

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Project season



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Materials for the installation of a new sewer line along Meridian Street in downtown Portland have been delivered over the last several weeks and are staged at various sites in the city. A preconstruction meeting on the project is scheduled for next week, with work expected to begin later in April.

With sidewalk installation already underway, work on bridges, sewers is set to follow in April

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Sewers, bridges, sidewalks, roads.

All are part of a string of local infrastructure work that has already started and will continue with additional projects in the coming weeks and months.

Work is already underway to add a sidewalk along Votaw Street on the west side of Portland. Bridge projects on Indiana 1 and Indiana 26 will follow in the next two weeks. And the Meridian Street storm sewer project is expected to begin in April as well.

All of that work is just the

beginning for a year that will also include Community Crossings paving projects in Portland, Dunkirk and Redkey as well as flood mitigation and sidewalk projects in Dunkirk.

Votaw sidewalk

The Votaw Street sidewalk work, which began recently, is the most long-awaited of the Portland projects set for this year. It was first discussed in 2016, with Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) approving funding in February 2018.

It calls for a new sidewalk that will run along the south side of

Votaw Street (Indiana 67) from Commerce Street to just west of Middle Street at Haynes Park. It will then cross over in front of IU Health Jay and continue on the north side of Votaw Street to the Walmart property.

The project came in at a cost of \$511,882 with Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne as the low bidder. It is being 80% funded by INDOT, with the city covering the remaining 20% (\$102,376.40).

Work to add a sidewalk along Blaine Pike and pave the street is scheduled for 2024.

Mud Creek bridge

The next project set to begin is

the deck rehabilitation and paving for the Indiana 1 bridge over Mud Creek just north of county road 200 North.

INDOT indicated recently that Indiana 1 in that area will close on or after April 10 for the project. Milestone Contractors, based in Indianapolis with facilities across the state including an asphalt plant in rural Portland, will construct a new latex modified concrete overlay for the structure. There will also be new guardrail end treatments, and riprap will be added to help control erosion under the bridge.

See Project page 2

NYC grand jury indicts Trump

Arraignment for former president is expected next week

By SARAH D. WIRE and ARIT JOHN
Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — Former President Donald Trump was indicted Thursday in New York City on charges related to an alleged hush-money payment made to a porn actor in the final days of the 2016 campaign, marking the first time in history that a former U.S. president has been criminally prosecuted.

The unprecedented indictment, confirmed Thursday by Trump's attorneys, comes as Trump is facing separate investigations into his alleged involvement in 2020 election interference by his supporters and the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the U.S. Capitol, along with his handling of classified documents after leaving office.

"He did not commit any crime. We will vigorously fight this political prosecution in Court," Trump's lawyers Susan Necheles and Joseph Tacopina said in a statement.

Manhattan District Attorney Alvin Bragg's office said Thursday night that it had reached out to Trump's attorneys to coordinate his surrender. Multiple outlets reported that Tacopina said Trump's arraignment is likely to occur early next week.

The indictment is sealed and the exact charges a New York grand jury voted to bring against Trump are still unknown. They are expected to be related to a \$130,000 payment made by his former attorney Michael Cohen to adult film star Stormy Daniels, money allegedly paid to prevent the actor from publicly saying she had an affair with Trump. The former president has been accused of hiding his reimbursement of Cohen by funneling it through his business and recording the payments as legal services.

Trump is a declared candidate for president in 2024, and his Republican allies have sought to portray Bragg's work as politically motivated, with the former president calling on his supporters in a recent social media post to protest and "take our nation back." Over the last year, Bragg revived the investigation, which was initiated in 2018 but was repeatedly placed on the back burner.

There's no set timetable for the indictment to be made public. Bragg could ask a judge to unseal it, Trump could choose to disclose the details, or it could be revealed when Trump first appears in court for arraignment.

See Indicts page 5

Senate committee focused on budget

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The Senate committee responsible for drafting the state's budget heard over four hours of public testimony Thursday, as leaders negotiate how to spend more than \$43.3 billion over the next two years.

The House version of the budget included an unprecedented increase in education vouchers, which amounts to roughly a third of the overall K-12 budget increase. Democrats argue that most public schools will lose out under the proposal.

In addition to the overall budget, lawmakers fielded testimony from nearly a dozen Hoosiers about a proposal to spur housing developments across the state.

Several health care providers, including dentists and home health organizations, urged the committee to consider Medicaid reimbursement rates, which they

Testimony pushes for movement on Medicaid reimbursement

say have lagged behind costs and de-incentivizes providers to participate in the government health insurance programs. Only impoverished Hoosiers qualify for Medicaid.

"Dental providers have not received a comprehensive rate increase in Medicaid reimbursement since 1999," said Jill Burns, the president of the Indiana Dental Association.

See Budget page 5



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

Randy Head, a former state senator representing the ALS Association, testifies before the Senate Appropriations Committee in a packed room.

Deaths

Beverly Pyle, 83, rural Portland
Reginald Stith, 70, Ocala, Florida
Harold Gettinger, 87, Fort Recovery
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 60 degrees Thursday. The low early in the day was 27.
Showers and thunderstorms are expected tonight with a low in the mid 40s. Jay County is under a wind advisory until 6 p.m. Saturday.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamon Fire Station.

Coming up

Saturday — Results from tonight's FRHS baseball and softball games.

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



Obituaries

Beverly Pyle

March 10, 1940-March 30, 2023
Beverly D. Pyle, age 83, of rural Portland passed away on Thursday, March 30, 2023, in Albany Healthcare and Rehabilitation.

She was born in South Whitley, Indiana, on March 10, 1940, the daughter of Ford and Orpha (Bollinger) Mishler. She was married on Sept. 10, 1961, to William (Bill) Pyle, who survives.

Beverly was a registered nurse at Jay County Hospital, retiring in 2002. She was a 10-year 4-H member in Whitley County and a member of Jay County Historical Society and Friends of the Library, and a 63-year member of Indiana Extension Homemakers (61 years with Budget Bells in Jay County and two years with Saratoga Club

in Randolph County. She loved to travel and go camping.

Surviving are her husband William (Bill); one son, Kevin Pyle of Paragon, Indiana; two daughters, Karla Mikel (husband: Scott) of Goshen Indiana and Kim Thomas (husband: Mike) of Portland; one brother, Harley Mishler (wife: Deb) of South Whitley, Indiana; seven grandchildren; and six great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Roland Mishler.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, April 5, 2023, at 10 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Beth Stephens presiding. Burial will follow in the Spring Hill Cemetery in Fort Recovery. Visitation will be Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. and 9 to 10 a.m. Wednesday.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to Fairview United Methodist Church, Jay County Historical Society, Friends of the Library or Heart to Heart Hospice.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Reginald Stith

March 12, 1953-March 23, 2023
Reginald Bernard Stith, age 70, of Ocala, Florida, passed away on March 23, 2023, from complications related to heart disease at the West Marion Hospital in Ocala, Florida.



Stith

Born in Milan, Indiana, on March 12, 1953, he was the son of the late Leslie and Olive (Atwood) Stith.

In addition to his parents, he was also preceded in death by a brother Ronald Stith.

He leaves behind to cherish his memory, his devoted wife Kathleen (McGinty) Stith; two daughters, Katherine Iacobino and Angela Stith; a brother, Tom (Joan) Stith; and a sister, Kay (Eric) Paff.

There will be a Mass of Christian Burial at Queen of Peace Catholic Church at 8:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 1, 2023.

Reginald graduated from Portland High School in Portland, Indiana, where he lettered in four sports and was captain of the football team. He received a bachelor's degree from Ball State University thereafter in 1975.

Reginald had a long, successful business career in the property and casualty insurance industry. Beyond all roles he held, however, the most important to him was being a loving and devoted father and husband.

Reginald lived his Christian faith through action, supporting various Apostolates in the Church and supporting initiatives related in the community.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the general fund of Queen of Peace Catholic Church in Ocala, Florida.

Graveside services will be held at 10 a.m. on Wednesday,

April 5, 2023, at the Hogan Hill Cemetery, 11038 N. Hogan Road, Aurora, Indiana, with Pastor Tom Holt officiating.

Sibbett-Moore Funeral Home has been entrusted with arrangements.

Please visit our website at sibbettmoore.com to share your condolences and memories of Reginald.

