

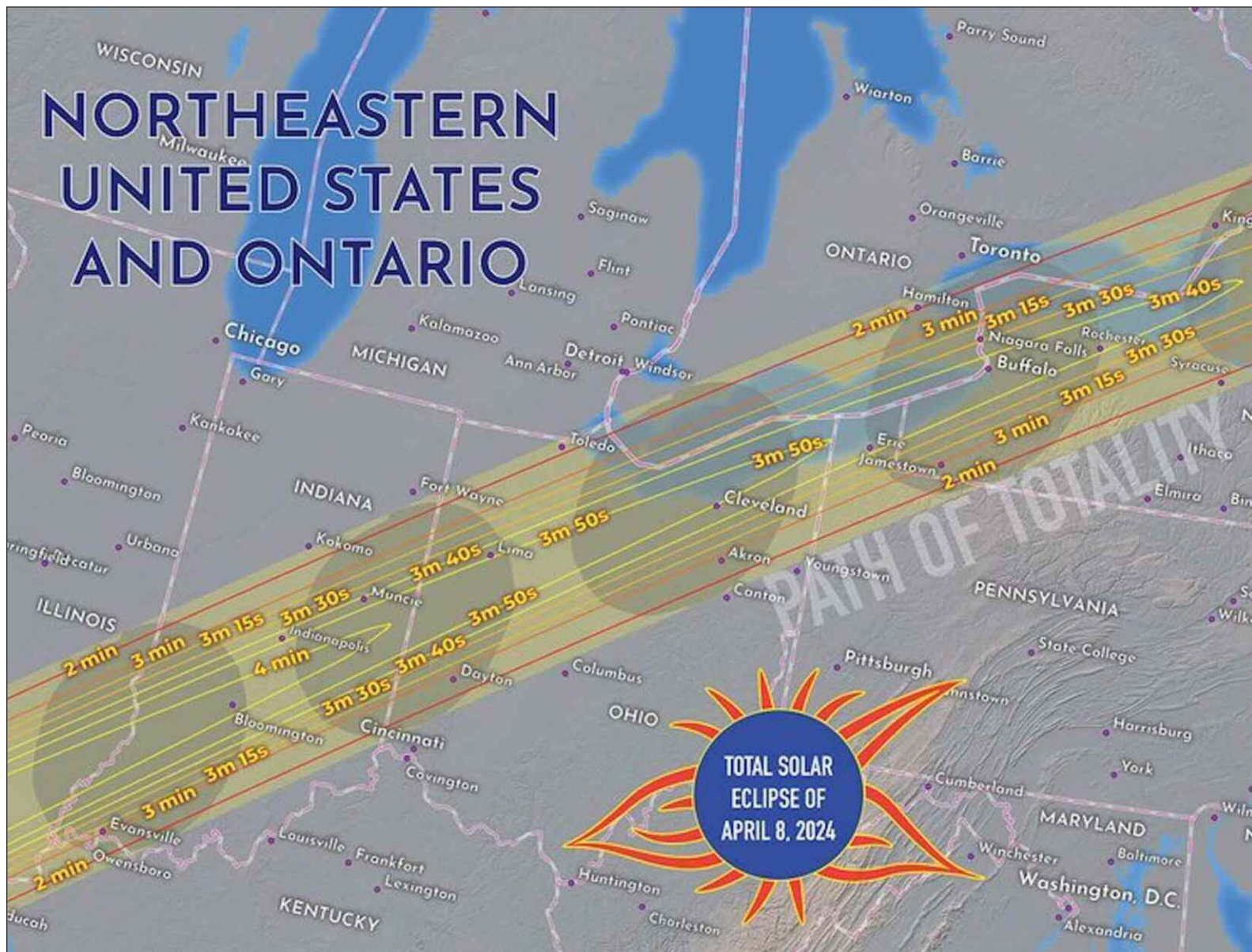
# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

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## On the horizon



greatamericaneclipse.com

The above graphic shows the path of the April 8 solar eclipse. The path includes Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties, with Randolph County expected to have the longest span at nearly four minutes. A variety of activities and events are planned and local emergency responders are planning for an influx of visitors.

