

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Both bids clear \$13.5 million

*Project is required as part of city's agreed order with IDEM*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

This time, bids came in. They were about 50% higher than estimated last year.

Both offers came in at more than \$13.5 million as Portland Board of Works on Thursday opened bids for a portion of the city's work that is required as part of its agreed order Indiana Department of Environmental Management.

James S. Jackson Company of Bluffton had the lower of the bids opened at \$13.73 million. Jutte Excavating of Fort Recovery was the other bidder at \$14.62 million.

The board of works took the bids under advisement to allow time to review them.

Thursday marked the second chance of bidding to install a wet weather pump station at Portland's wastewater treatment plant after there were no bids for the work in December. (At that time, the city received four bids to put in an equalization basin, the other part of this step of the agreed order with IDEM.) As a result, the city was forced to re-bid the wet weather pump station. (Portland City Council also amended its bond related to the project, increasing the amount to \$30 million from the previous \$23.8 million.)

Jutte was the low bidder for the equalization basin at \$4.57 million while the other three bidders were all at \$5.2 million or higher.

See Bids page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Meet the candidates

Patrick Long, Ron Laux and Doug Loy chat Thursday at John Jay Center for Learning during the Meet the Republican Candidates event hosted by Jay County Republican Party. The event included several candidates for the GOP's nomination for U.S. Representative for Indiana's 3rd District as well as hopefuls for county commissioner and county council.

## Literacy bill moves to governor

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana senators gave final approval Thursday for a literacy overhaul bill that will require reading-deficient third graders to be held back a year in school.

Senate Bill 1, which seeks to remedy Indiana's literacy "crisis" by requiring schools to administer the statewide IREAD test in second grade — a year earlier than current requirements — and directing new, targeted support to at-risk students and those struggling to pass the exam.

But if, after three tries, a third

grader can't meet the IREAD standard, legislators want school districts to retain them.

That number could reach into the thousands according to recent data.

While much of the rest of the bill has received bipartisan support, the retention language has

been passionately debated in both chambers.

Numerous teachers, parents and education experts argued there are various, negative long-term effects for students who are forced to retake third grade. But Republican lawmakers remained firm that Indiana does a disservice to kids

who are promoted to the fourth grade without foundational reading skills.

The Senate voted 29-16 on Thursday in favor of the bill. Seven Republicans joined Democrats in rejecting the measure, in part over the House chamber's deletion of dyslexia-specific supports for young learners.

Senate Bill 1 now heads to Gov. Eric Holcomb for his review and signature. The governor has not said where stands on the final version of the proposal but included third grade literacy — and mandatory retention — in his 2024 legislative agenda.

See Literacy page 2

### Measure includes retention for those who don't pass IREAD test

## Retrospect

## Evansville firm applied for landfill permit



The Commercial Review

Farmland on Como Road northwest of New Mount Pleasant in Jefferson Township was targeted as a possible commercial landfill in 1989.

Thirty-five years ago this week, a southern Indiana firm took a step toward potentially establishing a landfill in Jay County.

The Feb. 27, 1989, edition of The Commercial Review featured a story about an Evansville company filing an application for a permit to operate a new 160-acre landfill in Jay County.

"There is another company that has submitted (an application for) a permit for Jay County," State Rep. David Hoover (R-Ridgeville) told the newspaper.

Jay County Commissioners indicated that the permit was being sought by Pro-Eco, a subsidiary of the Black Beauty Coal Company of Evansville. (Officials from the company declined to comment but said

Black Beauty was working to schedule a meeting with commissioners.)

Indiana Department of Environmental Management could not confirm the permit application.

The land being targeted by the company for a private, commercial landfill was located on Como Road just north of New Mount Pleasant and about a quarter-mile southeast of the existing landfill. An engineering firm had been conducting soil borings and drilling wells on the property for several weeks, apparently to gather data to support the application.

At the same time, existing landfill operator H&D Excavating had a permit application pending for a 40-acre expansion.

A local group known as Concerned Citizens of Jay County had raised questions about the test wells and pushed commissioners to enact a temporary ban on new landfills and adopt countywide zoning.

Hoover and State Rep. Jeff Espich (R-Uniondale) pledged to get answers from Indiana Department of Environmental Management about the operation of the existing landfill. They noted environmental issues that had risen to the top of the state's agenda.

"The new issue that's most important is the environmental issue, dealing with what we're going to do with the waste," Espich said. "But we're going to have to do something with this stuff; we can't store it in our bedrooms."

### In review

The Jay County Campus of Arts Place will host a performance by magician Jon Mobley at 3 p.m. today. Tickets are \$10 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at myartplace.org.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 45 degrees Friday. Today's high will be in the mid 50s with cloudy skies. Temperatures will climb with highs in the mid 60s Sunday and lower 70s Monday. There is a chance of thunderstorms Monday night. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Fort Recovery Local Schools is holding its choir cabaret beginning with Act I at 5 p.m. Sunday in the elementary/middle school auditoria. (Acts II and III will follow at 6 p.m. and 7 p.m.) Jay County High School's show choirs will perform their competition shows at 7 p.m. Monday in the auditorium.

### Coming up

**Tuesday** — Coverage of today's Third House Session at John Jay Center for Learning.

**Wednesday** — Results from the Jay County junior high swim meet against Bellmont.



# Bids ...

Continued from page 1  
(Jackson did not bid on that portion of the project.)

The city's agreed order with IDEM, signed in 2008, is intended to eliminate combined sewer overflows (CSOs) in the city by increasing the wastewater plant's capacity. (CSOs occur when the amount of water in the system exceeds its capacity, causing untreated stormwater and wastewater to be discharged into waterways.) In addition to the equalization basin and wet weather pump station, it also calls for the construction of an oxidation ditch.

The new system will allow excess water to be pumped into the equalization basin during times when the city's facility is overloaded. That water can then be pumped back and treated before being discharged.

Construction of the equalization basin is expected to take 330

days, with the pump station to take 515 days.

The Commercial Review learned after the meeting that Brad Dues has been named as the new superintendent of the city's wastewater department. He takes over for Brad Clayton. Westlake said he made the change a couple of weeks ago.

Also Thursday, board of works members Steve McIntosh and Mayor Jeff Westlake, absent Jerry Leonhard, approved a change order for the Meridian Street storm sewer project.

The change order was necessary, clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said, because of a change in the pavement requirements set by Indiana Department of Transportation. The additional cost came to \$446,500.

McIntosh and Westlake also approved a final pay request for the project from contractor Wat-

son Excavating of Redkey at \$1,168,867.98. (The only funds left to be paid for the project are retainage dollars totaling \$366,000.)

Asked after the meeting about the total cost of the project, Phillips said it totaled \$3.11 million.

The board of works also OK'd funding for a couple of capital improvement projects.

It voted in favor of security upgrades for city hall after police department investigator Jeff Hopkins explained that there was an incident last year during which someone broke windows in police cars, entered the building and attempted to get into restricted areas. Hopkins asked for funding for security doors with entry keypads in the front and reach of the building as well as bullet-resistant glass for the dispatch area,

clerk's office window and front of the building.

Moeller Door of St. Henry, Ohio, will handle the project for \$50,527.20.

Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel requested installing insulation on the upper level of the fire station in the area of the council chambers and fire department offices. He explained that the space houses the facility's heating, cooling and ventilation system and that it would function better if the space is insulated.

The board awarded the work to Fortkamp Foam of Fort Recovery for \$5,440.

In other business, the board:

- Approved the following: the purchase of a trash truck from Best Equipment for \$247,563.50, minus a \$45,000 trade-in, for delivery in 2026 (Portland City Council approved the funding for the purchase at its last meeting); a com-

mercial driver's license training reimbursement agreement with street and parks department employee Ronnie Reynolds (he will pay back a portion of the cost if he leaves city employment within three years); a sewage tap agreement for 619 S. Vine St.; a leak adjustment of \$166.26 for 413 Floral Ave.

- Denied a request from Jay County Fair Board for a leak adjustment for several leaks dating from July through November. Fair board president Aaron Loy said the leaks have been fixed. (He did not request a specific amount for the leak adjustment.) There was discussion about whether the ordinance that allows leak adjustments applies to a facility like the fairgrounds in the same way that it does to residential properties, with McIntosh and Westlake eventually voting to deny the request.