Harold Gettinger, Fort Recovery, died Wednesday. A celebration of Harold's life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday at First Church of Christ, 1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery.

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

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

CR almanac

Saturday 4/1	Sunday 4/2	Monday 4/3	Tuesday 4/4	Wednesday 4/5
48/26	53/44	67/52	72/58	70/38
There's a 40% chance of showers Saturday with wind gusts reaching up to 45 mph.	Sunny, with a high in the low to mid 50s and a low of 44 at night.	Monday has a chance of showers. Rain is likely at night, as well as a thunderstorm.	There's a 50% chance of showers Tuesday under mostly cloudy skies.	Wednesday has a 80% chance of showers with the high skyrocketing to 70 degrees.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$147 million	14-17-19-20-31-35-37-39-54-55-56-58-72-74-78 Cash 5: 6-22-23-35-40 Estimated jackpot: \$152,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$355 million	Ohio Midday Pick 3: 9-2-9 Pick 4: 0-5-7-0 Pick 5: 7-5-6-2-8 Evening Pick 3: 3-3-2 Pick 4: 0-7-7-1 Pick 5: 2-4-1-0-1 Rolling Cash: 19-27-30-33-35 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
Hoosier Midday Daily Three: 4-2-0 Daily Four: 1-5-0-5 Quick Draw: 3-6-8-9-11-15-20-23-25-33-45-49-52-56-57-58-66-70-74-77 Evening Daily Three: 6-5-0 Daily Four: 3-4-3-4 Quick Draw: 1-5-7-8-11-	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....6.62 April corn.....6.62 Wheat.....6.75	Wheat.....6.33 July wheat.....6.80
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....6.69 April corn.....6.69 May corn.....6.73	Central States Montpelier Corn.....6.53 April corn.....6.53 Beans.....14.83 April beans.....14.83 Wheat.....6.63
The Andersons Richland Township Corn.....6.59 April corn.....6.59 Beans.....14.80 April beans.....14.80	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....6.34 April corn.....6.34 Beans.....14.60 April beans.....14.60 Wheat.....6.38

Today in history

In 1596, Rene Descartes was born in France. The famous philosopher, mathematician and scientist coined the famous phrase, "I think, therefore I am."
In 1880, the first electric street lights installed by a municipality turned on in Wabash, Indiana.
In 1889, the Eiffel Tower was inaugurated in Paris. Standing at 984 feet, the wrought iron structure created by Gustave Eiffel celebrated the centenary of the French Revolution.
In 1917, Denmark sold the Virgin Islands — originally named the Danish West Indies — to the United States for \$25 million.
In 1918, Daylight Savings Time went into effect for the first time.
In 2020, Jay County Health Department announced the first confirmed case of coronavirus in the county. Prior to the positive test, Jay County had been one of only 11 counties in the state at that time without a positive case of COVID-19.
—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday	Tuesday
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St.	4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.

Project ...

Continued from page 1
Work on the \$1.05 million Mud Creek bridge project, which is being paid for by INDOT, is expected to be complete in early September.

The detour for truck traffic will utilize Indiana 26, U.S. 27 and Indiana 18.

Big blue bridge

Beginning on or after April 17, the Indiana 26 bridge over the Salamonie River on the east side of Portland will close to be replaced.

The INDOT project will involve Milestone removing the existing steel truss bridge. It will be replaced by a new structure built with pre-stressed concrete beams.

Crews will also install new concrete approaches to the bridge, guardrail end treatments, asphalt paving on each end of the bridge and other features.

Beginning in the fall, there was a local push to save the bridge from being removed. INDOT responded that the contract had already been awarded and that there had been no comment in opposition to the project either at public hearings or in writing. The state agency expressed a willingness to dismantle the bridge and have it moved to be stored if a local government unit would commit to covering the cost, estimated at almost \$500,000. Both the county and the city declined to do so, with local officials saying there are other financial obligations to fulfill.

The project is expected to take seven months, with a completion date of mid-November.

The detour for truck traffic will utilize U.S. 27, Indiana 67 and Ohio 49.

Downtown sewer

Portland Mayor John Boggs said Thursday that a final pre-construction meeting on the \$2.42 million Meridian Street storm sewer project is scheduled for next week. He expects construction to begin sometime in April.

The project calls for installing about 2,000 feet of new storm sewer from the north end of Port-

Work on Indiana 26 bridge to begin April 17

land's downtown area to the Salamonie River. It will drain Meridian Street catch basin systems that cover the area between Main and North streets and take them off of the Millers Branch line — it experienced issues with being overloaded and having water back up onto the streets over the last decade-plus — that runs about a half-block to the east.

Watson Excavating of Redkey will be handling the \$2.42 million sewer line installation beginning at the Salamonie River and working north block by block. Meridian Street (U.S. 27) will be closed while the firm works between the river and Water Street. For the remainder of the project, two-way traffic will be maintained.

Portland is using all of its \$1.355 million in federal coronavirus relief funds from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) for the project. It also received a \$780,450 State Transportation and Stormwater Grant from the State Water Infrastructure Fund and \$350,000 from the city's redevelopment commission.

The detour for truck traffic will utilize Indiana 67, Indiana 1 and Indiana 28.

An INDOT project to pave U.S. 27 in Portland is scheduled for 2024.

Community Crossings

Later this year, Portland, Dunkirk and Redkey will all be involved in paving projects partially funded by INDOT Community Crossings grants that were awarded in December.

Portland was approved for \$549,558 in grant funding for work that includes paving all of Arch and Pierce streets. Also to be paved are Walnut Street east of Meridian Street, Noble Street between Main and High streets, and Union Street

between Meridian and Bridge streets.

INDOT awarded nearly \$190,000 to Dunkirk for paving all of Mount Auburn Street, Lincoln Avenue on the west side of the city and Angle Street on the north side of the city. (The city had initially hoped to apply for paving Quincy Place, but the development's streets were not included in the city's asset management plan. That issue is being rectified with plans for the city's next Community Crossings application to involve those streets.)

Redkey was awarded \$196,100.25 in grant funding to pave Boyce Street between Sycamore and Meridian streets, Bell Avenue between Meridian and Washington streets, Sycamore Street between Indiana 67 and Main Street, and all of Morgan Drive through Redkey Morgan Park.

Community Crossings projects require a 25% local funding match.

Dunkirk work

In addition to the street paving in Dunkirk, the city will also complete flood mitigation and sidewalk projects this year.

VFT Excavating of Celina, Ohio, will handle the \$835,647 flood mitigation project that will include creating detention basins east of Broad Street near Moore Avenue and west of 3rd Street near the southern city limits that will be used to detain water during heavy rain events. Also included are some upgrades to current storm sewer infrastructure.

Dunkirk received a \$600,000 Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs grant for the work. The remainder was to be paid from the city's ARPA money and its stormwater fund.

Also to be completed this year is a sidewalk that will run along Highland Avenue from West Jay Elementary School to Dunkirk City Park, where it will connect with Speedcat Alley. Yardberry Landscaping Excavating of Anderson is handling the \$204,364 project, which is 80% funded by federal dollars passed to the city through INDOT. The city is responsible for the other 20% of the cost.

SERVICES

Today
Shreeve, Janet: 3 p.m., Reichard Funeral Home, 440 W. Deerfield Road, Union City.

Saturday
Gettinger, Harold: 11 a.m., First Church of Christ, 1049 Union City Road, Fort Recovery.
Mixon, Lucinda: 4 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Wednesday
Pyle, Beverly: 10 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.
Stith, Reginald: 10 a.m., Hogan Hill Cemetery, 11038 N. Hogan Road, Aurora, Indiana.

May 13
Warrick, Clarice: 11 a.m., West Richmond Friends Meeting, 609 W. Main St., Richmond.

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Photo provided

New member

Portland Evening Optimist Club recently welcomed a new member. Pictured, from left, are sponsor Mike Aker and new member Tony Shaneyfelt.

Birth announcements

Wellman

Myles Robert, a son, was born Feb. 13 at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital to Lyndee and Ryan Wellman of Bryant.

He weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces. Maternal grandparents are John and Lisa Evans of Portland, and paternal grandparents are Ed and Linda Wellman of Bryant. Great-grandparents are Shirley Evans,

Marilyn Isenbarger, Claude and Karen Vincent and Rose Moeder.