### Region is loaded with activities planned to celebrate the upcoming solar eclipse

By BAILEY CLINE

The Graphic Printing Company

After months of planning, the total solar eclipse is nearly here. Local communities have been gearing up for the April 8 phenomenon when the moon will block out the sun as it passes between the sun and the earth.

Those in the path of totality — weather permitting — will be able to see the sun's corona, its outer atmosphere that is usually obscured.

According to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), the eclipse's path of totality will travel from Mexico through the United States, passing through Oklahoma, Arkansas, Missouri, Illinois, Kentucky, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania, New York, Vermont, New Hampshire and Maine, with small parts of Tennessee and Michigan also experiencing the spectacle as well as Southern Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick, Prince Edward

Island, Cape Breton and Newfoundland in Canada.

Totality — the amount of time the sun will be obscured by the moon — in Blackford, Jay and Randolph counties ranges between three and four minutes depending on the location, with Randolph County meeting the longest span of time. (To check out a specific community's statistics for the eclipse, visit the Astronomical Applications Department's website at [bit.ly/43p6ayS](http://bit.ly/43p6ayS) or [weather.gov/ind/2024eclipse-timingtables](http://weather.gov/ind/2024eclipse-timingtables).)

Campgrounds and hotels have been steadily filling up for the weekend of April 5 through April 8.

"We're expecting thousands of people to be passing through the area for the event," noted Tim Norris Jr., a member of the Blackford Blackout planning committee.

Jay Emergency Management Agency director Samantha

Rhodehamel said emergency personnel are preparing to have two to four times the community's population.

"It's impossible to say, we could have a couple hundred extra cars, we could have a couple thousand extra cars," said Blackford Emergency Management Agency director Bill Smith.

On a typical day, if a large event were to occur, departments could call other counties for mutual aid, explained Rhodehamel. With the potential influx of people coming into the state, though, that may not be possible. Emergency personnel have been working for months on plans if an event should occur.

"We're looking at what could happen — could we have a multi-vehicle accident? Could we have a fire? Could we have extreme cold?" said Rhodehamel, noting tornadoes also aren't out of the realm of possibility.

Emergency eclipse plans are in place, with Smith noting if traffic is backed up from the event, some roads will be designated solely as emergency routes.

Residents should also take precautions leading up to the eclipse. Smith advised folks to prepare early by stocking up prior to the eclipse on medications, groceries and gasoline. Cell towers may also have issues on April 8 with the expected overload of visitors.

"They need to prepare like a blizzard is coming," said Marla Threewits, who is heading up the Randolph County 2024 Eclipse committee.

Folks watching the eclipse should also make sure they have viewing glasses that are designed for safe direct solar viewing. Even with the glasses, Smith advised viewers to look away from the sun during the eclipse periodically.

See **Horizon** page 2

## Lawsuit is filed against drug makers

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana Attorney General Todd Rokita is seeking action against multiple Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PMBs) and drug companies for what he calls a "conspiracy" to raise prices on insulin medication and unfairly profit off Hoosiers.

The lawsuit was filed in Lake County Superior Court on Tuesday against Novo Nordisk and Sanofi — which manufacture the vast majority of insulins available in Indiana, according to the complaint — as well as multiple PMBs: Caremark, CaremarkPCS Health, CVS Health Corporation, Express Scripts and OptumRx.

The Republican attorney general claimed in the legal filing that a vial of insulin costs the accused pharmaceutical companies "under \$2" to produce. That's in "stark contrast" to the annual average of \$5,705 that a diabetic in the United States spent on insulin in 2016.

"When they raise prices in lockstep, we allege that they have extracted illegal profits from people who truly need this medication," Rokita said during a Tuesday news conference.

"We believe, we have alleged, and we will prove that they have taken advantage of people with serious medical conditions like diabetes," he continued. "Diabetes is a public health crisis for Hoosiers ... This is a serious condition that requires insulin, and the soaring prices put these patients who need this medicine in a horrible position of choosing between health and financial security."

One of Indiana's largest and most prominent employers, drug manufacturer Eli Lilly and Company, was not included in the list of defendants, however.

A footnote in the lawsuit states that although Lilly "is part of the conduct" described, the company "is communicating with the State regarding these allegations and has been proactive in reducing the cost of insulin."

