran in his blood.

“We had this big old radio, and I would crawl underneath it, and the speakers would be directly over my head,” he told the Los Angeles Times in 1994. “Something would happen, and the announcer would get excited. The crowd would roar, the sound would come out of that speaker like water out of a showerhead, and it seemed to wash down on me.”

Reds deal Drury, Mahle at deadline

By DAVID JABLONSKI
Springfield News-Sun, Ohio
Tribune News Service

The Cincinnati Reds made their fifth deal in six days and their second within hours of the 6 p.m. trade deadline Tuesday, sending Brandon Drury to the San Diego Padres for minor league shortstop Victor Acosta.

Drury hit .274 with 20 home runs and 59 RBIs in 92 games. He spent most of his time at third base but also started games at second base, first base and designated hitter. The Reds signed him as a free agent on March 21.

Acosta, 18, was the sixth-ranked prospect in the Padres organization. He was the No. 19 prospect in the 2020-21 international class. The Padres signed him for \$1.8 million on Jan. 15, 2021.

The Drury trade came soon after the Reds dealt starting pitcher Tyler Mahle to the Minnesota Twins for three of the franchise’s top-25 prospects: infielder Spencer Steer and Christian Encarnacion-Strand and left-

handed pitcher Steven Hajar.

According to the MLB.com scouting report, Acosta is a switch hitter with “an impressive set of tools. The teenager has quick hands and is an aggressive hitter with a swing-first mentality. As a result of the aggression, he handles fastballs better than off-speed pitches, though that’s not all that uncommon in young hitters. He doesn’t hit for a ton of power yet, but still has time to grow into his 5-foot-11, 170-pound frame and the Padres feel he’ll tack on a bit more power as he develops.”

Drury and Mahle joined starting pitcher Luis Castillo, pitcher Phillip Diehl and outfielders Tommy Pham and Tyler Naquin on the list of players traded since Thursday.

The Padres (58-46), who rank second in the wild-card race, made an even bigger splash earlier in the day, acquiring outfielder Juan Soto and first baseman Josh Bell from the Washington Nationals.

Contreras ...

Continued from page 10

The Cubs didn’t want to do anything halfway in the lead-up to the 2021 deadline, yet the roster over the final two months this year could look very similar to what produced a 41-60 record entering Tuesday.

Last season’s sell-off created developmental opportunities the final eight weeks for players such as reliever Scott Effross, who became such a valuable bullpen arm that he netted the Cubs the No. 4 prospect in the New York

Yankees system. There are less clear paths for Triple-A players to get a look the next two months unless the Cubs jettison other veterans in the coming weeks.

Failing to match up with a trade partner for Contreras after the all-in teardown the Cubs embraced last year appears to be a missed opportunity.

Hoyer disputed that characterization.

“Last year at the deadline things lined up for us where we had really motivated buyers at the right

times,” he said, “and I think this year in some ways makes me realize how fortunate we were last year from a prospect standpoint to be able to accomplish what we did. This year we never exceeded that value, specifically when it comes to Willson, so I don’t see it as anything going to waste.”

“It really is dependent on who you’re talking to and how motivated they are to win a title to bring an All-Star-caliber player into their clubhouse, and this year we just didn’t find that.”

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls golf at South Adams Invitational — 9 a.m.

TV sports

Today
1 p.m. — Tennis: Cit Open and Sili-con Valley Classic (Bally Indiana)
6:40 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Cincinnati Reds at Miami Marlins (Bally Indiana)
8 p.m. — Soccer: Liga MX — Atlético San Luis vs. Juárez (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — Soccer: Club friend-

lies — Guadalajara vs. Los Angeles Galaxy (ESPN)
11:15 p.m. — Soccer: Club friendlies — América vs. Los Angeles FC (ESPN)

Thursday

6 a.m. — Golf: LPGA Tour — Women’s British Open (USA)
Noon — Golf: LPGA Tour — Women’s British Open (USA)
7 p.m. — WNBA basketball: Phoenix Mercury at Connecticut Sun (ESPN2)
7:10 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Tampa Bay Rays at Detroit Tigers (FS1)
7:45 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Chicago Cubs at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)

8 p.m. — NFL football preseason: Hall of Fame Game — Jacksonville Jaguars at Las Vegas Raiders (NBC)

Local notes

Tryouts scheduled
Jay County Baseball Club will hold try-out sessions Aug. 13 at Jay County High School’s Don E. Selvey Memorial Field. The baseball club will offer teams for players 12 and younger with a six-tournament guarantee. Tryout times are as follows:
10 a.m. — 8-and-younger
Noon — 9 and 10 year olds
2 p.m. — 11 and 12 year olds

For more information, visit the Jay County Baseball Club Facebook page.