Wilmoth

Tate Owen, a son, was born March 16 at St. Vincent Randolph to Kenneth and Rebecca Wilmoth of Lynn.

He weighed 9 pounds, 10 ounces. Grandparents are Kathryn and Mark Adams of Lynn and Nancy Wilmoth of Richmond.

Community Calendar

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

Saturday

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — 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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

Sunday

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

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

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 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

BRYANT COMMUNITY

Submissions open

Submission are open for the 2023 Congressional Art Competition.

Jim Banks, a member of the United States House of Representatives, is accepting submissions from high school students in Indiana's third district, which extends to much of northeastern Indiana.

This year's theme is "Indiana," defined in a press release from Banks as "the feeling of Hoosier satisfaction, devotion and attachment to the United States." He encouraged students to think outside the box when deciding what Indiana means and looks like in their art.

Winning artwork from each district will be displayed for a year in the United States Capitol, and the artist will get two tickets to Washington, D.C., from Southwest Airlines to attend a reception at a later date.

Submissions are due by 5 p.m. April 24 and may be emailed to RepBanks.Art@mail.house.gov, or schools may call the office to arrange entry pickup before the deadline.

For more information about email submission requirements, visit the Congressional Art Competition page found at banks.house.gov.

Daughter refuses reality

DEAR ABBY: My 28-year-old daughter moved back home when COVID hit. She works as an influencer and also has a part-time job as a content creator. She doesn't pay bills. My husband doesn't want her to pay rent, etc. I feel it's important for her to do so. She does pay for her groceries and gas.

She stays in her room day and night. She used to go out with friends, but now doesn't do anything. She says she has cyber friends. We have asked her to come out with us at times, but she refuses. Another problem is, she hasn't gone to the doctor or dentist in a very long time. I talked with her about it, and she blamed me for not taking her. I offered to go with her, but she doesn't do anything about it.

My husband doesn't think there is a problem, but I feel there is. I feel we have enabled her, although we didn't mean to. Should we be charging her rent? How do we get her to become more social? How do we get her the right help so she can move forward in life? — **CONCERNED MOM IN RHODE ISLAND**

Dear Abby



of the blue, an old military friend/crush called me and told me he has been thinking a lot about me and is working on himself. He apologized for the times he ghosted me because he couldn't handle relationships.

DEAR CONCERNED MOM: A step in the right direction would be for your husband to take his head out of the sand and admit that his daughter may have a problem. The next step would be to have a frank talk with her and tell her that if she is going to continue living with you, she must agree to have medical and dental checkups. Go with her so you can understand what is going on, because your daughter appears to have some emotional issues. Her "world" may be on the web, but unless she can find one on terra firma, expect her to be under your roof forever.

DEAR ABBY: I recently got engaged to a man I've been seeing long distance for about a year. Then, out

We talked for two and a half hours, and it was like we were back to our deployment and inseparable. It brought feelings I have never had before, but it also brought confusion and conflict. I love my fiance. He's a great man, and a single parent. I don't know what to say to the old flame. Can you help? — **CONFUSED IN THE WEST**

DEAR CONFUSED: Tell the old flame you accept his apology for the multiple times he ghosted you and wish him luck in his self-improvement project, but explain that you are now engaged to a wonderful man. That said, you should not rush into marriage with anyone until you have doused this old flame and are confident in your decision.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.

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

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

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

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — 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.

Wednesday

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

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Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

Non-compete agreements, which restrict who employees can work for after leaving a company, have become well-established in Pittsburgh. Some local hairstylists, for example, who are unhappy with their jobs must either stay with those jobs, move to another area, or change fields entirely, throwing away years of training and experience.

Federal or state government should scrap these oppressive and restrictive contracts. California, North Dakota, Oklahoma and Washington, D.C., have

Guest Editorial

already banned them. In Pennsylvania, however, non-compete agreements apply to, among others, software engineers, graphic designers, surgeons, lawyers and even hairstylists.

In a prepared statement, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce calls the contracts “an important tool

in fostering innovation” to protect trade secrets, specialized employee training and client retention. But non-compete agreements also prevent people from leaving for better paying jobs and keep them tethered to business owners who ignore their best interests. Non-compete agreements have kept 30 million Americans from netting \$300 billion in wage increases annually, reports the Federal Trade Commission. Preliminary finding by the FTC also shows they stifle competition and, therefore, violate federal law.

The agency is considering banning non-compete agreements nationwide. It should.

A proposed FTC rule would prevent employers from restricting workers’ opportunities and limiting competition, Elizabeth Wilkins, an FTC director, said in a prepared statement. The FTC will accept public comment, until March 20, on banning the agreements.

A skill is not a trade secret, and most employees know the difference. Businesses worried about trade secrets can use nondisclosure agreements to limit what knowledge employees take with them after quitting — without

hobbling employment possibilities.

People quit their jobs for many reasons. Few do so to hurt their employers — in fact, most people quit for self-preservation. One 2021 study showed most Americans leave their jobs because they feel underpaid, disrespected or without opportunities for advancement. Rather than remain unhappy, people choose to move on. They should be able to do so, without fear of retaliation. Federal and state laws can, and should, protect businesses without hurting former employees.

House should agree to raise ceiling

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

President Joe Biden’s proposed budget for the federal fiscal year that starts on Oct. 1 would spend \$6.8 trillion off revenues of only \$5 trillion in taxes collected.

The imbalance, a \$1.8 trillion deficit, would get added to the national debt of \$31.4 trillion that has been building since 1789.

Guest Editorial

That’s how it’s always worked and the full faith and credit of the United States allows Congress to borrow to keep the federal government running.

The problem is that since Jan. 19 of this year, the U.S. Treasury has been at the legal limit of debt it can issue.

The \$31.4 trillion was capped 13 months earlier, on Dec. 16, 2021, when the limit was raised by \$2.5 trillion.

Normally, the Congress would agree to boost the maximum allowable borrowing, something it has always done since the debt ceiling was first implemented in 1917.

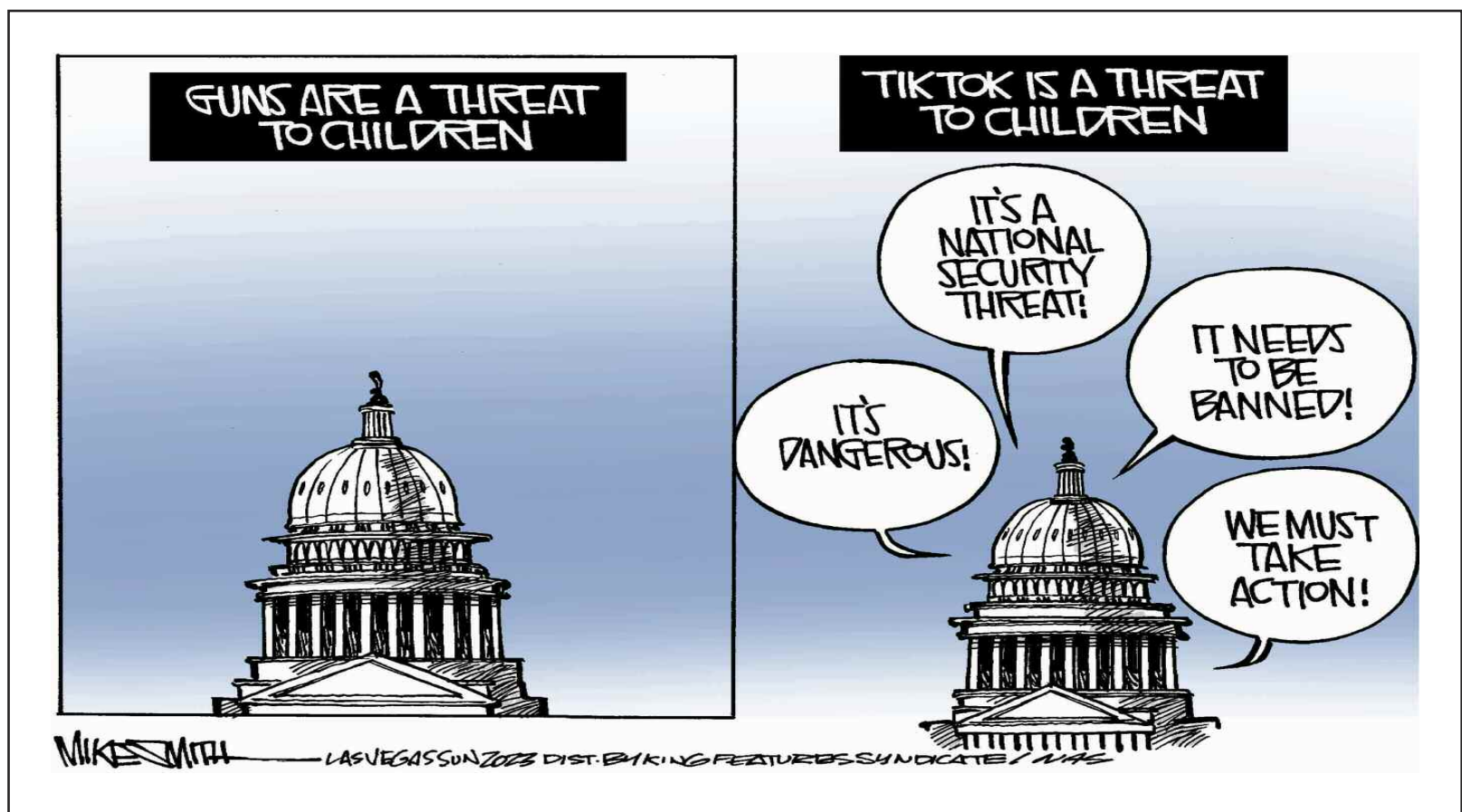
But this Congress, and we mean a hard-right chunk of House Republicans under Speaker Kevin McCarthy, refuses to raise the ceiling unless they get Biden and the Democrats to cut some of their favored programs, a naked political demand thrown into a situation that should be above partisanship.