See **Lawsuit** page 2

## Law is put on hold again

By MICHAEL MACAGNONE

CQ-Roll Call  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — A federal appeals court reinstated an injunction on a Texas law that would allow state officials to effectively deport immigrants late Tuesday, hours after a Supreme Court decision that allowed it to go into effect.

In a 2-1 decision, a panel

of judges at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit paused enforcement of Texas immigrant removal law, S.B. 4, while the Biden administration's challenge plays out.

The two judges in the majority did not explain the decision in Tuesday's brief order, which also scheduled oral arguments on the issue for 11 a.m. Wednesday.

See **Hold** page 2

## Wobble with Ben

Jay County High School senior Ben Heath grins while dancing to V.I.C.'s "Wobble" with friends, including Hannah Boggs (foreground) during Tuesday's student-teacher game night in the auxiliary gym. For more photos, visit [thecr.com](http://thecr.com).



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### Deaths

**Martha Wolfe**, 81, Pennington  
**Andrew Taylor**, 52, Winchester  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Tuesday. The low was 28.  
Tonight's low will be in the upper 20s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with a high in the upper 50s and rain possible in the afternoon. The low will be in the upper 20s.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Portland Board of Works has scheduled a special meeting for 4 p.m. Tuesday in the mayor's office at city hall. The agenda includes reviewing quotes for police cars and equipment and an indemnity agreement involving HIS Constructors of Indianapolis and Portland Municipal Airport.

### Coming up

**Friday** — Our Fort Recovery High School spring sports preview section.

**Saturday** — Coverage of this week's Redkey Town Council meeting.





# Meal prepping has many benefits

By MALARIE KRIEG

Schedules today are busier and busier, between work, school and kids' activities, and finding time to prepare healthy meals can be challenging.

Meal prepping can be a great way to eat healthier, reduce stress during the week and also help save money.

## What are some health benefits of meal prepping?

There are numerous health benefits to meal prepping.

People often turn to fast food options or eating out when in a hurry or unsure what to make for dinner. This leads to consuming often unhealthy foods and oversized portion sizes.

Using fresh, unprocessed foods can reduce total calo-

## Your Health Matters



ries, fat and sodium and increase the intake of fruits, vegetables and other healthy foods.

## What are some healthy meal prep options?

There are numerous resources available to find healthy meal prep recipes, which includes online resources such as eating-well.com, delish.com and tasteofhome.com to name a few.

Some easy and healthy make-ahead items include:

- Smoothie freezer packs — Clean, chop and portion out fruit and keep in the freezer. Add spinach for more healthy greens. In the morning, add milk or milk alternative and blend.

- Overnight oats — Combine old-fashioned oats and milk or milk alternative overnight for a high protein breakfast. Other healthy ingredients can be added such as chia seeds, yogurt, vanilla and sweetener such as syrup, dates or mashed banana.

- Crepes — Roll whole wheat crepe with low-fat ricotta cheese, berries and honey. Wrap and freeze then reheat in the microwave when ready to eat.

- Chia pudding cups — In a bowl, combine milk or milk alternative, chia

seeds, some maple syrup, vanilla and cinnamon. Refrigerate for 8 hours. When ready to eat, stir and mix with fruit and nuts.

- Freezer breakfast and lunch burritos — Fill tortilla shell with favorite ingredients such as scrambled eggs and chopped veggies for breakfast, beans and cheese for a vegan lunch or seasoned steak or chicken with brown rice for dinner. Roll and freeze then reheat.

- Protein lunch boxes — In a sealable container, arrange items such as hard-boiled eggs, edamame, tuna, baguette slices and cherry tomatoes for an easy grab-and-go, high-protein lunch.

- Salads — Place greens such as spinach in a container, top with protein

such as prepared chicken or steak along with vegetables or strawberries, cheese and nuts. Top with vinaigrette dressing.

- Protein bowls — Prepare quinoa or rice and arrange in a container, top with prepared chicken, veggies such as corn, peppers, pico de gallo and cilantro. When ready to eat, add avocados and hot sauce.

- Pasta bowls — Prepare high protein pasta such as black-bean rotini, place in a container and top with veggies such as Mexican-style corn and pico de gallo, and cooked chicken. Finish with cilantro salad dressing.