WJCC soccer registration open

Registration is open for the West Jay Community Center fall soccer program for third through eighth graders. Forms are available at the community center or online at thewjcc.wix.com/wjcc. The fee is \$35 for those who sign up by Aug. 10. It will then increase to \$45. Registration is open until Aug. 19, with a clinic and skills assessment to follow Aug. 20. Games will be held on Saturdays from Sept. 10 through Oct. 15 at West Jay Elementary School.

Ticket sales set

Jay County Junior-Senior High School super and season tickets for the 2022-23 sports season are on sale.

A Patriot Pass, which is good for all junior high and high school events, is \$100. (It is \$60 for those 65 and older.) Super tickets are \$75 for high school only and \$60 for junior high only. And season passes are \$20 for football and \$45 for boys basketball. (All Jay County students will be admitted to home games at no charge.) Tickets are available during regular office hours — 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Passes do not cover Allen County Athletic Conference or IHSAA tournament events.

5K circuit continues July 16

The Run Jay County 5K Circuit will wrap up its 2022 schedule Saturday. The final event in the eight-race circuit is the JRDS 5K at Hudson Family Park. Registration is \$20 in advance and \$25 the day of the race. To register, or for more information, visit runjaycounty.com.

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

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Sports

Snow 14th in Jay opener

Patriots started season at Cross Creek

DECATUR — The Patriots didn't have enough players to post a team score. But one earned a ribbon by cracking the top 15.

Maddy Snow led the Jay County High School girls golf team in its season-opener Tuesday, placing 14th individually at the Belmont Invitational at Cross Creek Golf Club.

The host Braves easily won the event with a 382. They were 22 strokes ahead of runner-up Norwell, with Bluffton a distant third at 444 among the five teams that posted a score.

Snow, a sophomore, led the three-member Patriot squad, opening with a par on the 302-yard, par-4 first hole. She finished with a 112, which was 14 strokes better than she recorded at the same tournament last season.

Bellmont's Leyna Macke was the tournament medalist with an 86.

Senior Rosealynne Smith followed with a 128, and junior Ellie Klarer shot 131.

Jay County was back in action today, competing in the South Adams Invitational at Wabash Valley Golf Club in Geneva.

Contreras stays put

By MEGHAN MONTEMURRO
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

ST. LOUIS — The Chicago Cubs were motivated to move their most valuable expiring contract if they received an enticing return.

This approach followed president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer's philosophy in the lead-up to last year's trade deadline that saw one-third of the Cubs' opening-day roster moved. But despite receiving interest from teams, impending free-agent catcher Willson Contreras remains a Cub.

"Like last year, we were willing to listen if someone gave us a piece that could really help our future, and we never crossed that threshold," Hoyer said Tuesday. "Willson is a really valuable player. He's been a great Cub for six years now. And we never got to that place where we felt comfortable making a deal to end his tenure here."

A weeklong buildup to Tuesday's trade deadline had left Contreras ready for clarity.

He shed tears, soaked in cheers from the Wrigley Field faithful last week and took a moment Sunday in San Francisco to appreciate what he anticipated to be his final game in a Cubs uniform. But when the 5 p.m. deadline passed Tuesday, Contreras and outfielder Ian Happ, the Cubs' two most valuable players, were still in the lineup for the series opener against the St. Louis Cardinals at Busch Stadium.

The emotional toll on Contreras and Happ and how it played out publicly did not escape Hoyer.

"Maybe there was just an assumption that we would definitely move (Contreras) and



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Rich Schultz

Contreras was on the trade block heading into Tuesday's deadline but stayed with the team as no offer "came close to the right value."

there was never anything said by us," Hoyer said. "We've been in communication with (Contreras') agents throughout the month, and we never gave any message to anyone that was like, we're going to trade him at all costs."

"We never found a deal that came close to the right value."

The Cubs made only two trades Tuesday, moving relievers David Robertson to the Philadelphia Phillies and Mychal Givens to the New York Mets. They were among five total moves the Cubs

made, not nearly the same roster overhaul as last year.

It makes more sense for the Cubs to hold on to Happ, who isn't a free agent until after the 2023 season. If the Cubs still are motivated to move him, they could find more interested teams in the offseason beyond those positioned as contenders at the deadline.

Because he wasn't traded, Contreras can receive a qualifying offer from the Cubs, barring a contract extension. That might hurt his free-agent market, however, because it would

cost the signing team its first draft pick.

The Cubs would receive draft compensation if Contreras were to turn down the qualifying offer.

"It was the same calculation that we've always made, which is, what is the value of a comp B pick? And how does that factor into our decision making?" Hoyer said. "How does this impact the free-agent market? So it's basically back to the same calculus we've always had."

See Contreras page 9

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