While the ceiling has already been hit, the Treasury can do some maneuvering with spending for a few months, but by summer those stalling options will be exhausted and the ceiling will have to be increased.

At the same, next year’s budget will be being fought over, as the Constitution requires that “All Bills for raising Revenue shall originate in the House of Representatives.” Social Security, Medicare, defense will all be debated, along with Biden’s plans that he laid out in his budget speech last week.

That he presented his budget in Philly in the Electoral College battleground state of Pennsylvania means that the 2024 presidential campaign is gearing up, with Biden preparing to take on Donald Trump and whoever challenges Trump in the GOP.

What can’t get lost in the budget struggle and the campaign is the debt ceiling. McCarthy’s duty is clear: He must carry it out.



Bank failures warn of problems

By MICHAEL J. HICKS
HSPA Infonet

The failure of Silicon Valley Bank and Signature Bank are markers of broader problems in the banking sector more generally. To be able to understand what is happening and how it may develop in the months ahead requires some institutional background on banks and some history on bank failures.

Banks specialize to distinguish themselves, just like other businesses selling a fairly homogeneous product. Some serve a particular regional market or a type of depositor and lender: Banks like to mention this in their names, like ‘farmers’ or ‘merchants.’ Both SVB and Signature were large banks, serving a particular type of client. SVB both lent to and had deposits from businesses who received venture capital funds. Signature Bank had large investments in crypto currency.

The coming months will see several books written on management problems in both banks. At the very least, there will be civil lawsuits, maybe more serious legal risks in both institutions. But, serving one particular industry should not be sufficient to make a bank at risk of failure. That’s why they have risk management consultants and staff. What made these banks far more susceptible to a bank run was their extreme share of uninsured deposits.

The FDIC insures individual depositors up to \$250,000. This deposit insurance is designed to reassure folks with cash in a bank that it is safe. That experience came out of the Great Depression, in which a substantial share of Americans lost their deposits in bank runs. The famous scene from “It’s a Wonderful Life” offers a superb depiction of a bank run, especially George Bailey’s explanation of fractional reserve banking.

Through deposit insurance, most money in banks is insured. Out of the nation’s 4,800 odd banks, fewer than 20 have more

Michael J. Hicks



than one-third of their deposits that are uninsured. So, there’s little incentive for depositors to remove their money, precipitating a bank run. But, SVB and Signature both had roughly 90 percent of their deposits uninsured. Their clients were heavily exposed to a bank failure. This type of exposure largely defeats the benefits of deposit insurance.

The failure of SVB was a classic bank run. Uninsured depositors got wind of a looming bank failure and quickly withdrew their money. But, just as George Bailey explained, the money wasn’t there, it was invested elsewhere. Therefore, the FDIC closed the bank. Signature Bank followed suit, and to stem further bank runs, the FDIC engaged in a bit of regulatory sleight of hand to insure all deposits.

Federal regulatory intervention stopped, for the meantime at least, a broader run on banks. However, that doesn’t explain why the bank was in trouble in the first place. The answer is simple and familiar—the bank bought a large number of U.S. Treasury bonds at low interest rates. The value of those bonds have since plummeted, as more-recently issued bonds pay much higher interest rates. So, the value of existing bonds, with lower rates, drops.

Banking has multiple regulatory authorities, so compared to other industries, bank failures are rare. During the second worst financial crisis in history, from 2008 to 2012, a whopping 0.014 percent of banks were closed by the FDIC. During the regulatory infancy of the Great Depression, roughly one in three banks failed. This is a big change in bank failures, but it is not foolproof, and

more importantly it is not without cost.

At least one estimate has the bond valuation loss held by banks at roughly \$2.2 trillion dollars. That’s a bit more than 10 percent of all deposits. This suggests that more bank failures are likely. I do not think this implies a broad banking crisis, yet. It does mean the U.S. should use alternatives to high interest rates to stem inflation. There’s only one way to do this; higher net taxes. Neither political party has an ounce of fiscal probity between them, so we will slump thoughtlessly towards higher risk of a broad financial crisis.

The problems here cannot be remedied through deposit insurance or other banking regulation. No nation will permit a bank run if they possess the tools to do so. It is silly to blame the Biden administration for extending deposit insurance. The broader problem is that insuring all deposits increases some of the long-term risk of bank failures.

Depositors should know something about the financial acumen of their banker. Deposit insurance reduces their enthusiasm in understanding the business practices of their bank. It also deprives bankers of information about the underlying risk tolerance of depositors. This clearly incentivizes bankers to take more risks to attract new deposits, thus destabilizing the entire bank system.

In truth, most depositors don’t have a big effect on bank risk. Few people are going to carefully scrutinize their bank’s prospectus. Moreover, few of these depositors will move money between banks every few weeks to take advantage of small changes in interest rates on deposits. Thus, there’s a reasonable argument that the current \$250,000 insurance threshold on bank deposits does little to make banks more risky, while greatly reducing the risk of a bank run.

Still, any deposit insurance trades off risk of a bank run with

longer-term risk of bank insolvency. To insure every depositor, no matter how large their holdings, may be extraordinarily risky. Very large depositors have the capacity to understand the risk of individual banks, and they have the ability to chase small interest rate changes by moving large deposits between banks. These deposits should not be federally insured.

Sustaining a universal deposit insurance isn’t a risk, it is foolhardy. It essentially nationalizes the risk to banks, while leaving the reward in the private sector. One challenge for the Biden administration is how to reverse the universal deposit insurance they engineered for SVB. The Treasury secretary is already making clear not all large deposits will be protected. That is a good first step, but I think private deposit insurance or partial deposit insurance would be an improvement.

It is also important that the owners of SVB and Signature Bank were not made whole. Bad businesses must be permitted to fail, and investors share in that failure just as they share in success. The bank officers and board members likewise should suffer financially and professionally. This practice helps to discipline risky behavior by banks. Just to be clear, the investments weren’t risky; the unsecured deposit levels are a major red flag.

The longer inflation persists, the more pressure banks will feel on their portfolios. This is an early warning of the economic problems that accompany decades of unfettered government spending and tax cuts. We’d be wise to cut spending and raise taxes now. But, we aren’t yet wise.

Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

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Tribune News Service/The New York Times/Doug Mills

Former President Donald Trump speaks Jan. 28 to the New Hampshire Republican State Committee in Salem, New Hampshire. A New York City grand jury on Thursday indicted him on charges related to an alleged hush-money payment made to a porn actor in the final days of the 2016 campaign.

Indicts ...

Continued from page 1
High-profile cases of this type typically require a long time to prepare, and it is likely to take months before the case comes before a jury.