# CR almanac

Sunday 3/3	Monday 3/4	Tuesday 3/5	Wednesday 3/6	Thursday 3/7
<b>65/52</b>	<b>72/51</b>	<b>58/41</b>	<b>54/38</b>	<b>56/41</b>
Sunday looks to be mostly sunny. The high will jump to the mid to upper 60s.	Monday has a 50% chance of rain on Tuesday. Otherwise, warm with a high of 72.	Another 50% chance of rain on Tuesday when temperatures will drop to the upper 50s.	More rain is possible Wednesday. The low at night may dip to 38 degrees.	There's another chance of showers on Thursday under mostly cloudy skies.

# Lotteries

<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 7-9-1 Daily Four: 6-2-4-1 Quick Draw: 2-10-14-15-17-25-28-31-35-41-42-48-53-56-57-61-63-69-70-78	Pick 5: 3-9-4-7-4 Evening Rolling Cash 5: 4-28-32-33-36 Jackpot: \$337,000
<b>Ohio</b> Midday Pick 3: 0-9-4 Pick 4: 4-8-2-9	<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$443 million  <b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$607 million

# Markets

<b>Cooper Farms</b> <b>Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.17 April corn.....4.19 Wheat.....4.38	April beans .....11.36 Wheat .....5.08
<b>POET Biorefining</b> <b>Portland</b> Corn.....4.20 April corn.....4.20 May corn.....4.25	<b>ADM</b> <b>Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.00 April corn.....4.04 Beans.....11.32 April beans.....11.38 Wheat.....5.17
<b>The Andersons</b> <b>Richland Township</b> Corn.....4.07 April corn.....4.10 Beans.....11.29	<b>Heartland</b> <b>St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.10 April corn.....4.15 Beans.....11.10 April beans.....11.14 Wheat.....4.88

# Today in history

In 1498, Vasco da Gama of Portugal and his crew reached Mozambique on their first trip to India.

In 1861, Texas, having seceded from the Union, was admitted to the Confederacy.

In 1877, Republican Rutherford B. Hayes was declared the winner of the 1876 presidential election over Democrat Samuel J. Tilden, even though Tilden had won the popular vote.

In 1956, Morocco declared its independence from France. The country's first government was formed under sultan Muhammad V.

In 1972, the office of Jay County Prosecutor Ardee Helm Jr. was vandalized when two rocks were thrown through a window. It marked the second time the site had been vandalized in a month.

In 1973, Jay County Republicans held their Lincoln Day dinner with Indiana Lt. Gov. Robert Orr of Evansville and Thomas S. Milligan, state party chair, in attendance.

In 1985, the U.S. government approved a screening test for AIDS that detected antibodies to the virus, allowing possibly contaminated blood to be excluded from the blood supply.

In 2020, Ryan N. Hodson, 36, of Portland died when the John Deere Gator he was driving in Blackford County struck a utility pole. —The CR

# Citizen's calendar

<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.	<b>Thursday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

# Literacy ...

Continued from page 1  
Bill author Sen. Linda Rogers, R-Granger, and other Republicans have repeatedly said the proposal is not a "retention bill," and holding Hoosier kids back in school should "be a last resort." They maintain, too, that if literacy supports and remediation in Senate Bill 1 are properly implemented, no children will have to be retained.

Exceptions are carved out in Rogers' bill for students who have been retained in third grade before, special-education students, certain English language learners, and students who pass the math portion of the statewide assessment and receive remedial reading instruction.

Schools will also be required to

## Bill author says retention should be a last resort

offer summer school to struggling readers starting this year, although the final version of the bill does not force students to attend.

Attempting to compromise on retention, critics called for that portion of the bill to be put on hold

# Felony arrests

## Probation violation

A Dunkirk woman was arrested Thursday for violating her probation.

Shonda L. Easton, 44, 1261 S. Main St., pleaded guilty in April 2022 to burglary, a Level 5 felony. She was sentenced in Jay Circuit Court to four years in

Indiana Department of Correction with 30 months suspended and placed on probation. A petition alleging she violated the conditions of her probation was filed Jan. 12.

Easton was being held on a \$10,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

# Thousands mourn Navalny at funeral

By HENRY MEYER  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

Thousands of people lined up to pay their final respects at the funeral of Russian opposition leader Alexey Navalny on Friday, in defiance of a heavy police presence aimed at deterring protests against President Vladimir Putin.

Mourners chanted "Navalny" and "we won't forgive" as his coffin was brought to the Church of the Icon of the Mother of God in Moscow's southeastern Marino district. Some shouted "Putin is a killer" as the Kremlin critic's body was carried out after the service for burial at the nearby Borisov cemetery.

Riot police were stationed outside the church and at the cemetery, as authorities threatened punishment for any unsanctioned gathering. Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, said the Kremlin had nothing to say about Navalny, in response to questions from reporters, the Interfax news service reported.

U.S. President Joe Biden and European leaders have joined Navalny's family and allies in blaming Putin for the activist's Feb. 16 death in an Arctic prison camp. Ambassadors from the U.S. and a number of European states joined those gathered outside for the funeral.

The crowds turned out in defiance of an unprecedented Kremlin crackdown on dissent in recent years, in a display of discontent with Putin's nearly quarter-century rule and as Russia is waging war in Ukraine. The funeral was held a day after Putin set out plans for his next six years in power, in an address to Russia's Federal Assembly ahead of the March 15-17 presidential election.

The U.S. and Europe responded to the death of Putin's most formidable domestic opponent by imposing sanctions on Russia that have had a largely symbolic impact.

Russian police have arrested hundreds of people in Moscow and other cities for laying flowers at makeshift memorials to Navalny since his death.

State media have almost completely ignored the fallout from Navalny's demise. In contrast, it devoted extensive coverage to the death this week of former Soviet Prime Minister Nikolai Ryzhkov, aged 94, who was also being buried on Friday following a memorial service at Moscow's main Christ the Saviour Cathedral.

Navalny's widow, Yulia, didn't attend his funeral after aides said it would be unsafe for her to return to Russia from Europe. She denounced Putin as the "leader of an organized, criminal gang" in an address to the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France, on Wednesday, and has said she plans to continue her husband's fight against the Kremlin.

Penitentiary officials said Navalny, 47, died after falling ill at the maximum-security prison where he was serving 19 years on extremism charges.

## SERVICES

Saturday

**Meier, Nancy:** 4:30 p.m., Kuhn's Den, 442 E. Line St., Geneva.

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## Caring kids

East Elementary recently awarded students for being caring. Pictured above are kindergarteners (front row) Reagan Edmundson, Rosalie McLaughlin, Ivan Clem and Kase VanSkyock and (back row) Spencer Tapley, Memphis Meadows, Gabriel Caldwell and Leanah Landers.

## Syphilis diagnoses in babies increases

By **JOEL STREED**  
Mayo Clinic News Network  
Tribune News Service

A recent report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that looks at sexually transmitted infections (STIs) has some concerning news, especially when it comes to syphilis. While cases of other STIs, like chlamydia and gonorrhea, have decreased or seen modest increases, syphilis has jumped 80% in the four years from 2018 to 2022.

Dr. Stacey Rizza, a Mayo Clinic infectious diseases specialist, says syphilis is a bacterial infection that is primarily transmitted through sexual contact. But she says it also can be transmitted from an expecting mother to the baby.

"So if a mother has syphilis, whether she knows it or not, while she's

pregnant and is not diagnosed and treated, she can transmit that to her fetus, and the baby can be born with syphilis," he says. This is also known as congenital syphilis, and according to the CDC report, cases of syphilis among newborns rose 183% between 2018 and 2022.

Rizza says the baby may be born asymptomatic, "but can go on to develop manifestations of syphilis later, within weeks, months or even years, after they're born. But, unfortunately, many times it causes abnormalities in the baby, even when they're born. They can have abnormalities in their liver and their spleen, they can have rashes, they can have abnormality in the structure of their face, in the brain, and particularly involving the eye."

## Series of mishaps puts friendship into question

DEAR ABBY: My friend of eight years, "Lorna," had a family get-together for her daughter, who was graduating from college. I was not invited, which surprised me, since our families were always close. Both of our sons were best friends. After telling me about their party plans, Lorna asked if I could make my special cake. I felt obliged, so I made it and dropped it off the morning of their party.