- Soups — Chili soup or vegetable soup are great soups that can be prepared ahead and divided into containers to freeze to reheat later.

## How do I start meal prepping?

The easiest way to start meal prepping is simply by making extra.

The next time you are making a meal, double the recipe and put half in a freezer container for later.

It is also important to do your research and plan ahead, create a detailed shopping list and invest in good containers.

Some other tips include making large batches of grains such as quinoa or rice at one time, cutting vegetables and fruits all at one time and layering salads in mason jars.

.....  
Krieg is a registered dietitian for the IU Health East Central Region.

# Wife turns from being supportive to heavy drinking

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 28 years. Last year I was diagnosed with cancer. It was discovered because of a seizure I had at work. They put me in an ambulance, took me to the hospital and did a CT scan, which revealed my stage-4 cancer. Prior to this, my wife didn't work, while I had a well-paying job. This instantly reversed for obvious reasons.

My wife was extremely attentive. She started taking me to all my appointments and spent a lot of time with me in the hospital on her days off. This was about a six-month ordeal, and long story short, when I saw my doctors last week, they announced that after 35 radiation treatments and seven chemo treatments, they can no longer find any visual evidence of the cancer. I was so thrilled I cried.

Since then, my wife has been drinking heavily and getting angry with me just about every night. I don't know what's going

on with her or what to do. She's the best woman I've ever met, and I don't want to lose her, but she's starting to become violent. Could you give me some advice? — RECOVERING BUT CONFUSED

**DEAR RECOVERING:** Your wife may be reacting to the trauma she suffered when you became ill, which meant she had to become the primary caregiver. This, however, does not excuse her excessive drinking and violent episodes. Of one thing I am certain: You MUST NOT allow the status quo to continue, regardless of how much you love her. She should

be evaluated by her doctor to see if something is medically wrong with her. And the two of you need to get into counseling right away, and because she can't handle her drinking, she may need to start rehab or join a self-help group.

.....  
DEAR ABBY: My 22-year-old stepdaughter has been receiving very large Venmo payments into her bank account. I know this because my husband, her father, is also on the account and I have access to it. We have asked her several times where the money is coming from. The first time, she lied and said it was from dog walking. (She has a history of lying.)

She has recently started claiming that her old "boyfriend" from four years ago — whom she broke up with because she found tons of photos of half-naked women on his phone — was sending her

money. Abby, this isn't \$20 or even \$100. It's thousands of dollars EVERY month. Her ex was a delivery driver. No way can he make that much after-tax money. Where do you think she's getting the money? I say sex, but my husband refuses to believe it. What should I do? — SUSPICIOUS IN TEXAS

**DEAR SUSPICIOUS:** I, too, suspect that your stepdaughter may be involved in something sex-related. She could be an escort, have found herself a sugar daddy, or be participating in a sex webcam show. She could also be involved in selling illegal drugs.

Because your husband refuses to believe his daughter would do anything illicit, for the sake of your marriage, take a step back. Wait to see what transpires. His daughter is an adult and is responsible for making her own decisions. Because she has trouble

telling the truth, there is nothing you can do to help.

.....  
DEAR ABBY: I recently received an Evite to a surrogate baby shower. I was happy to attend. Each guest was asked to bring a box of diapers, our favorite children's book and a donation to help cover the surrogate expenses. A written explanation of how expensive the surrogate process is was also included.

In my opinion, when the couple started the surrogacy process, they were aware of how expensive it would be, and to ask the shower attendees to contribute to it is a little nifty. Was this proper etiquette? — WONDERING IN NEVADA

**DEAR WONDERING:** No. Soliciting the donation was over the top. I can't help but wonder how many invitees declined the invitation because of it. To ask for money was tacky.

# Community Calendar

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

## Today

**STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB** — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

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

**EN AVANT CLUB** — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

**ORGAN TRANSPLANT SUPPORT GROUP** — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

**PORTLAND LIONS CLUB** — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

**FORGET-ME-NOT** — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or ill-

ness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

## Friday

**PAST RECOVERY SERVICES** — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

## 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.

## 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.

**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.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Wednesday's Solution

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

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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# 'Intellectual diversity' bill is callous

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Hear ye! Hear ye! The Indiana General Assembly and the Governor of the Hoosier state have declared, by the passage and signing of SB 202, that Intellectual Diversity must be promoted by the faculties of our state-supported colleges and universities.