Trump reacted to the news of the indictment in familiar fashion, calling it "Political Persecution and Election Interference at the highest level in history," as well as a "Witch-Hunt" fueled by "Radical Left Democrats."

"The Democrats have lied, cheated and stolen in their obsession with trying to 'Get Trump,' but now they've done the unthinkable — indicting a completely innocent person in an act of blatant Election Interference," he said in a statement.

His statement cited a laundry list of grievances over past investigations, including his two impeachment trials and last year's FBI search of his Mar-a-Lago estate for classified documents. The former president criticized Bragg for investigating him rather than focusing on crime in New York and claimed the indictment would strengthen him and his movement.

"I believe this Witch-Hunt will backfire massively on Joe Biden," he said.

Trump's campaign quickly released a fundraising appeal referencing the indictment. Rep. Adam B. Schiff, D-Calif., who prosecuted Trump's first impeachment in the Senate, also asked donors to contribute to his U.S. Senate campaign following the news.

In a post on the ex-president's Truth Social platform, Trump's son Eric Trump called the indictment "third world prosecutorial misconduct. It is the opportunistic targeting of a political opponent in a campaign year."

Trump, who declined an invitation to testify before the grand jury, has denied an affair with Daniels

and alleged that she demanded cash because of his vulnerability as a presidential candidate. This month, the grand jury heard from Cohen, who in 2018 pleaded guilty to several charges including federal campaign finance crimes involving the hush-money payout. Federal prosecutors concluded the payment, which came shortly after Trump faced criticism, was an improper donation to Trump's campaign.

Cohen said in a statement Thursday that he took "solace in validating the adage that no one is above the law; not even a former President."

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, who is expected to challenge Trump for the Republican presidential nomination, said in a statement that his state would not assist with any extradition request, a move that would violate the Constitution's Article IV extradition clause. Trump's lawyers have previously said the former president would surrender if he was indicted. He is expected to be quietly brought in by the Secret Service to avoid a public "perp walk."

Trump has made repeated pleas for supporters to protest on Truth Social, predicting "potential death & destruction" that "could be catastrophic for our Country" if he is charged with a crime. Bragg received a written death threat in an envelope full of white powder last week. The powder turned out to be harmless, authorities said.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., urged people not to protest, but directed relevant congressional committees to determine "if federal funds are being used to subvert our democracy by interfering in elections with politically motivated prosecutions."

The Republican chairmen of the House committees on the Judiciary,

on House Administration, and on Oversight and Accountability demanded in a joint letter this month that Bragg testify before Congress about his investigation, which they called "an unprecedented abuse of prosecutorial authority." They also ordered Bragg to turn over material from his investigation, an unusual demand by lawmakers in an ongoing criminal probe.

Bragg has responded with letters refusing their demands, noting that Congress has no jurisdiction over a New York state criminal proceeding and had no right to involve itself in ongoing litigation.

Before the indictment was announced, Tacopina called on the New York City Department of Investigation, the city's inspector general, to investigate what he called the "weaponization" of the district attorney's office.

Law enforcement in New York, Florida and Washington, D.C., have prepared for the protests Trump and his allies encouraged, though it is unclear how large they may be. Bike-rack fencing was placed around the U.S. Capitol, and the New York Police Department erected steel barricades outside the Manhattan criminal courthouse. Pro- and anti-Trump rallies are planned in California and across the country Friday and Saturday.

There are three other criminal investigations involving Trump.

Fulton County District Attorney Fani Willis in Atlanta is weighing potential indictments stemming from Trump's attempts to change Georgia election results in the weeks after the 2020 election. In February, portions of the long-awaited Georgia special grand jury report were released, though the recommended charges and potential targets remain under wraps.

Budget ...

Continued from page 1
Burns said the Family and Social Services Administration's primary funding matrix included a \$8.9 million investment in dental Medicaid for fiscal years 2024 and another \$8.9 million in 2025, something she said was "incredibly inadequate."

The number, Burns continued, should be closer to \$27 million annually.

"If this appropriation request seems high, that is because it has been more than 20 years since there's been any kind of increase," she said.

Others, specifically economic development organizations, urged senators to do more for child care — a lack of which hurts their ability to attract workers, they said. Though eligibility and dollar amounts have increased for On My

Way Pre-K, the amount of funding hasn't.

Some also called up the legislature to increase the cigarette tax to \$2, up from \$0.99 currently, to promote smoking cessation and reduce Indiana's high smoking rate, which many say contributes to Indiana's poor health metrics.

The Senate hasn't yet released their version of the budget, which will be influenced by the above testimony.

"The budget will probably be something that goes down to the wire," Senate Pro Tem Rodric Bray said Thursday.

Senate Republicans will unveil their version of the budget the week of April 10 to meet a committee deadline. A revenue forecast is expected April 19 and will be used by lawmakers in conference committee to iron out final details.

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

BIRTH OF A WORRIER

WAIT - DID I FORGET SOMETHING?

WAS I SUPPOSED TO TURN SOMETHING OFF?

SHOULD I HAVE LOCKED UP BEFORE I LEFT?

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THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

3-31

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"Do we HAFTA say grace just for stew?"

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

You are South, and the bidding has gone:

North	East	South	West
1♦	Pass	1♠	Pass
2♦	Pass	?	

What would you bid now with each of the following four hands?

- ♠AQ987♥64♦J72♣KJ3
- ♠AJ83♥K73♦Q5♣K974
- ♠Q8643♥J62♦7♣AK98
- ♠AKJ7♥852♦983♣AQ5

suit, but also the important queen of diamonds in partner's suit. It's very unlikely that you will wind up with fewer than nine tricks.

3. **Pass.** True you have a better hand than your pass would normally indicate, but your side's chances of making game — once partner has announced a minimum opening bid — are rather poor. He probably has 13 or 14 high-card points, though he might have as little as 12 or as many as 15. Further action is therefore not justified. Your singleton diamond is a liability, not an asset. If you were to bid again, pushing the contract higher, you might well endanger the partscore of two diamonds your side can probably make.

4. **Three clubs.** Bidding a three-card suit is somewhat unusual, but sometimes you have to improvise to find the best contract. Game must be reached, and you are hoping partner will bid three notrump if he has a heart stopper.

You should not feel nervous about bidding a three-card suit under these circumstances. Partner is not allowed to pass, since a new suit bid by responder is forcing. The worst that can happen is that partner raises to four clubs, in which case you can belatedly support diamonds.

Tomorrow: A tough nut to crack.
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3-31 **CRYPTOQUIP**

GB ZWP TXXPLY OTNLYXTK
JGII TIJZTX QYE XONGKMIYV
WK GK XFNIVX, TNY ZWP

ETMGKQ GE BWN QNTEYV?

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ARE YOU WONDERING WHETHER OR NOT POPULAR SINGER PERRY SAW THAT CRICKET-LIKE INSECT? KATY DID.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	1 Includes in an email	4 Purchase	7 Nullified	12 Fez, e.g.	13 Id counterpart	14 Parisian river	15 Lyricist Gershwin	16 Assumes control of	18 "Fresh Air" ailer	19 Look of disdain	20 Beholds	22 ISP alternative	23 Crisp cookie	27 Herbal brew	29 Utters	31 Fulton's power	34 Morocco's capital	35 Imitate	37 Camp bed	38 PETA concerns	39 "Feels great!"			
	41 Remain	45 Throat affliction	47 Land in la mer	48 Passes	52 Spanish aunt	53 Count with an orchestra	54 "This — test"	55 Young — (tots)	56 Acquired relative	57 Mosquito barrier	58 Collection													
	2 "— diem!"	3 Gawk (at) abbr.	4 Wagers Calif.	5 Kampa-la's land	6 Oxen harnesses	7 Cold War initials	8 "The Matrix" character	9 Co. unit	10 Chemical suffix	11 Aachen article	17 Morays	21 Milky Way points	23 Plane assignments	24 Arrest										
	25 Alias	26 Calif. clock setting	28 Punk rock	29 Punk offshoot	30 Expert	31 Suptan lotion	32 Sigma follower	33 Mess up	36 "See ya!"	37 Pizza topping	40 Alan of "Argo"	42 "— An-dronicus"	43 Skirt style	44 Baker's need	45 Hearty dish	46 Jr.-year exam	48 Japanese sash	49 Moving vehicle	50 Immigrant's course (Abbr.)	51 Estuary				

Solution time: 25 mins.

