



MAD life | A5

Yummerful carries legacy with new ownership

LOCAL | A3

Alex Board questions payment of \$4,772 bill

WORLD CUP | B1

Martinelli scores late to help Brazil beat Japan

The Herald Bulletin

TheHeraldBulletin.com

TUESDAY, JUNE 30, 2026

\$2.50

FAMILY MATTERS

Traditions carry on as Soap Box Derby returns to Anderson



Photos by Caleb Amick | The Herald Bulletin

Jack Hosier puts his head down before going downhill at Derby Downs as part of the Anderson Soap Box Derby on Saturday.



Kai Soissons adjusts her helmet before racing downhill.



Stella Allred sits in her lane before racing downhill.

Anthem to cut Meridian Medicaid coverage

CALEB AMICK THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — A major national health insurance provider will soon drop coverage of Medicaid clients at Meridian Health Services, leaving some of those clients to look elsewhere for health care.

Anthem will stop paying for Medicaid clients' services at Meridian as of July 25, but will operate as usual on behalf of its Medicare, commercial and privately-insured clients using Meridian services.

Meridian operates clinics in 87 locations in Indiana, including Anderson and Muncie. The primary Anderson location is at 1547 Ohio Ave.

According to a press release from Meridian, the Anthem change will mean that about 18,000 children and adults who use Medicaid will not be able to access Meridian's services, which include behavioral and primary care.

CEO Seth Warren said Anthem did not explain its reason for discontinuing Medicaid coverage for Meridian clients, but he said he suspects costs were a factor.

According to Indiana's Family and Social Services Administration, Meridian last year charged a flat fee (known as a PPS rate) of about \$625 per Medicaid service appointment, the highest rate among the 40 federally qualified health centers in Indiana and about \$300 more than the average PPS rate among those health centers.

Medicaid reimburses health centers \$100 per visit, leaving insurance providers to pay the vast majority of the bill in most cases.

Federally qualified health centers provide comprehensive healthcare to qualified clients regardless of insurance coverage and ability to pay.

Meridian is one of three federally qualified health centers in Madison County. The others are Aspire and Jane Pauley Community Health Center.

Aspire's PPS rate in 2025 was \$250 and Jane Pauley's was about \$400. Rates are impacted by, among other factors, the range of services offered and the health care needs of the population served by the health center.

Warren attributes the higher per visit fee at Meridian to its size and wide range of services, which include mental health care.

See MERIDIAN on A2

CALEB AMICK THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — "A family thing." That's how Alonzo Anthony described the Anderson Soap Box Derby, which returned Saturday after a one-year hiatus. Anthony served as director of Saturday's race at Derby Downs. He said the derby is a family tradition that started with his children.

"I was in the Breakfast Optimist Club

at the Sunshine Cafe where the Applebee's is now. In that Optimist Club, we would sign up to work the Soap Box," Anthony recalled.

He signed up to drive the cars and the racers back up the hill, which he has done ever since.

The Anderson race is part of an international organization known as the First Energy All-American Soap Box Derby, which hosts the world champi-

See DERBY on A2

Health department offers tips to stay safe, healthy in extreme heat



Stephenie Mellinger Health dept. administrator

LILY JONES THE HERALD BULLETIN

ANDERSON — With temperatures topping 90 degrees Monday and forecast to do so throughout the week, many local residents will be at heightened risk of heat stroke and dehydration.

Most of the Midwest was under a heat

advisory or an extreme heat warning as of Monday afternoon, according to the National Weather Service. Central Indiana was enveloped by a heat advisory.

Here are eight tips from Stephenie Mellinger, administrator of the Madison County Health Department, to stay safe and healthy during periods of extreme heat:

1. Drink lots of water and other fluids,
2. Apply sunscreen often and stay out of direct sunlight when possible.
3. Plan activities during morning or evening hours to avoid peak temperatures.
4. Wear light-colored, lightweight and loose-fitting clothes.
5. Check frequently on children and the elderly; both groups are generally more

sensitive to heat.

6. Look for these signs of heat exhaustion: heavy sweating, weakness, cold and clammy hands, nausea and vomiting.
7. Recognize symptoms of heat stroke, including confusion, rapid pulse, headache, loss of consciousness and nausea.
8. If symptoms of heat exhaustion or heat stroke appear, call 911 promptly.

Postal delivery information:

WEATHER

Today: Sunny and hot. Heat index values as high as 101. Southwest wind 7 to 10 mph. Tonight: Mostly clear.

94 | 74

Full forecast on Page A6.

INSIDE

MAD LIFE A5, A6
LOCAL & STATE A3
OBITUARIES A3
MARKETS A6

SPORTS B1, B2
COMMENTARY A4
COMICS B3
CLASSIFIEDS B4-B6

NEWS TIPS

Call 765-640-4800 or email newsroom@heraldbulletin.com with news tips.



SUBSCRIBE 765-640-4848 ADVERTISE 765-648-4218 CLASSIFIED 765-640-4825 OFFICE HOURS Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.



In your mailbox, on your way home, on your phone, in your office...

we have the coverage you need in the places you need it!

The Herald Bulletin

1133 Jackson Street • Anderson, IN 46016 • 765-622-1212 www.theheraldbulletin.com