Because it was a special gathering, I didn't want to put it in a cheap-looking plastic cake carrier. So I put it on the only other option I had — an ornate cut glass cake stand I had received as a gift years before. A few days after the party, Lorna and I met for breakfast and she told me

*Dear Abby*



she was sorry, but when her mother was washing the stand, it slipped out of her hands and she broke it. I was crushed because it had been given to me by a special friend.

I know accidents happen, but shouldn't they have offered to replace it? Lorna has mentioned that her parents were struggling financially, but she and her husband seem well-off — they have a large home and

drive expensive cars. If Lorna had offered, I probably wouldn't have taken her up on it, but offering no compensation seemed odd to me. I no longer feel as close to her as before. Am I right to feel this way, or should I just let it go? — SWEET TURNED SOUR

**DEAR SWEET: Lorna may have money, but she apparently lacks class. She should have offered to replace the cake stand her mother broke. Of course, you could ask her to replace it, but even if she did, it wouldn't have the sentimental value of the one that was lost. In light of your long friendship, and now realizing Lorna has feet of clay, I suggest you let this go if you can. But in the future,**

**if she asks again, think twice before putting on your apron.**

.....

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I have been married 46 years. During the last five, he has procrastinated about doing our income taxes to the point that we have been charged penalties. He keeps saying he'll work on it, but everything else is a bigger priority.

I gathered all the necessary documents and printed out a tax worksheet. My husband has his own small business, which complicates things. I hate this hanging over my head. I told him I won't go on our planned camping trip if this isn't done beforehand, and I intend to follow through. I can't get him to

give me a straight answer for why he keeps doing this. It's ruining our otherwise great marriage. — MONEY WOES IN FLORIDA

**DEAR MONEY WOES: Locate a certified public accountant who can take over this task. Then give your husband a deadline to file the taxes, and if he doesn't meet it, turn the necessary information over to the CPA, who may be able to discover something advantageous.**

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*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.*

## Community Calendar

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

### Today

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-729-7000.

**ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Dunkirk. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

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

**A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

### Friday's Solution

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

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.

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## WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

### For Jay County Schools March 4-8

**Monday: Main Entrees:** Doritos nacho cheese tortilla chips, seasoned beef taco meat, shredded lettuce, shredded cheddar cheese **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned refried beans

**Tuesday: Main Entrees:** Beef hot dog on whole wheat **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** French fries

**Wednesday: Main Entrees:** Chicken nuggets, macaroni & cheese **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned peas

**Thursday: Main Entrees:** Toasted cheese sandwich **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Campbell's tomato soup

**Friday: Main Entrees:** Classic cheese pizza **Alternate Entrees:** Cereal, goldfish & yogurt fun lunch, cheddar/mozzarella salad, breadstick **Sides for all meals:** Seasoned carrots

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New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

The nation's highest court Monday heard oral arguments in challenges to Florida and Texas laws in which state governments seek to force social media companies to let more people say more things on their platforms — in other words, to behave less like publishers and more like free-for-all public squares.

Though it may seem counterintuitive, the First Amendment is firmly on the side of companies that try to set and enforce rules of the road. The attempts by so-called conservatives to demand X, Facebook and their cousins to turn into Wild West where no moderation of the postings is constitutionally permissible misunderstand the fundamentals of American rights and responsibilities.

## Guest Editorial

The social media landscape is fairly crowded.

There's X, which really is Twitter; Facebook and Instagram and Threads, all owned by Meta; TikTok; Google's YouTube; and smaller competitors like Bluesky and Mastodon. There's nothing especially novel about posting a message or photo or video that can be instantly seen — and reacted to — by hundreds if not thousands if not millions of people worldwide.

Rather, one of the biggest things that differentiates the companies is their approach to

who gets to post and under what conditions. While none allow users to enthusiastically support terrorism, some are friendlier to bullies. Some aggressively police disinformation, such as lies about elections and vaccines and crime statistics, while others have an easier hand. Sometimes a social network promises almost total freedom; invariably, it fails — because users get dragged into the muck.

Thus, companies train people and algorithms to try to flag objectionable content and take it down. Serial offenders get their accounts suspended or worse. On good days, some semblance of civility, imagine that, prevails.

Of course, mistakes are made — with hyperprotective filters sometimes silencing legitimate expression, including news stories that rub some

the wrong way (like COVID lab leak theories). Conservatives are convinced that those mistakes habitually censor right-wing speakers, leaving progressives free to dominate these spaces.

Even if that were true, and a quick tour of any of the aforementioned social networks proves otherwise, demanding all popular social networks to shred essentially all their content moderation is to strike a blow against freedom. Moderation, even when imperfect, is an attempt to create a decent climate for lively expression.

A platform that chooses to let people share political news and commentary can't crack down on those who say Donald Trump is proven to have won the 2020 election. Deciding what is allowable politics is not something that these private firms want to

do. Alternatively, they'll have to get even more aggressive in their content moderation — and ban absolutely all speech on many subjects, lest they run afoul of the courts' demand for content neutrality.

No, Twitter and Facebook and the like will never be equivalent to newspapers, pure publishers who affirmatively select and edit each and everything they print and are held legally liable if they smear someone in the process. Open-to-almost-all networks can't be expected to review millions of posts every second. But neither are they public squares where everything short of incitement and other illegal forms of expression must be permitted.

If the courts try to force them into one box or another, they'll create far bigger problems than they purport to want to solve.

# Keep out-of-school programs growing

By TRACY DAVIDSON  
and LUCAS DAVIDSON  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

As dual-working parents with in-person jobs, we have to outsource care for our two elementary-school-aged daughters after school and during summers. We want these hours spent outside of the classroom to count.

That's why we're so grateful that our rural community has high-quality out-of-school time programming. Our daughters, Olivia, who is in third grade, and Sophia, a kindergartener, spend multiple evenings after school, as well as summers, at the Boys & Girls Club of White County. Through their experiences at the club, they've forged relationships with other kids and adults, grown academically, become more confident, and discovered new interests.

Rural communities such as ours often get overlooked when it comes to programming like after school sessions, summer learning experiences, and high-dosage tutoring. For every Indiana student enrolled in an out-of-school time program, there are three more who lack access to such options, due to factors such as cost, transportation barriers, and lack of programming. Such needs are especially acute outside of larger towns and metropolitan areas.

During the pandemic, the Indiana legislature increased funding for high-quality programming like the Boys & Girls Club, which, in our section of the state, expanded its reach from five to 29 sites with support from state funds. We're encouraged to see that lawmakers are examining ways to continue this funding in perpetuity as a way to build on the positive momentum out-of-school time programs have created for students' academic achievement, career development, and social advancement.

Our daughters have experienced such benefits firsthand. They've built relationships with staff members at the Boys & Girls Club, many of whom have worked at the club for years, and others who attended as students and came back to work with kids because of their positive experiences. We've seen how these relationships with caring adults

## Guest Opinion

build confidence and help our girls establish a positive sense of self.

These programs also have sparked our daughters' interests in the world around them — setting the foundation for future careers. Our oldest, Olivia, attended robotics camp at the Boys & Girls Club one summer. The camp's programming on the solar system, delivered in partnership with Purdue University, exposed her to physics and astronomy, thereby sparking her curiosity and inspiring a potential career.