Yesterday's answer 3-31

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Peanuts

BABE RUTH HAD A CAP! WILLIE MAH'S HAD A CAP!

TED WILLIAMS HAD A CAP! MAURY WILLS HAD A CAP! MICKEY MANTLE HAD A CAP!

MARCIE, WILL YOU SHUT UP???

EVEN JOE GARAGIOLA HAD A CAP!

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Rose is Rose

WE CAN'T DO A SHOW IF THE ENTIRE AUDIENCE IS ASLEEP.

I STILL INSIST ON GETTING PAID.

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Agnes

I AM GOING TO TREAT TODAY AS IF IT WAS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF MY LIFE. THIS WILL BE MY NEW ATTITUDE.

IT IS THE FIRST DAY OF THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.

OH...THEN THAT'S NOT A NEW ATTITUDE...IT'S RETROGRADE. I WILL TREAT TODAY LIKE IT'S THE DAY AFTER THE REST OF MY LIFE.

OK

YESTERDAY WAS DISAPPOINTING. THERE'S ALWAYS TOMORROW.

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Hi and Lois

MY FRISBEE IS STUCK IN THE TREE.

I'LL CLIMB UP AND GET IT.

WHY HAS CHIP BEEN UP THAT TREE SO LONG?

HE'S WAITING FOR JENNY TO COME OUT OF HER HOUSE.

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Between Friends

MAEVE MAY BE GOING TO THE PARIS OFFICE TO WORK FOR SIX MONTHS... I'D BE EXPECTED TO HELP RUN HER OFFICE HERE

THAT'S A BIG ADDED RESPONSIBILITY... WILL YOU BE COMPENSATED? AND WHAT ABOUT YOUR LEAVE OF ABSENCE WHEN AMELIA HAS HER BABY?

IF I DON'T GET INCREASED COMPENSATION, I'LL RETIRE... AND IF THEY DON'T WORK AROUND MY LEAVE, I'LL RETIRE - IT'S UP TO THEM

IT'S SURPRISING WHAT YOU'RE WILLING TO LOSE WHEN YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE

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Blondie

ARE YOU OFFERING YOUR FINAL-4 BURGER AGAIN THIS YEAR?

YEP!

BRING IT ON!

COMING RIGHT UP!

GANGWAY! NOTHIN' BUT NET!

THAT NEVER GETS OLD!

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Snuffy Smith

HAVE YA PICKED OUT A NAME FER TH' BABY YET, MERRI?

WE'VE GOT IT NARROWED DOWN TO TWO CHOICES !!

IT'S EITHER GONNA BE SUMPIN' HARD TO PRONOUNCE OR SUMPIN' EASY TO MISSPELL !!

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Beetle Bailey

I FOUND A BALL WITH YOUR NAME ON IT, SIR

THANK YOU. WHERE DID YOU FIND IT?

IN THE WOODS

I FOUND FOUR MORE OF YOURS THERE, TOO

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Flipped ...

Continued from page 1
Cale Rammel followed Bihn's double with a single past Houston third baseman Maddox Schutte to put runners on the corners. Homan then reached base on an error by first baseman Jeff Leist that brought Bihn home.
Riggs Tobe hit another ball to Schutte that was also thrown away, allowing both Rammel and Homan to score.
Houston managed to record two outs with a Daniel Patch walk in between, but Alex Dues then kept the Tribe's big inning going with a double. In Post's second at bat of the inning, another Schutte throwing error allowed Patch and Dues to score.
The Wildcats finally got out of the inning when Grisez grounded out to shortstop AJ Edwards.
"We're trying to take a more aggressive approach at the plate," FRHS coach Kevin Eyink said about the Indians' hot start. "Trying to be more aggressive and they executed that tonight. It feels great. It gives these guys some confidence. We've gotta keep building on it and keep it going."
The offense didn't stop for the Indians after the first inning. They scored

a run each in the third and fifth, as well as batting around in the fourth inning for another four runs. The first three batters of the fourth reached base, including singles for Bihn and Rammel. Homan then smacked his home run, a three-run shot.
"It feels amazing," Homan said. "Pretty much all of my siblings have done it besides one of them. I was glad to join that group right there."
The Indians performed well on the other side of the ball as well, only allowing four base runners and making one error.
Grisez made his first start on the mound for Fort Recovery and went the distance. He struck out the first five batters he faced before hitting Houston's Jacob Moorman with a pitch.
The rest of the Wildcats' offense came in the bottom of the third inning. Ethan Deinhart began the inning by reaching base on an error. After a fielder's choice, Rusty Vondenhuevel hit a double to right field to score Houston's first run. Vondenhuevel then stole third base before scoring on Reagan Steiner's sacrifice fly. Grisez got out of the inning when Luke Beaver flied out to center field. Grisez didn't allow another Wildcat

Sophomore Caden Grisez of Fort Recovery throws a pitch during Thursday's matchup against Houston. Grisez went the distance in his first varsity outing, finishing with eight strikeouts while allowing two earned runs.

to reach base as he earned the win. He struck out eight while allowing two runs as he needed just 55 pitches to finish off Houston.
"The nerves were there the first inning," Grisez said. "After that I was just in the zone. I really didn't think much and was just pitching."
Beaver suffered the loss for the Wildcats, allowing seven earned runs and two strikeouts in four innings.
Vandenhuevel was the Wildcats' top hitter with a double, an RBI and a run.
Fort Recovery received great production at the plate from Bihn and Homan. Bihn had two hits, scored twice and drove in three runs. Homan also finished with two runs and three RBIs.
Having evened their record with a blowout win after getting thumped in the opener, the Indians are hoping to carry the momentum into home games tonight against Mississinawa Valley and Saturday against Crestview.
"That's what we expect," Eyink said. "Celina is a good opponent and it was going to be a challenge."
"We were hoping to perform better than that. This is more what we expect. Hopefully we keep it rolling into the next game."

Swanson ...

Continued from page 1
Swanson remembers spending one night to himself on the back patio of their home. He built a fire and spent most of the night reflecting and praying. When he woke up the next morning, Swanson was convicted that Chicago was the right fit.
"It was like the last bit of more or less my flesh desiring to stay in Atlanta," Swanson said. "I went to bed all in my feels about staying. ... Before the contract stuff was even being thrown around, Chicago went from not the first choice to the first choice and people just don't know that."
"I'm convicted in who God's made me to be. That is where the work is done and why I believe I'm so open. ... It's my truth and so why would I not share what I believe. And that's kind of how I look at life."
Swanson's baseball value exists outside of the All-Star and Gold Glove-worthy numbers. Durability has become a trademark of his game. He played in all but one game the last three seasons with the Atlanta Braves, a stretch that included three division titles and a

World Series championship in 2021. Between the regular season and playoffs, Swanson started a whopping 414 games in that stretch at a premium defensive position.
His ability to stay on the field is the byproduct from shifting his focus after his injury-affected 2018 and 2019 seasons to a mindset of there's nothing anyone could do to take him out of the lineup. Swanson had an epiphany that the intensity of his offseason workouts weren't sustainable. As he evaluated his career, he saw inconsistencies from month to month, alternating between a good and terrible month.
So he lessened how much weight he lifted to better sustain his body and workload through a season thanks to a program his trainer developed. Swanson tries to lift every second game of every series, viewing it as "putting pennies in the piggy bank" and trusting the payoff will follow. It ties in with his work with massage therapists and nutritionists who all help him to stay focused on playing.

Grifol ...

Continued from page 1
He gave up a single to leadoff batter Jeremy Peña in the first and retired the next 19 batters, with the streak ending when he hit Yordan Alvarez with a pitch with one out in the seventh.
The Sox failed to score with the bases loaded in the fifth and seventh.
The Astros took advantage of their opportunity in the seventh. Cease exited after hitting Alvarez and giving up a single to José Abreu. Aaron Bummerwalked Kyle Tucker to load the bases with one out.