Henceforth, any student may report teachers for failure to promote Intellectual Diversity. Boards of Trustees are responsible for the implementation of this new law. What penalties for failure to comply may apply to those Bored Board members is not clear.

Naturally, the legislators left no clue as to what constitutes Intellectual Diversity. Will a faculty member in the Geography Department, who does not include materials concerning

## Eye on the Pie



the Flat Earth hypothesis, be subject to discipline?

As a teacher of economics, I stressed the intellectual and empirical dispute concerning the efficacy of monetary policy and fiscal policy. In addition to an exhilarating lecture on the sanctity of Perfect Competition, I would extoll the work of Joan Robinson (a woman) on monopolistic competition which more accurately describes contemporary competitive markets.

I have vivid memories of giving an excessive amount of time to one student who had totally inexplicable concepts of economic behavior. He ultimately went to prison for fraudulent practices in the management of other people's money.

Does Intellectual Diversity mean including the Holy Bible (which edition?) in the syllabus for History classes? Were the dinosaurs fallen angels, fallen Anglicans or merely faculty beyond a certain age?

Actual Intellectual Diversity terrifies Indiana's moribund political leadership. They feel threatened by diversity of thought which deviates from their mythological tenets. Must Purdue or Ivy Tech students, who anticipate Santa's visits, be accommodated in courses on Tourism and Hospitality as

well as Construction and Aeronautics?

Will faculty members who advocate for the metric system be exposed as agents of foreign powers? Do legislators believe "Metrics are Marxist Measures" that undermine traditional American standards based on the length of the royal foot and the distance between the royal nose and the extended royal middle finger?

Henceforth, the Boards of Trustees (not to be confused with prison trustees) must submit reports to the Higher Education Commission on complaints by students or employees of the afflicted institutions concerning the behavior of the faculty with regard to violations of the engrossed legislation.

(What a beautiful use of our

language, engrossed legislation! Engrossed, to be made large, to be obsessed. Gross, to be flagrant, obvious, or unmitigated.)

As usual, the legislation itself carries no funding for the added staff and efforts of the affected institutions. Higher costs of operation? More meetings with travel expenses? Higher tuition fees? More distraction at the legislature to explore why any "petitions" by students have been unsatisfactorily managed? That the Indiana General Assembly would be so callous, so uninformed as to pass this legislation is no surprise. That the Governor would sign it is an indication of undiscovered ambition or willful gullibility.

Marcus is an economist. Email him at [mortonjmarcus@gmail.com](mailto:mortonjmarcus@gmail.com).

# Holcomb's plan to be applauded

By KRISTEN LAEACE  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
[indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com)

Few concerns are as vital and universal in nature as the availability of quality, affordable, robust and reliable services for aging Hoosiers.

Every time I meet someone new and they learn who I represent, they always feel prompted to share their personal story of a deeply loved someone who has needed support to manage a health care crisis, make a decision about long-term care or simply thrive in their own home and community as they age. Maybe it was their father or mother, their spouse, their sister or brother, a grandparent or beloved aunt or uncle. Universally, they all wished they had known about the support Indiana has to offer, and that more help had been available to meet their loved ones' critical needs.

As such, the Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging (IAAAA) applauds Gov. Eric Holcomb for prioritizing the advancement of a multi-sector plan for aging in his 2024 Next Level Agenda. With a renewed focus on collaboration and diligence in identifying and overcoming barriers for aging Hoosiers, Indiana has ample opportunity to make significant progress that will enhance the quality of life of all Hoosiers.

Indiana is an aging state. According to Indiana Business Research Center, which produces Indiana's official population projections, in just the 10 years between 2020 and 2030, Indiana's population of older adults age 65+ will increase from 16.5% of the state's total population to 20.1%, a total of 1.4 million Hoosiers — namely, accessing and maintaining comprehensive services and supports allowing them to age in their home and communities rather than in an institutionalized setting. For this reason, we are thrilled to support the governor as he takes a crucial step in improving outcomes for older adults through a statewide multi-sector plan for aging.