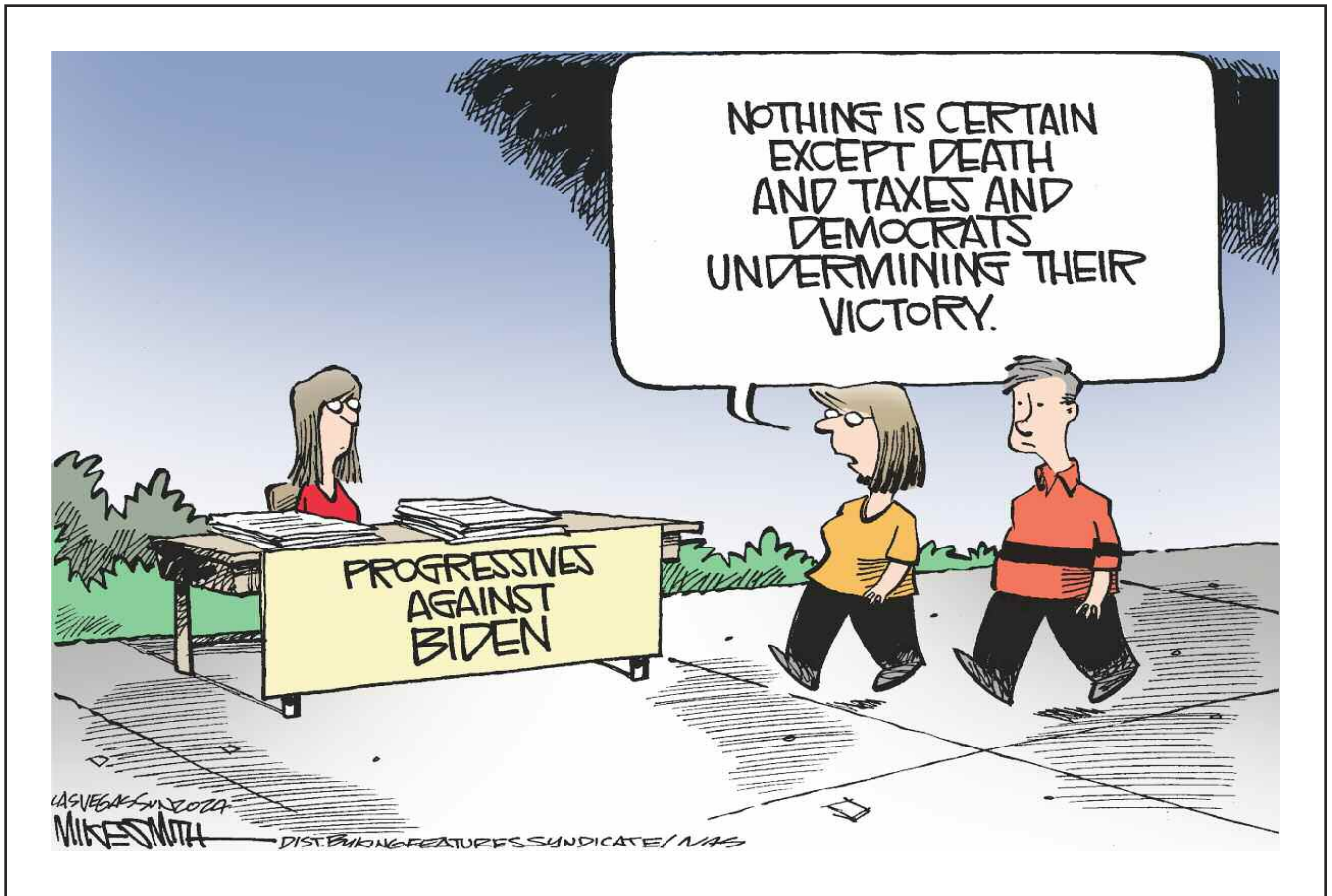
The club also provides families like ours with information on parenting and adolescent mental health and development. These expert resources have been invaluable, equipping us to do our job of parenting more effectively.

And, there's a practical impact for working families like ours. Without the club, we would be paying high child care expenses or bringing our girls to work at the local garden care center that our family owns and Tracy manages. The first option would be costly, and the second wouldn't give our girls the same enrichment and academic support needed to reach their full potential.

We want every student in Indiana to have access to the kinds of opportunities our daughters have had through high-quality summer and after school programs. It's time to recognize that the school day is no longer enough to ensure students emerge ready for what follows a K-12 education.

We can attest that investing in out-of-school time programming pays off immediately for children and working families. It will pay back dividends over time, resulting in a next generation that is more equipped with the skills, relationships, confidence, and career knowledge they need to succeed.

.....  
*Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.*



# 'Work longer' is not a solution

By TERESA GHILARDUCCI  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

In April 2023, Betty Glover, a 91-year-old grocery store clerk in Oregon, was finally able to retire after a GoFundMe campaign raised \$82,000 for her. After seven decades in the workforce, Glover couldn't save enough to retire and cover basic expenses such as for food and medicine.

"I hate the thought of not working," Glover told a local TV station. But she wanted to spend time with her two children, four grandchildren, six great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Glover's was not the only GoFundMe retirement. Earlier that year, 82-year-old Walmart cashier Butch Marion retired, thanks to a GoFundMe campaign.

These outpourings of generosity are not feel-good stories; they reveal America's severely broken national retirement system. Welcome to retirement American style, where retirement is work.

Most Americans do not have enough money to retire on. Forty-four percent of households with members ages 55-64 have no savings at all. The median retirement account balance is about \$100,000; most middle-class people need \$600,000. No wonder there are about 39 million workers 55 and older in the U.S. Workers 75 and older are the fastest-growing age segment of the workforce.

While some older workers are making good money, feathering their retirement nests and enjoying comfortable jobs — senators, corporate executives, lawyers — millions are stuck in low-paying, physically demanding and dangerous jobs at which they have little if any voice or power.

Older workers are closing the earnings gap with their younger counterparts, not because employers sudden-

Teresa Ghilarducci



ly prize age and experience more than they did in the 1980s, but because older workers are ramping up their hours to meet financial needs, as highlighted by Pew Research.

When retirement security declines, so does older workers' bargaining position to demand good wages and conditions. Employers know that more older people must keep working, even with less favorable wages, hours and conditions. My research shows that at least two-thirds of workers 62 and older are working because they don't have enough money to retire.

Workers over age 55 are disproportionately represented in jobs that are lower-paid and physically demanding: 31% of home health and personal-care workers and 34% of janitors are over 55, while older workers make up 23% of the overall workforce.

This grim picture is on track to get worse. Most of the fastest-growing jobs in the U.S. economy, such as in health care and software engineering, are unlikely to benefit older workers. (The software sector has a median age of 38, while the wider workforce median age is 42.) Many of the jobs in health care are low-paid, physically taxing work that may not be a good fit for most people in their 60s or 70s.

Paradoxically, even as many older folks need to keep working to make ends meet, most people 62-70 are not able to work for a host of reasons and will retire with inadequate incomes or savings. As the Schwartz Center

for Economic Policy Analysis reported in 2019: "Between the years 2010 to 2018, 55.3 percent of workers aged 55 and up in the bottom half of the income distribution were forced to leave the workforce because of layoffs, plant closings, age discrimination, poor health, and family concerns."

And yet, the "work longer" mantra persists; the Economist magazine featured a headline last month that trumpeted: "Why you should never retire." That may have benefits for the economy when the labor market is tight, but the nation should not depend on people working longer to make up for inadequate retirement-income security. This only exacerbates inequalities in wealth, health, well-being and retirement time.

Working until you drop is not a civilized plan for a civilized society. We desperately need a Gray New Deal that improves jobs for older workers while also restoring and boosting pensions and retirement security. Federal and state incentives should promote better-paying and age-appropriate work. Improved job training and stronger unions would also make a difference.

An Older Workers' Bureau at the Department of Labor could help steer and support such efforts. Strengthening pensions would help ensure that older workers get better wages and conditions and are working by choice rather than necessity. We need subsidized guaranteed retirement accounts and advanced-funded pensions, and an expanded Social Security system.

Some may fret about the price tag of a different approach, but the status quo is unacceptable and unsustainable in both human and economic terms. A Gray New Deal would save money and save lives.

.....  
*Ghilarducci is a professor of economics at the New School for Social Research.*

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JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus



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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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## 3-2 CRYPTOQUIP

MLXWGHIIYIAE RXDIAE DKXZMW  
CWXBRI BDMV GE RWXZY  
CWHYRMD JYV CWHYRMDDMD:  
KMHW RXYVHIHXYMW.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT WOULD ONE CALL THE SIMPLIFIED INFORMAL LANGUAGE COMMON AMONG MAILMEN? CARRIER PIDGIN.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals S

### Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

#### Central questions

1) What son of a former Cincinnati Red became the youngest player to reach 350 home runs in 1998?  
2) What city is home to Carnegie Mellon University?

1) Ken Griffey Jr.  
2) Pittsburgh

## 3-4 CRYPTOQUIP

WZ J HCFITB CZ ITJNZFT RBJ  
PJPPJTR JEB WD J RGFQQT B  
ZJE Z ECP BJEQG, JEB QGBN  
WD CQQBE RIJHB?  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: EXORBITANTLY COSTLY SHOWER PRODUCT USED BY CROWN PRINCES AND PRINCESSES: HEIR CONDITIONER.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals M

### CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to basketball. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 20 = T)

A. 11 7 19 19  
Clue: Toss ball

B. 11 1 21 12 20 19  
Clue: Score

C. 4 1 24 14 20  
Clue: Playing area

D. 2 7 19 15 9 20  
Clue: Hoop

### WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to basketball.

BLRDEIB

Answer: Dribble

### Guess Who?

I am an actor born in Connecticut on March 8, 1977. I was in an all-male cappella group in high school, but wanted to try professional acting. I am best known for a breakout role on a popular television show about four teens in a coastal town in which I was the titular character.