With two outs and the bases loaded, Alvarez scored on a wild pitch. Grandal tied the game with the blast to right-center the next inning.
Tim Anderson, who had two hits, walked to start the rally with one out in the ninth. Luis Robert Jr. singled and Vaughn followed with the two-run double off reliever Ryan Pressly.
Alvarez homered in the ninth, but Reynaldo López rebounded to collect the save as the Sox opened the season in impressive fashion.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Fort Recovery — Baseball vs. Mississinawa Valley — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Mississinawa Valley — 5 p.m.
Saturday
Jay County — Softball vs. Winchester — 11 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Softball vs. Bath — 11 a.m.; Baseball vs. Crestview — noon; JV baseball doubleheader at Fort Loramie — 11 a.m.; JV softball vs. Bath — 1 p.m.

TV sports

Today
2:30 p.m. — High school basketball: Geico Nationals — Semifinal (ESPN2)
4:30 p.m. — High school basketball: Geico Nationals — Semifinal (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NBA basketball: Oklahoma City Thunder at Indiana Pacers (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — Women's college basket-

ball: NCAA Tournament — LSU vs. Virginia Tech (ESPN)
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa vs. South Carolina (ESPN)
9 p.m. — High school basketball: The Throne National Championship — Semifinal (FS1)
Saturday
10 a.m. — High school girls basketball: GEICO High School Basketball Nationals — Championship (ESPN2)
Noon — High school boys basketball: GEICO High School Basketball Nationals — Championship (ESPN)
Noon — Women's amateur golf: Augusta National Women's Amateur (NBC)
12:30 p.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Aston Villa at Chelsea (USA); Bundesliga — Borussia Dortmund at Bayern Munchen (ABC)
12:50 p.m. — National Women's Soccer League — Portland Thorns at Kansas City (CBS)
1 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Xfinity Series — ToyotaCare 250 (FS1)

1:30 p.m. — High school boys basketball: The Throne National Championship (FOX)
3 p.m. — NHL hockey: Boston Bruins at Pittsburgh Penguins (ABC)
3 p.m. — College football: Michigan Spring Game (BTN)
3:30 p.m. — PGA golf: Texas Open (NBC)
4:05 p.m. — Major League Baseball: San Francisco Giants at New York Yankees (FOX)
4:10 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Pittsburgh Pirates at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)
4:30 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series — SpeedyCash.com 220 (FS1)
6:09 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Florida Atlantic vs. San Diego State (CBS)
7:30 p.m. — Major League Soccer: Seattle Sounders at Los Angeles Galaxy (FOX)
8 p.m. — NHL hockey: New Jersey Devils at Chicago Blackhawks (ESN2)

8:49 p.m. — Men's college basketball: NCAA Tournament — Miami vs. Connecticut (CBS)
9 p.m. — Professional Fighters League (ESPN)
Sunday
1 a.m. — Auto racing: Formula 1 — Australian Grand Prix (ESPN, ESPN2)
9 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Southampton at West Ham United (USA)
11:30 a.m. — Soccer: Premier League — Manchester United at Newcastle United (USA)
12:10 p.m. — Auto racing: IndyCar — PPG375 (NBC)
1 p.m. — NHL hockey: New York Rangers at Washington Capitals (TNT)
2:30 p.m. — Golf: PGA Tour — Texas Open (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — Auto racing: NASCAR Cup Series — Toyota Owners 400 (FS1)
3:30 p.m. — NHL hockey: Boston Bruins at St. Louis Blues (TNT)
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: HBCU All-Star Game (CBS)

7:08 p.m. — Major League Baseball: Philadelphia Phillies at Texas Rangers (ESPN, ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NBA basketball: Indiana Pacers at Cleveland Cavaliers (Bally Indiana)
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: State Farm College Team Skills and 3X3U Championships (ESPN2)
Local notes
Wrestling club hosting event
Jay County Wrestling Club will host Delaware County Championship Wrestling for a professional wrestling event April 8.
The DCCW show scheduled for 7 p.m. April 8 at Jay Community Center will feature an appearance by Olympic gold medalist and WWE Hall of Famer Kurt Angle. The card also features an appearance by WWE Hall of Famer Rikishi.
Tickets start at \$20 for general admission. To purchase tickets, call James Myers at (260) 726-5088 or Andy Frasher at (260) 251-2842, or visit

Jacks & Associates, 954 Industrial Drive, Portland.
5K circuit registration underway
Registration is open for the Run Jay County 5K Circuit.
The circuit features eight races running from April through August. Awards are presented in nine divisions.
The opening race in the circuit is the Sprint to Spring 5K at 9 a.m. April 22. Registration is \$20.
For more information, visit runjay-county.com.
T-Ball/coach-pitch registration open
Registration is open for Jay Community Center's Boomer tball and coach-pitch leagues.
The leagues are open to players ages 3 through 6. The registration fee is \$60 and the deadline is May 22.
For more information, visit jaycc.org.
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To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theocr.com.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, Portland, IN
Saturday Morning APRIL 8th, 2023 9:30 A.M.
OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Victor set of scales; metal barn cupola, Dutch Boy pail; egg baskets; large assortment vintage license plates; feed sacks to include Haynes Mill, Wayne, D&H feeds to name a few; Large assortment of crocks and jugs; copper boiler; tractor seat; steel wheels; pulleys; aluminum Pepsi carrier; and many other items not listed.
TRACTOR-EQUIPMENT
John Deere 5410 FWA diesel tractor with John Deere 5410 loader, cab, 3pt and 3200 hours; Troy built self propelled snow blower; Honda 250 moped; White 8hp. Chipper/vacuum; Craftsman 6hp weed whip.
Auctioneers Note: Auction preview to be held on Friday April 7th from 1pm to 5pm.
ROGERS FAMILY
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AU01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 2628 E 300 S, HARTFORD CITY, IN
SATURDAY, APRIL 8, 2023
10:00 A.M
TRACTOR-FARM EQUIPMENT-SHOP TOOLS
1996 JD 5300 utility tractor w/ JD 520 hydraulic loader 5704 hrs., New Idea GD manure spreader, 200 small bales of hay, 100 small bales of straw, Craftsman 20gal air compressor, Craftsman 10in table saw, pressure washer, Dewalt radial arm saw.
GUNS-KNIVES
Winchester model 74 22cal. tube fed, Japanese 7.7 military rifle, Smith & Wesson 22cal. 6 shot revolver w/box, holsters and barrels.
ANTIQUES-FURNITURE-HOUSEHOLD
Maytag wringer washer, 4ft. buzz saw blade, (3) military trunks, Shamrock military cooler, army and military uniforms, hats, sleeping bags and canteen, Tiffany, Aladdin, and oil lamps, much more
OWNERS: Rill Ford Estate by Drinda Ford
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AUCTIONEERS
Pete D. Shawver
AU19700040

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PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: 8909 S 1150 W REDKEY, IN
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023
10:00 A.M
VEHICLES—UTV—TRAILER—EQUIPMENT
2019 Buick Envision 40,380 miles (nice), 2005 Chevy Monte Carlo Tony Stewart edition 93,640 miles (1 of 1100 made), 2020 5ft x 8ft utility trailer w/ ramp gate.
PEDAL—TRACTORS—TOYS—ANTIQUES
JD 4440, JD 720, AC D17, JD 10 w/ 3 holes and engine compartment pedal tractors, Standard oil glass crown for premium fuel, 7-up cans w/advertisement from the Anderson.
COINS—FURNITURE—HOUSEHOLD
4 troy ounce clown silver bar, JD 5 coin collection .999 silver, gold and silver jewelry, much more.
LAWN AND GARDEN—SHOP TOOLS— MISC.
JD X590 riding mower 54in cut 305hrs, DR 28in brush cutter self-propelled w/ 3hrs, Craftsman roll away tool

90 SALE CALENDAR

boxes, Craftsman shop and hand tools.
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Sports

Swanson stars in Chicago victory

By MEGHAN MONTEMURRO
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

Dansby Swanson needed only one game to understand how “Go, Cubs, Go” hits differently when the tune resonates at Wrigley Field while wearing the home pinstripes.

Swanson’s Chicago Cubs debut Thursday encompassed exactly what the organization expected in the all-around shortstop when they signed him to a seven-year, \$177 million contract in the offseason. He became the first Cub to have three hits in his team debut since, fittingly, Nico Hoerner on Sept. 9, 2019. The duo teamed up to turn an inning-ending double play in the top of the third inning to help right-hander Marcus Stroman escape the bases-loaded jam.