The Center for Health Care Strategies, which provides assistance to states in creating and executing multisector plans for aging, defines the plan as a "a state-led, multi-year planning process that convenes cross-sector stakeholders to collaboratively

Kristen Laeace

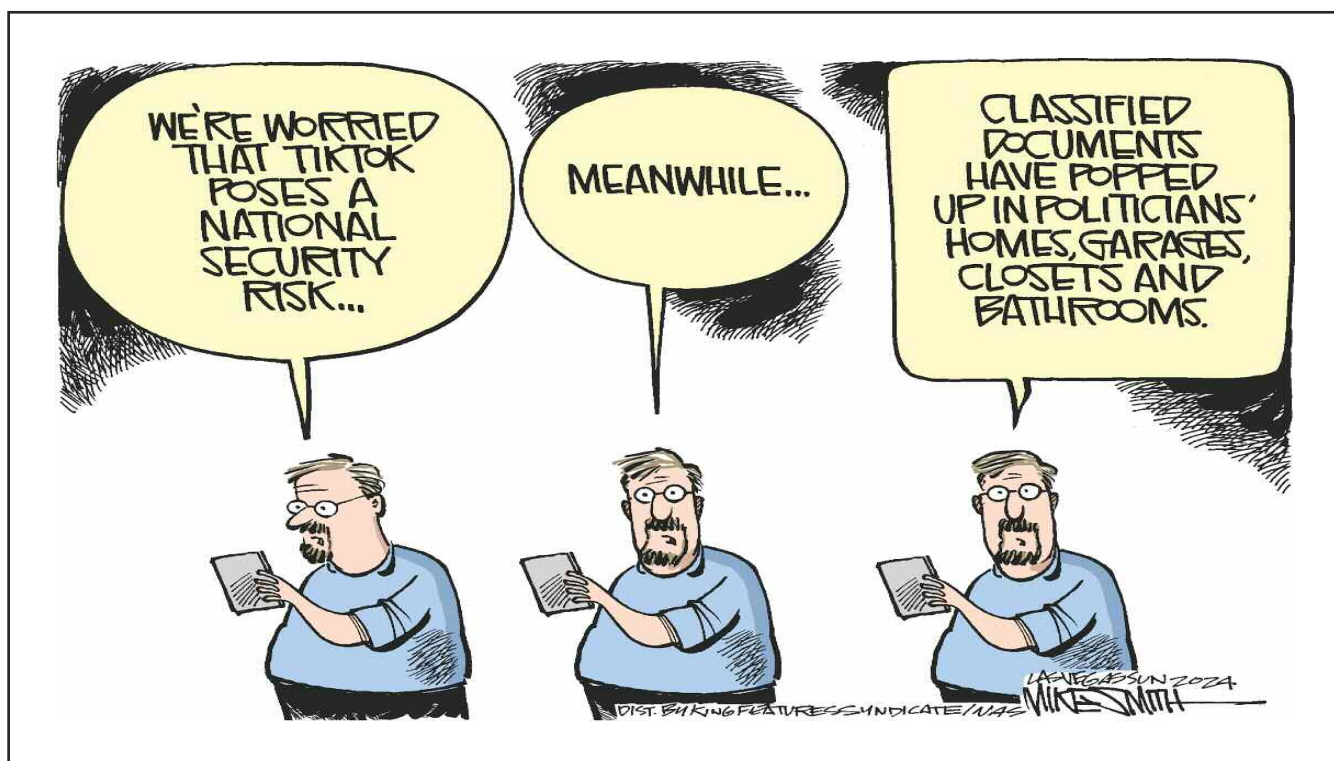


... the opportunity before us in these efforts is historic, and all stakeholders must actively engage in the planning efforts to fully achieve the intended outcomes.

address the needs of older adults and people with disabilities." The high level of collaboration among state agencies, public officials and the private sector produces a plan for the future that wholly addresses the many challenges and opportunities faced by the aging population. Therefore, the opportunity before us in these efforts is historic, and all stakeholders must actively engage in the planning efforts to fully achieve the intended outcomes.