Answer: James Van Der Beek

### kids' corner

### FOOD FACT!

THIS PART OF THE BODY STORES IMPORTANT NUTRIENTS. THAT MAKES IT A HIGHLY NUTRITIOUS FOOD.

ANSWER: LIVER

### How they SAY that in...

ENGLISH: Nutrient  
SPANISH: Nutriente  
ITALIAN: Sostanza nutriente  
FRENCH: Nutriment  
GERMAN: Nährstoff

### Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

2		19	27
	8		26
9	10		33
26	24	36	

Solution:

11	01	8
6	8	51
01	8	2

### THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

MAR 4

- 1769: MOZART DEPARTS ITALY AFTER THE LAST OF HIS THREE TOURS THERE.
- 1837: THE CITY OF CHICAGO IS INCORPORATED.
- 1913: THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR IS FORMED.

### New word

**MINERAL**  
a solid inorganic substance of natural occurrence

### MARCH MADNESS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS:

- BANK
- BASKETBALL
- CENTER
- COURT
- DEFENSE
- DRIBBLE
- FORWARD
- FOUL
- FREE THROW
- GUARD
- HOOPS
- LAYUP
- LINEUP
- NET
- OFFENSE
- OPEN
- OVERHEAD
- PALMING
- PASS
- REBOUND
- SHOOTER
- SIDELINES
- TRAVELING
- WALKING

### Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

RUTNOITNI CFSAT

Answer: Nutrition facts

### Did You Know?

NUTRITION IS THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING FOOD NECESSARY FOR HEALTH AND GROWTH.

### GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

ANSWER: CARLOTS

## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Buddhist sect  
4 Sparkling Italian wine  
8 Yankee nickname  
12 Adam's mate  
13 Thunder god  
14 Cupid's realm  
15 "Toy Story" dinosaur  
16 Novelist Victor  
17 "So be it"  
18 "Think again!"  
21 Pen filler  
22 Cartesian conclusion  
23 Nile feature  
26 6 on a phone  
27 Buddy  
30 Eventful periods  
31 Floor cover  
32 Greek cheese

33 Sardonic  
34 Cranberry territory  
35 More mature  
36 Biz bigwig  
37 Altar  
38 In agreement  
45 Sushi wrapper  
46 Mon. follower  
47 Remiss  
48 "— and Away"  
49 Some JFK guesses  
50 Bakery purchase  
51 Beholds

52 Novelist Jaffe  
53 Rds.  
DOWN

1 Nada  
2 Squared  
3 Adjoining  
4 Goddess of wisdom  
5 Peel corn  
6 Takeout request  
7 Pressing things?  
8 Car thief's dread  
9 Capital of Italia  
10 Exceeding  
11 Contradict  
19 Sold-out shows  
20 Eastern path  
23 Lawn coating  
24 Blunder  
25 Non-clerical  
26 Coffee holder  
27 Nap site  
28 Hwy.  
29 Rowing need  
31 Farm waker-upper  
32 Dud  
34 Spell-off  
35 Texas city  
36 Gambler's stacks  
37 "That is to say ..."  
38 Burden  
39 "Uh-uh"  
40 Verifiable  
41 Prefix with pilot  
42 Swiss peaks  
43 Pace  
44 Former mates

Solution time: 26 mins.

M	C	S		D	A	L		J	U	L	E	P	
I	A	N		O	V	O		E	S	T	E	E	
N	I	A		W	E	S	T	W	O	R	L	D	
O	R	C		D	R	E	S	S					
R	O	K	U	S	R	A		D	A	D	A		
				L	Y	E		R	E	A	S	O	N
E	L	E	N	A				R	U	L	E	D	
K	A	Y	A	K	S			U	R	N			
G	H	E	E		C	O	S		T	H	U	D	
				M	O	N	E	T		E	M	U	
W	O	R	L	D	W	I	D	E		I	I	N	
E	T	H	I	C		O	U	R		S	A	N	
S	T	O	L	T		N	P	R		T	K	O	

Yesterday's answer 3-2

## Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

### Good management pays off

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ Q 8  
♥ J 8 5 2  
♦ K 7 5  
♣ A 6 4 3

WEST  
♠ 6 4  
♥ A K 10 9 4  
♦ 10 9  
♣ Q 10 8 2

EAST  
♠ 7 3  
♥ Q 7 3  
♦ A Q J 6 4 2  
♣ 9 5

SOUTH  
♠ A K J 10 9 5 2  
♥ 6  
♦ 8 3  
♣ K J 7

The bidding:  
South West North East  
4♠ Pass Pass Pass  
Opening lead — king of hearts.  
Let's say you're in four spades and West leads the king of hearts, East following low. West shifts to the diamond ten, and when you cover with the king, East wins with the ace.  
East continues with the queen of diamonds, West contributing the nine, and then plays the jack. When you ruff high, West discards a heart, and the question is how to proceed from this point on.  
It might seem that you must eventually rely on a club finesse to make the contract, but actually you have a much better chance than that.

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## CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Indian lentil stew  
4 Shame  
9 "Blue Bloods" airer  
12 Exploit  
13 "Time in a Bottle" singer  
14 Odometer start  
15 Black, brown or blond, e.g.  
17 Numerical prefix  
18 Bam-boozle  
19 Temporary car  
21 Coniferous trees  
24 "Buenos —!"  
25 In the style of  
26 Pooch  
28 Salad green  
31 Brooches  
33 Refusals  
35 Entreaty  
36 Take hold  
38 "That'll be — day!"

40 Magic, on scoreboards  
41 Yankee nickname  
43 Noah's landfall  
45 Prefix with "logical"  
47 Hosp. scan  
48 Like Abner  
49 Naturally lit room  
54 ET's craft  
55 Incite (Fr.)  
56 Water (Fr.)  
57 Old space station  
58 New stem  
59 Work unit

DOWN

20 50-and-over org.  
21 Beanies  
22 Writer Wiesel  
23 "Forrest Gump" lieutenant  
27 Obtained fluids  
29 Crime lab variety  
30 Bagel  
32 Round Table titles  
34 Hair cleanser  
37 Loud sounds  
39 Straying  
42 Moola  
44 Football filler  
45 Jack Horner's prize  
46 LP player  
50 Gp. such as Amnesty International  
51 Director Ang  
52 Rowing need  
53 Cheap hairpiece

Solution time: 21 mins.

Z	E	N		A	S	T	I		A	R	O	D	
E	V	E		T	H	O	R		L	O	V	E	
R	E	X		H	U	G	O		A	M	E	N	
O	N	T		H	E	C	O	N	T	R	A	R	Y
				I	N	K			I	A	M		
D	E	L	T	A		M	N	O		B	R	O	
E	R	A	S		R	U	G		F	E	T	A	
W	R	Y		B	O	G		Q	L	D	E	R	
				C	E	O		I	D	O			
O	N	T		H	E	S	A	M	E	P	A	G	E
N	O	R	I		T	U	E	S		L	A	X	
U	P	U	P		E	T	A	S		P	I	E	
S	E	E	S		R	O	N	A		S	T	S	

Saturday's answer 3-4

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13								14
15				16								17
18			19						20			
			21						22			
23	24	25				26				27	28	29
30						31				32		
33						34				35		
						36				37		
38	39	40				41				42	43	44
45						46				47		
48						49				50		
51						52				53		

## Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

### Famous Hand

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ 9 7 2  
♥ K Q 2  
♦ 10 9 7 6 5  
♣ 9 6