Swanson also drove in a run, the Cubs’ first of the season, to spark a four-run third en route to a 4-0 opening-day win against the Milwaukee Brewers. A day that began with an early wake up and prayer ended with Swanson putting a rough offensive spring performance behind him to lead the Cubs to a complete win in front of contingent of supporters that included his parents and wife Mallory, whose Red Stars play their home debut Saturday.

“I’m really soaking up these moments and living in the present,” Swanson said. “Peace is only found in the right now. I couldn’t be more grateful to be here. I keep saying that over and over again. This is just the truth.”

Swanson’s path to the Cubs culminated a long year of uncertainty, a journey he discussed with the Tribune before the season. His career transition to the Cubs and getting married shortly before making a free-agency decision add to adjusting to his first time in about seven years leaving his home in Georgia.

“It’s actually been pretty challenging, like, I can’t even lie about that,” Swanson said. “I’ve been home and been very comfortable. And now that I’m out of that it’s in a way like having to rediscover myself and having battled with a lot of anxiety and things of that nature. ... Everything has been great (with the organization), but it’s still hard personally.”

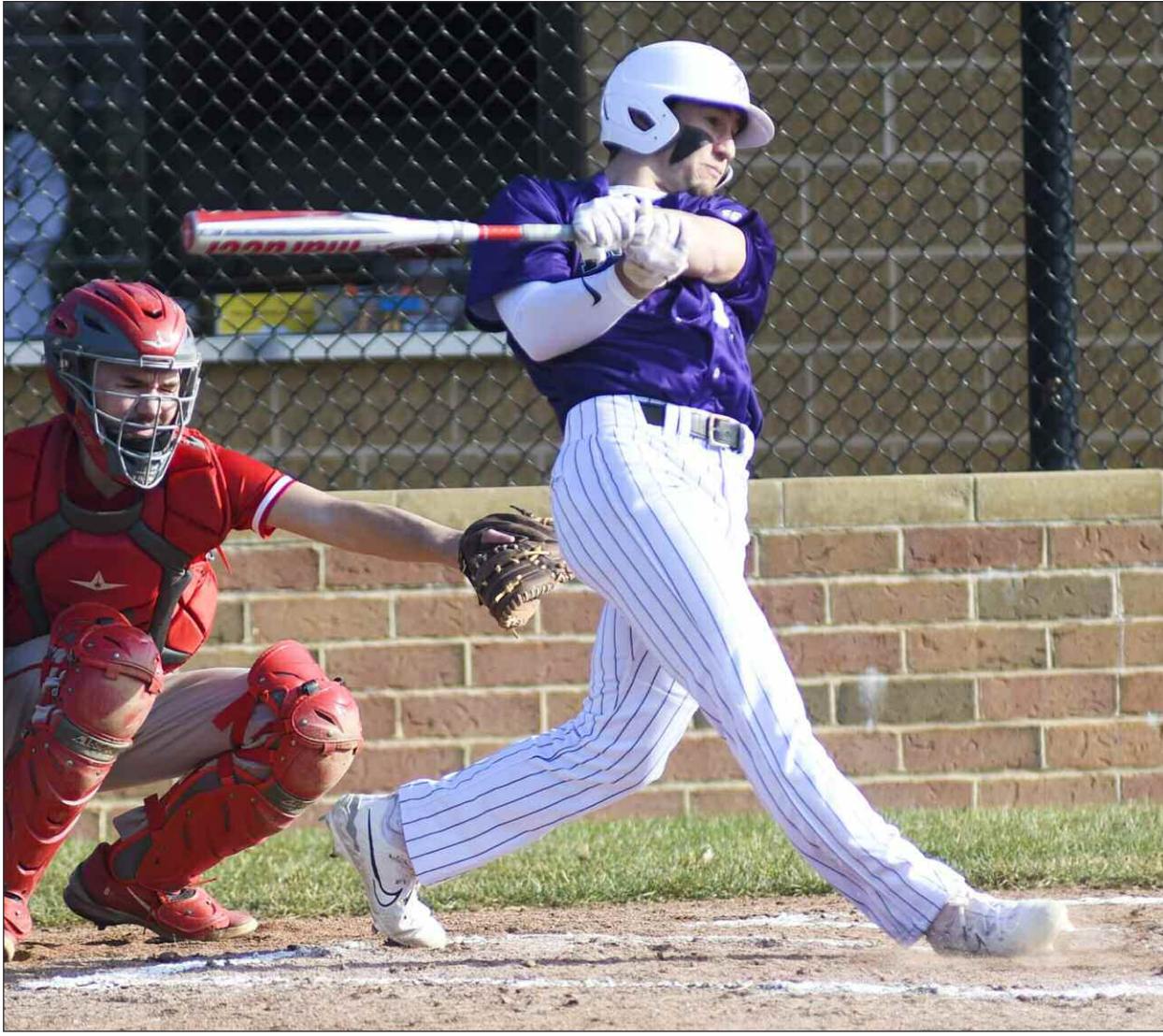
“Just battling through all the newness and working to find my footing and my confidence and what makes M, like, why I was brought here.”

The money the Cubs offered, a contract that is the second largest in franchise history, would in theory make Swanson’s free-agent decision easy once he and Mallory saw their level of commitment.

“Our criteria for making our decision was way more than just, all right, what’s the highest bidder and that’s what we’re doing,” Swanson said. “I mean, I’ve never allowed money to dictate my life whatsoever. ... My decision was based off where I felt led to be.”

Faith is deeply intertwined in the Swansons approach and outlook on life. They spent the full year leading up to his free agency praying on the looming decision. Before the Cubs and Swanson’s camp exchanged contract figures, he was starting to feel led to Chicago, which Swanson says was “really, really, really, hard for me to swallow.”

See Swanson page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School’s Troy Homan follows through on a swing during Thursday’s game against the Houston Wildcats. Homan hit his first career home run in the fourth inning as the Indians rolled to a 13-2, five inning victory.

Script flipped

Indians top Houston in five innings

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

HOUSTON, Ohio — The Indians got put down in a hurry, allowing two hits, four walks and three runs in the bottom of the first inning.

That’s how Monday’s 10-0, six-inning loss to Celina went.

Thursday was a different story for the Fort Recovery High School baseball team, as they flipped the script and got an early seven-run lead en route to a 13-2, five-inning victory over the Houston Wildcats.

“It feels good,” said FRHS junior Troy Homan, who hit his first career home run in the blowout

win. “We have a talented group. We have the potential to do a lot ... if we hit the ball we know we can win a lot of games.”

After getting shut out on only six hits against Celina, the Indians (1-1) came out in attack mode in the first inning against Houston (1-2).

Senior leadoff hitter Landon Post got the bats rolling with a single to right field and stole second base on the next pitch. Caden Grisez was then hit by a pitch to set up third baseman Wyatt Bihn, who blasted a ball to deep center field to score both Post and Grisez.

See Flipped page 7

Grifol gets opening win

By LAMOND POPE
Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

HOUSTON — The Chicago White Sox stood on the third-base line after both teams were introduced and watched as the Houston Astros held their 2022 championship ceremony before Thursday’s game at Minute Maid Park.

Every major league team is striving for the type of celebration that was on display.

The party was followed by strong pitching and late offense in a 3-2 Sox victory in manager Pedro Grifol’s debut in front of a sellout crowd of 43,032.

The Astros scored on a wild pitch in the seventh, and the Sox tied the game in the eighth with a two-out homer from Yasmani Grandal.

Andrew Vaughn gave the Sox the lead with a two-run double in the ninth.

Sox starter Dylan Cease and Astros starter Framer Valdez showed

why they finished in the top five in the American-League Cy Young Award voting last season.

Cease, the Cy Young runner-up, struck out seven of the first 10 batters he faced and finished with 10 strikeouts, matching Jack McDowell (1991) for the most by a Sox pitcher on opening day. Cease allowed one run on two hits in 6 1/3 innings.

Valdez, who placed fifth in the voting, worked out of trouble on a couple of occasions for five shutout innings. He allowed six hits and struck out four.

Cease, making the first opening day start of his career, said on Wednesday that he was looking forward to the adrenaline associated with assignment.

“I’m in a better spot to know how to utilize it,” he said.

That was the case as he used the fastball, curve and slider for strikeouts.

See Grifol page 7

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