The Governor's commitment to advancing Indiana's multisector plan for aging is vital for all generations of Hoosiers. We know that a town, city, state or nation cannot meet its full potential unless all individuals, regardless of age, are thriving. Therefore, on behalf of IAAAA, we thank him for prioritizing the wellbeing of some of our most vulnerable Hoosiers, and we look forward to working alongside other stakeholders to provide support and perspective as we collectively craft a brighter future for Indiana.

LaEace is CEO of the Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, non-profit news organization. Its website is [indianacapitalchronicle.com](http://indianacapitalchronicle.com).



# U.S. needs more immigration

aChicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

The U.S. immigration system is broken. Voices on all sides of this debate can agree on that, if not where to cast the blame. But our need for economic growth still dictates that migration at the sort of levels we're seeing now must continue in order to keep the U.S. population rising enough to provide the labor we need and keep the economy healthy.

The Congressional Budget Office, the nonpartisan fiscal scorekeepers for Congress, issued a report last month that was an eye-opener for many. CBO projected \$7 trillion of additional economic growth over the coming decade thanks to the net influx of migrants, which the agency hadn't accounted for previously in its assessments.

This country's native population is aging, and the workforce is suffering as a result. Thanks mostly to net immigration gains, CBO projects the U.S. labor force will add 5.2 million workers by 2033. Shut off that source of growth, as some extremist voices are urging, and our labor force won't be sufficient.

Still, statistical findings from a federal agency, even when they're as consequential as those, rarely command immediate attention.

That's why we were struck when we heard the same message with our own ears recently from Brian Moynihan, CEO of Charlotte, North Carolina-based Bank of America, the nation's second-largest bank. Moynihan met with the Tribune Editorial Board to discuss a wide variety of issues, but the one that lingered the most with us was his message on immigration.

"It's a shame we can't fix it," Moynihan said of our lousy system. And he had some very good reasons for saying so.

Our birthrate being what it is, U.S. population growth without the influx is only around 0.5% annually, he told us. It needs to be more like 1.5% to keep the economy healthy (and to meet our massive health care and retirement obligations to our growing senior citizen population). "It's a pure math question," he said, noting

## Guest Editorial

that U.S. women already participate so broadly in the workforce now that adding to that number is no longer a viable source of major growth. So that leaves a need for newcomers.

As longtime head of one of the few true national banking franchises in the U.S., Moynihan is in a unique position to opine on this. He sees more real-time data on the economy and consumer behavior than most. We should listen to him — and other business figures who've long advocated for more immigrants, not fewer.

In Washington, D.C., many extremists see Americans' worries about the chaos at the southern border as a political issue to be exploited rather than a problem to be solved. We saw the pitiful results of this last month when a comprehensive border-security bill failed to proceed even to a debate in the U.S. Senate. House Speaker Mike Johnson already had declared the measure dead on arrival in his chamber.

Why? Donald Trump, then well on his way to becoming what he is now — the presumptive presidential nominee of the Republican Party — ordered his supporters in Congress to kill the measure, which President Joe Biden had said he would support.

That legislation would have given the executive branch more legal tools. That, in turn, could have helped bolster public confidence that the U.S. government can better control who enters this country and ensure existing laws are enforced.

Increased public confidence is necessary to transform immigration from something scary and negative to what it should be — a critical part of keeping this improbable economic expansion going, even in the face of inflation and high interest rates.

It's not just in the halls of Congress where the words of Moynihan and other business leaders ought to be

better appreciated. Those in City Hall should do so as well. We thought about this as we digested the depressing but unsurprising news that Cook County's population fell by an estimated 24,000 in 2023, according to new U.S. Census Bureau estimates — and that was despite tens of thousands of migrant arrivals.

The migrant surge in Chicago — a product mainly of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott's cynical but highly effective desire to score political points at our expense — has largely been viewed as a negative for our city. A crisis that strained resources.

For our more diplomatic voices, it has been an unwelcome distraction. For our most xenophobic and myopic, it has been an invasion of undesirable outsiders.

That it's been a crisis no one can dispute. Buses transporting mostly impoverished people from other countries, many of whom don't speak English, at times and to places that are unpredictable is costly and challenging to manage. Our local leadership has more than struggled to do so. And it's understandable that some longtime Chicagoans worry about the impact on their own kids in school and/or feel that resources have been diverted away from their own, very real needs. We'd also note that most countries pay more attention to immigrants' skill levels, ensuring an influx of people who can do the jobs America needs doing the most.