WEST  
♠ —  
♥ 8 7 6 4  
♦ J 8 3 2  
♣ J 10 8 5 4

EAST  
♠ J 8 3  
♥ J 10 9 5 3  
♦ A K Q 4  
♣ 3

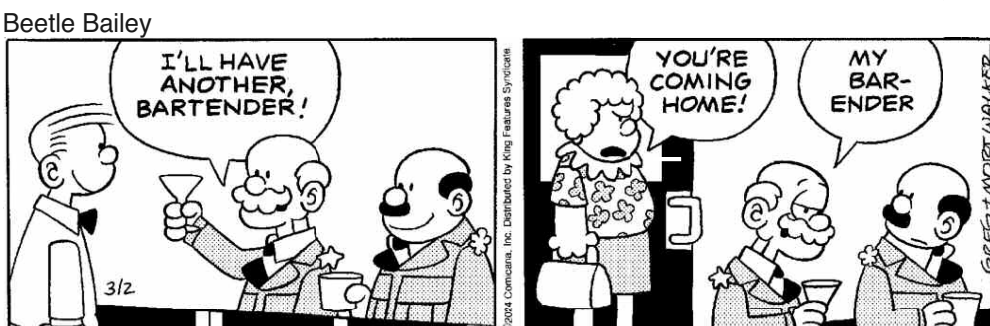
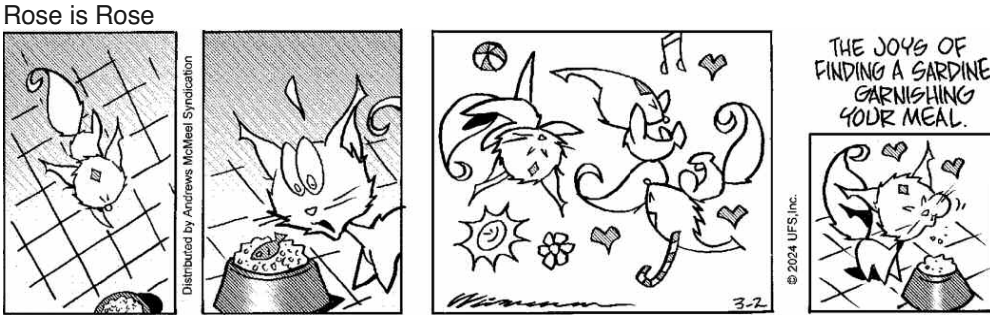
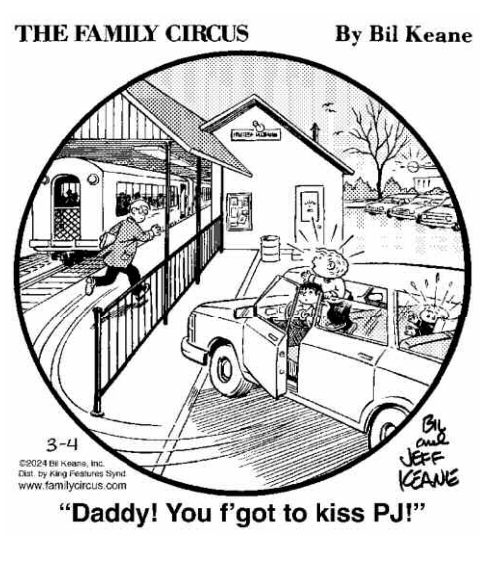
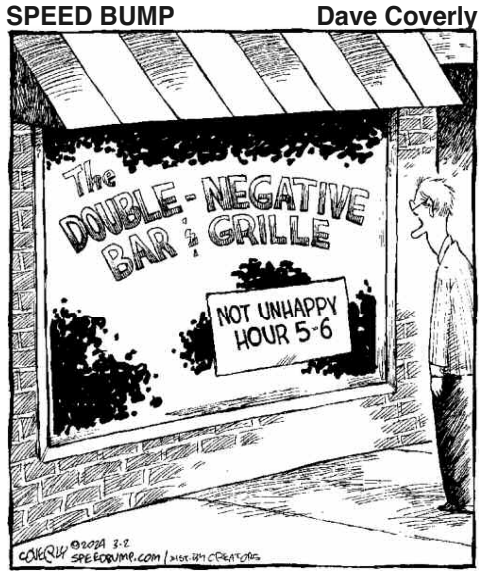
SOUTH  
♠ A K Q 10 6 5 4  
♥ A  
♦ —  
♣ A K Q 7 2

The bidding:  
West North East South  
4♥ Pass Pass 1♥  
4♥ Pass Pass 2♥  
Opening lead — two of diamonds.

This extraordinary hand was played many years ago by Lee Hazen, a top-flight player who for many years was the chief attorney for the American Contract Bridge League.  
Hazen was East, and South reached six spades on the bidding shown. West led a diamond, and this is Hazen's account of what happened after that, as related by him in Bridge World magazine:  
"I was of course disappointed when declarer ruffed the opening lead. South then went into a long trance and finally emerged from it by cashing the ace of hearts and leading the ten of spades next.  
"My partner discarded a heart, and I reacted like the typical young lawyer I was. The first thing you learn in law school is to be suspicious. You spend several hours a day being suspicious of people, of things and of ideas. If you're really good at it, you eventually develop the ability to be just abstractly suspicious.  
"I found it easy to be suspicious at this particular moment. What was declarer trying to do to me? I didn't bother to work it out. I just knew that if declarer wanted me to take the ten of spades, it couldn't be good for me to oblige him. So, I played the three and stared at declarer with a cold legal eye.  
"South went into a new trance and then led the A-K of clubs. By now I was carried away by the spirit of the thing. I had refused one trump trick, and nobody was going to bully me into taking another.  
"So, I discarded a heart instead of ruffing. South struggled quietly for a while but eventually went down one."  
Of course, Hazen had found the only defense to beat the slam.

Tomorrow: A costly play.  
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1	2	3		4	5	6	7	8		9	10	11	
12				13								14	
15				16								17	
				18					19		20		
21	22	23							24				
25						26		27		28		29	30
31				32		33		34		35			
36				37		38		39		40			
				41		42		43		44			
45	46							47					
48						49		50			51	52	53
54						55					56		
57						58					59		



**We Deliver**

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

**Laughter**

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*



# Patriots pull out narrow win

The Patriots didn't have their smoothest start against the Tigers, but six pins, another victory and four forfeits lifted them to victory.

The Jay County Junior High School wrestling team stared at a 21-3 deficit against the Bluffton Tigers before rallying for a 62-57 victory on Thursday.

Mitchell Byrum opened the match with a win in the 75-pound contest as he beat Bluffton's Boone Sprunger in a 9-6 decision.

A forfeit and three straight losses led to the early deficit. The Patriots (14-6) slowly worked themselves back into position, with six victories by fall.

Going into the final contested match, Jay County owned a 56-51 lead because of a quick pin by Freddie Lingo in the 190 contest and a forfeit in the 215.

Jayce Campbell grabbed six more points for the Tigers by pinning Charlee Burress at the

1 minute, 34 second mark of the second period in the 245 match, but Bluffton didn't have an opponent for George Plessinger III in the 285 contest, securing the Patriots the victory.

Of the 15 contested matches, Jay County took seven, all but Byrum's victory being by fall.

Joining Lingo by pinning their opponents were Jackson Bonifas in the 100-pound match (3:08), Walter Campioli in the 106 (3:53), Max McClain in the 126 (12 seconds), Cooper Reynolds in the 144 (0:49) and Caleb Sibray in the 150 (0:22).

Of the eight Patriot losses, seven were by fall.

Suffering losses in the match were Karson Hines (85-pound contest), Danica Chowning (90), Corbin Lothridge (95), Logan Wendel (113), Miles Jones (120), Alex Rivers (132), Amara Crawford (175) and Burress (245).



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Mitchell Byrum of Jay County Junior High School nearly pins Bluffton's Boone Sprunger in the 75-pound match Thursday. Byrum led off with a 9-6 decision to get the Patriots started as they beat Bluffton 62-57.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Elly Byrum swims the backstroke as part of the Jay County Junior High School's 200-yard medley relay team during Thursday's meet against Bluffton.

# Patriot JH swim sweeps Bluffton

The Patriots came up short in three events, but it didn't matter.

The Jay County Junior High School swim team cruised past the Bluffton Tigers on Thursday, as the boys team won all but one event for a 165-115 win and the girls took the meet by a score of 188-117 with all but two victories.

The boys' 200-yard freestyle relay broke a school record. Previously, Brad Fisher, Derek Arnold, Kyle Weaver and Caleb Dann combined to swim a 1 minute, 47.16 seconds time back in 1988. On Thursday, Rock

Beiswanger, Carson Westgerdes, Raif Beiswanger and Cooper Glentzer put together a swim of 1:45.68

to shave 1.48 seconds off of the school record.

