



Guardians’ Adell, Williams reunited after trade

SPORTS, 1B

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Goodyear will close NC plant in 2027

Company wrestles with toll from high inflation

Patrick Williams

Akron Beacon Journal
USA TODAY NETWORK

Following the completion of a financial quarter that included decreases in net sales and tire unit volumes, the Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. announced plans to close one of its largest manufacturing facilities.

By closing its plant in Fayetteville, North Carolina, executives of the global, Akron-based company aim to improve segment operating income – a measure of profit – for the Americas.

Goodyear President and CEO Mark Stewart said on an Aug. 6 earnings call that the decision to close the plant is “a meaningful part” of offsetting inflation costs.

Additionally, he said the decision “is very much about balancing supply and demand in the areas of the market we want and need to participate in, versus trying to be everything to

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The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co.'s Akron headquarters. In a quarterly earnings call Aug. 6, CEO Mark Stewart said the decision to close a plant in Fayetteville, North Carolina, will help the company at a time when it is struggling with inflation costs.

LISA SCALFARO/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL



Jeff Iula celebrates his 60-year anniversary of racing in the Soap Box Derby with a ride down the same hill at Derby Downs on Aug. 6. Iula, 74, was 14 when he replaced a rider from the island of Okinawa in 1966. LISA SCALFARO/AKRON BEACON JOURNAL

‘Mr. Derby’ reenacts momentous 1966 ride

Jeff Iula’s 423rd trip brings back memories of his first

Patrick Williams Akron Beacon Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

Six decades after he first raced at Derby Downs in Akron, 74-year-old Jeff “Mr. Derby” Iula returned to the hill in the same jacket and helmet to relive that moment with another ride down Lane 1.

The International Soap Box Derby historian, Hall of Famer, volunteer, former general manager and all-around enthusiast came riding down the track at 1:55 p.m. on Aug. 6 – marking 60 years to the minute since his first race and his 423rd trip down the hill.

Back in August 1966, Iula filled in for a rider from the island of Okinawa who couldn’t make it to Akron. As part of the festivities, he rode in a Chevrolet Corvette and attended a 3,000-person banquet, he said, thumbing through a scrapbook of photos.

As for his latest ride, he said Aug. 6 – shortly after

getting out of his derby car and switching his mode of transportation from derby car to his two feet and walking cane – “Everything was very smooth today. I mean, I didn’t have 60,000 people cheering for the little kid from Okinawa, but ... it was neat.”

Iula says Aug. 6, 1966, was one of the greatest days of his life

When Iula was a child, his father, Ralph Iula, directed the Akron local derby competition.

Jeff Iula got bit by the derby bug – hard – and his love of it never wavered.

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Ramaswamy proposes merit pay for Ohio teachers

Jessie Balmert

State Bureau
USA TODAY NETWORK

The concept seems simple: Do your job well. Get a raise.

That’s the pitch Republican gubernatorial candidate Vivek Ramaswamy has

made for merit-based pay for Ohio’s public teachers and administrators.

“We have to start paying for performance for the teachers where the best ones should get paid more for helping our kids excel in reading and writing and math, where they are falling behind,” Ramaswamy told FOX News last

year. “But that means we have to cut a lot of the dead weight hanging around that isn’t serving our kids well either.”

The push for merit-based pay is not new. It has been around since the 1920s. The idea had a resurgence in the 1960s when about 10% of U.S. school districts had merit pay plans. But many of those

programs ended shortly after because of problems with overreliance on testing, union opposition, favoritism and funding shortages, to name a few.

“I have not heard one concept from Ramaswamy that’s a new concept,” said

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