Five Patriots ended as dual-event winners. For the boys, Cooper Glentzer swam a time of 1:06.15 in the 100 backstroke to claim the win, while taking on the 50 freestyle in only 26.1 seconds.

Westgerdes also picked up a pair with a 1:08.33 in the 100 individual medley and a 1:19.46 in the 100 breaststroke.

The girls had one extra tanker take two events, as Maria Laux, Elly Byrum and Brooklynn Byrum each captured a pair.

Laux's victories came in the 100 and 200 freestyle with times of 1:00.87 and 2:23.48 respectively.

Elly Byrum came out on

top in the 50 freestyle (27.46) and 100 backstroke (1:12.26), while Brooklynn Byrum won the 400 freestyle (4:52.78) and 100 breaststroke (1:22.02).

Both the boys and girls teams won the 200 medley relay and the 400 freestyle relay, while the boys also won the 200 freestyle relay.

Other victories for the boys include Grady Warvel in the 200 freestyle, Raif Beiswanger in the 50 butterfly, Rock

Beiswanger in the 100 freestyle and Grant Glentzer in the 400 freestyle.

Other victories for the girls include Jordyn Champ in 1-meter diving and Kaitlyn Fisher in the 50 butterfly.

# Caitlin Clark declares for 2024 WNBA draft

By PETER SBLENDORIO  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

Caitlin Clark, Iowa's record-setting superstar who is closing in on the all-time NCAA scoring crown, declared Thursday for the 2024 WNBA draft, in which she's widely expected to be the first overall pick.

Clark's announcement came with one game remaining on

No. 6 Iowa's regular-season schedule, eliminating any speculation about whether the generational talent might return for a fifth collegiate season.

"While this season is far from over and we have a lot more goals to achieve, it will be my last one at Iowa," Clark said. "It is impossible to fully express my gratitude to everyone who has supported me."

The Indiana Fever hold the No. 1 selection in the April 15 draft, which is set to take place at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and host fans for the first time in eight years.

Clark made her draft declaration less than 24 hours after she became the highest-scoring player in the history of major college women's basketball, passing Kansas great Lynette

Woodard with a 33-point performance at Minnesota.

Earlier in February, Clark set the women's scoring record in the NCAA, which did not govern the sport during Woodard's playing career from 1977-81 and therefore doesn't recognize her statistics.

Clark is now 18 points away from breaking Pete Maravich's all-time NCAA scoring record

of 3,667 points, which he set at LSU from 1967-70. Clark, who hasn't scored fewer than 24 points in a game this season, could set the new high mark Sunday at home against No. 2 Ohio State.

The 6-foot Clark, a senior guard, was eligible for a fifth season at Iowa due to the NCAA's COVID-19 waiver for the 2020-2021 season.

# Home Improvement

## 2024

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## Competition for top slot at cornerback

By **GEORGE BREMER**

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)  
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — Nate Wiggins was taken aback Thursday when informed some sports books have placed an over/under of 4.55 seconds on his time in the 40-yard dash.

The Clemson quarterback, speaking a day before his position performs the on-field drills during the NFL Scouting Combine, said his fastest time in practice for the event was a blistering 4.27.

"I don't know who they're watching," he said of oddsmakers.

Listed at 6-foot-2 and 185 pounds for the Tigers, the 20-year-old already has the attention of pro scouts. If he matches his fastest 40 on Friday — or even comes close — he could shoot to the top of a competitive position group ahead of April's draft.

"I set myself apart because I'm a lockdown corner," Wiggins said at the Indiana Convention Center. "I'm very fast, and I'm a technician. I think I'm the best corner in the draft because I can lock down one side of the field

completely and take the receiver out of the game."

NFL Network draft analyst Daniel Jermiah pegged Wiggins as the 15th overall pick by the Indianapolis Colts in his most recent mock draft.

That might soon appear to be a low estimate.

Still, there are plenty of other talented corners who believe they will be the first player selected at the position.

Topping the list is Alabama's Terrion Arnold, currently ranked No. 1 ahead of Wiggins by nfldraftscout.com. Also 20 years old, the Crimson Tide listed Arnold at 6-foot and 196 pounds.

"It's déjà vu," Arnold said of attending the Combine. "I'm already sitting in the dream. I was in front of y'all, talking to y'all, and this moment to me it means everything because I'm the type of person that really loves football, and I feel like I'm very blessed and highly favored."

"So I give all the glory to God, and it's a testament to my faith and how I was raised. I humble myself. I treat everybody with respect. I know to treat the jani-

tor like the CEO. You never know who you come in contact with, and at the end of the day you just want to give your family a good last name and try to leave a legacy."

Quinyon Mitchell is also trying to leave a legacy.

The Toledo star turned plenty of heads during Senior Bowl week in January and comes to the Combine as the third-ranked cornerback.

He's out to prove the Mid-American Conference — which includes alums like Ben Roethlisberger, Antonio Gates and Khalil Mack — can still produce first-round picks and pro stars.

"I feel the Group of 5, just nationally, is disrespected," Mitchell said. "The NFL isn't made of solely Power 5 guys. It's guys in the Group of 5 doing their thing all across the country. So shout out to those guys, too."

Mitchell had opportunities to leave the Rockets through the transfer portal, but he remained loyal to the program that took a chance on him after he struggled academically in his final year of high school.

Just as he did when he entered

college, Mitchell is coming to the NFL with something to prove.

"Just my grit, the chip on my shoulder, that I compete," Mitchell said of what makes him unique in this class. "I'm big. I'm strong. I'm fast. I feel those three things separate me."

### HAWKEYE OF ALL TRADES

Iowa cornerback Cooper DeJean only began running full speed last week after a broken fibula cut short his final college season.

He won't compete in the on-field drills Friday but is expecting to perform during the Hawkeyes' pro day.

DeJean played both outside and in the slot at Iowa, and NFL teams already have spoken to him about the possibility of playing safety at the next level.

"I've talked to a few teams, yeah, about just moving around," he said. "Being able to play multiple different positions, I think that's an advantage — coming into this league, being able to play wherever they put me."

The obvious follow-up is which

position does DeJean prefer?

"It doesn't matter to me, to be honest," he said. "I'll play anywhere. I just want to play ball."

### COMPETITIVE NATURE

Ohio State tight end Cade Stover was asked if his decision to play in the Cotton Bowl — at a time when many highly rated prospects are opting out of the season-ending exhibitions — is being met with approval by NFL teams.

"The goal wasn't to impress the NFL scouts," Stover said. "The goal was to go out there with the rest of the guys. ... I felt like sitting out of that game — I was advised to by agents, and I just didn't feel comfortable doing that. It's something — I couldn't go to sleep at night if I was gonna do that."

Stover takes a similar approach to his decision to compete in all the on-field drills Friday — another step often skipped by some prospects.

"I owe it to myself to do this," he said. "I owe it to my family to do this. And if you don't like it, you don't like it. But I'm going out there and doing everything."

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Fort Recovery — Girls bowling State at H.P. Lanes in Columbus — 10:45 a.m.

**Monday**  
Jay County — Junior high swimming vs. Belmont — 6 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Junior high swimming at South Adams — 5:30 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
10 a.m. — Premier League: West Ham United at Everton (USA)  
10 a.m. — Formula 1: Bahrain Grand Prix (ESPN)

12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Villanova at Providence (FOX); Butler at DePaul (FS1); Florida at South Carolina (ESPN)

12:30 p.m. — Premier League: Aston Villa at Luton Town (USA)

1 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kansas at Baylor (ABC); Illinois at Wisconsin (BTN)

1 p.m. — PGA Tour: Cognizant Classic (NBC)  
1:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Arkansas at Kentucky (CBS)  
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball:

Oklahoma State at Texas (ESPN2)  
2:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Marquette at Creighton (FOX); UMass Amherst at Davidson (USA)

3 p.m. — NASCAR cup Series: Pennzoil 400 (FS1)  
3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Illinois State at Missouri State (Bally Indiana)

3 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Detroit Red Wings (ABC)  
3:15 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Penn State at Minnesota (BTN)

4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: N.C. State at North Carolina (ESPN); Mississippi State at Auburn (ESPN2); USC at Washington (CBS)

4:30 p.m. — MLS: Orlando City at Inter Miami (FOX)  
5 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: The LiUNA! (FS1)

5:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Iowa at Northwestern (BTN)  
6 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Virginia at Duke (ESPN); Texas Tech at West Virginia (ESPN2)

6 p.m. — NHL: Minnesota Wild at St. Louis Blues (Bally Indiana)  
7:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Xavier at Georgetown (FS1)

8 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Michigan State at Purdue (FOX); Houston at Oklahoma (ESPN2); Tennessee at Alabama (ESPN)

8:30 p.m. — NBA: Denver Nuggets at

Los Angeles Lakers (ABC)  
10 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Gonzaga at St. Mary's (ESPN); Long Beach State at UC Irvine (ESPN2)

**Sunday**  
8 a.m. — Premier League: AFC Bournemouth at Burnley (USA)  
12 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Seton Hall at UConn (CBS)

1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Tennessee at South Carolina (ESPN); Oklahoma State at Baylor (ESPN2)

1 p.m. — NBA: Philadelphia 76ers at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)  
1 p.m. — PGA Tour: Cognizant Classic (NBC)

1 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Ohio State at Iowa (FOX)  
2 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Indiana at Maryland (CBS)

2 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Louisville at Notre Dame (ESPN)  
2 p.m. — College gymnastics: Florida at Kentucky (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Creighton at Seton Hall (FS1); Nebraska at Illinois (BTN)

3:30 p.m. — NHL: New Jersey Devils at Los Angeles Kings (TNT)  
3:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Boston Celtics (ABC)

3:30 p.m. — NASCAR cup Series: Pennzoil 400 (FOX)

3:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Bradley at Drake (ESPN2)  
4 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Murray State at Indiana State (Bally Indiana); Michigan at Ohio State (CBS)

4 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Duke at North Carolina (ESPN)  
5 p.m. — Women's college basketball: DePaul at Villanova (FS1)

5:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: UAB at Memphis (ESPN2)  
6:30 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Rutgers at Nebraska (BTN)

7 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN); Indiana Pacers at San Antonio Spurs (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Purdue at Michigan (FS1)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Stanford at Colorado (FS1)

9:30 p.m. — NBA: Oklahoma City Thunder at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)

**Monday**  
3 p.m. — Premier League: Arsenal at Sheffield United (USA)  
7 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Philadelphia Flyers (Bally Indiana)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Duke at N.C. State (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Texas at Baylor (ESPN)

**Tuesday**  
1 p.m. — MLB spring training: New

York Yankees at New York Mets (ESPN)  
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League: PSG at Real Sociedad (CBS)

7 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Syracuse at Clemson (ESPN2); Providence at Georgetown (FS1); Alabama at Florida (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Cleveland Cavaliers (TNT)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Dallas Mavericks (Bally Indiana)

9 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Kansas State at Kansas (ESPN); Florida State at Pitt (ESPN2); St. John's at DePaul (FS1)

10 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Denver Nuggets (TNT)  
11 p.m. — Men's college basketball: Nevada at Boise State (FS1)

### Local notes

**Tournament scheduled**  
The Fort Recovery High School volleyball program is holding its annual alumni volleyball tournament on Friday, March 22.

Teams can consist of former players or anyone living in Fort Recovery, and don't need to be from the same graduating class.

Entry costs are \$10 per player, with all proceeds going to the FRHS volleyball team.  
For more information, contact Travis

Guggenbiller by March 20 by emailing guggenbiller@fortrecoveryschools.org.

**Midwest Walleye Challenge**  
Indiana anglers are invited to participate in the 2024 Midwest Walleye Challenge, a virtual fishing tournament.

The tournament begins March 30 and ends June 30, with walleye, sauger and saugeye counting. Contestants need to utilize the MyCatch mobile app to submit photos of their catches with a measuring device.

Participants can enter for free for the chance at the grand prize or pay a \$25 fee to be eligible for biweekly cash prizes.

Those interested in participating can register by visiting AnglersAtlas.com/event/769 or by using the MyCatch app. For further information, visit on.IN.gov/walleye.

**Registration open**  
Registration for the Dunkirk co-ed softball league is now open.

The league will start on April 7, and will cost \$250 for each team to register. First and second-place teams win a payout of \$400 and \$200, respectively.

To register, call Brock Farmer at (765) 209-4289.

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

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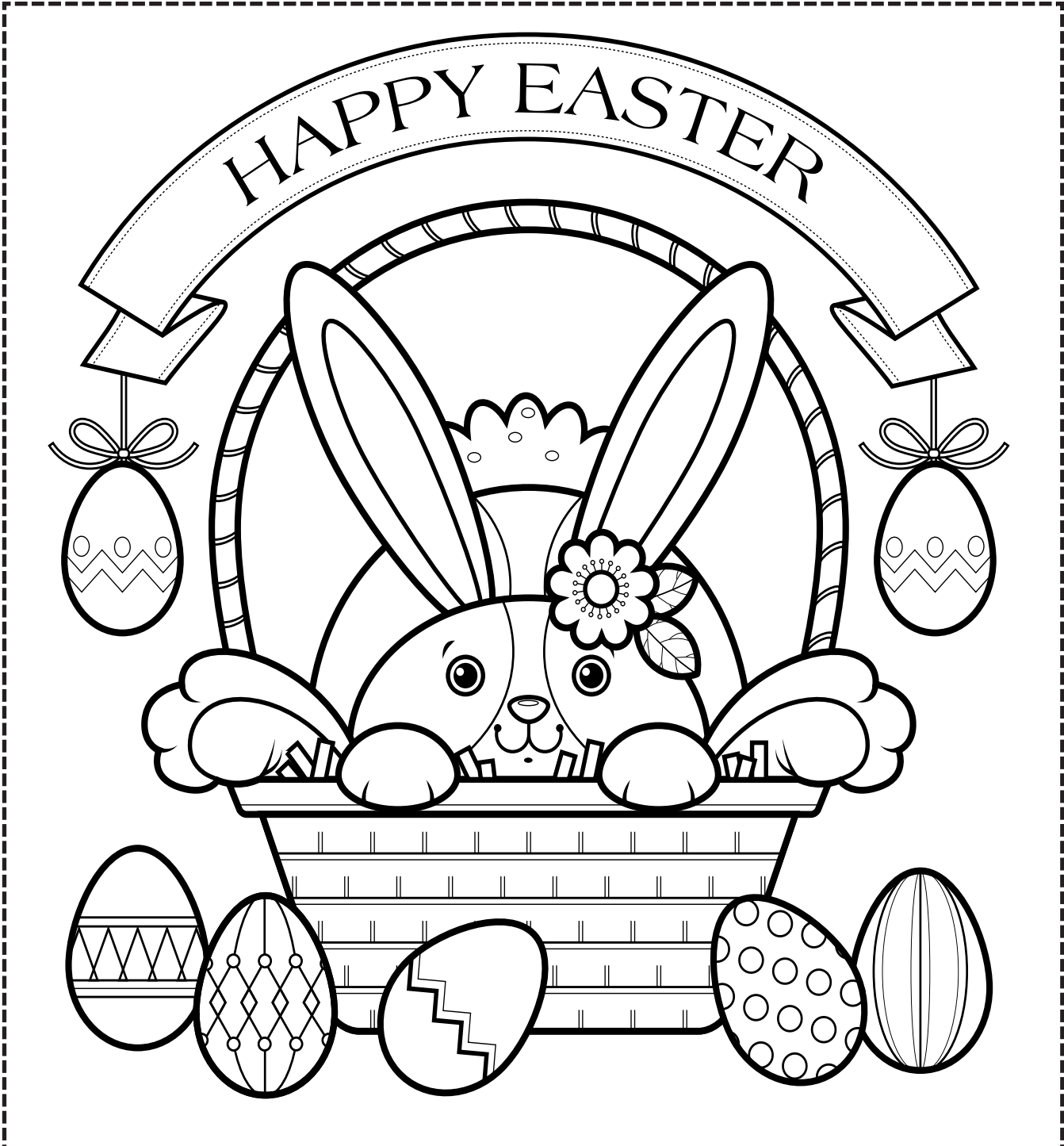


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Your colored picture will be on display in our office and The winners will run and be announced on March 30th!



- COLORING CONTEST RULES**
1. Contest age groups are 6 & under, and 7-10
  2. Crayons, colored pencils or markers may be used. Adults may assist in completing the entry form, but not in the coloring.
  3. Entries must be in by March 20, 2024
  4. Submissions are considered property of this newspaper and may be printed by this newspaper.
  5. Decisions of the judges are final.

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