But when the dust settles and we move on to other crises — that could be well into the future, we acknowledge — it is our hope that this parade of asylum-seeking newcomers to Chicago will be viewed as an influx of productive residents and an economic shot in the arm for a metro area that needs it more than most. Perhaps those who have come here under these less than ideal conditions and yet decide to stay and make a life for themselves will be able ultimately to testify to what a great city and region this has been for them.

Brian Moynihan got us thinking about taking the longer view: More workers. More cultural contributions. More taxpayers, sharing our burdens.

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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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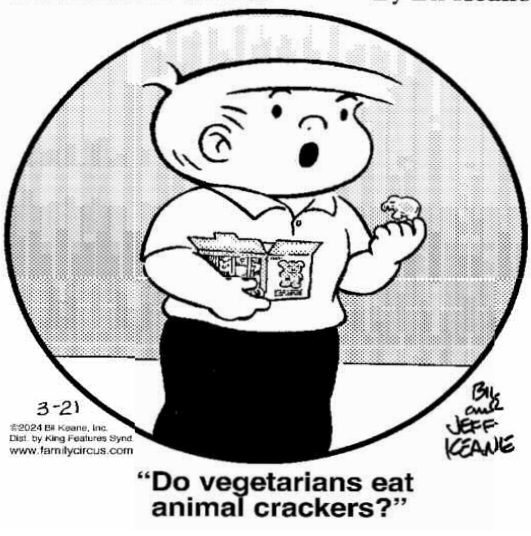
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



Peanuts



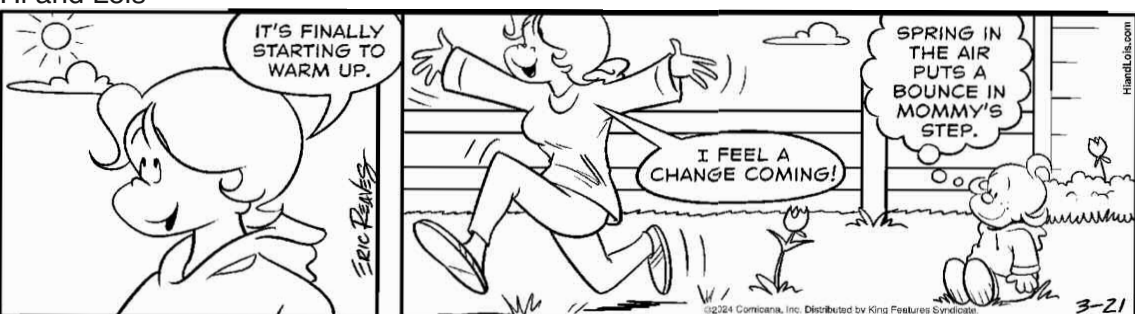
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



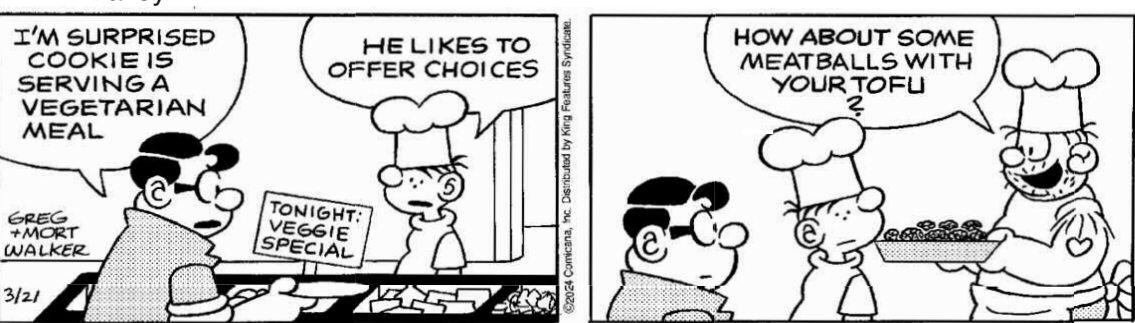
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A psychological play

South dealer. North-South vulnerable. NORTH ♠ 9 4 ♥ K J 2 ♦ K Q J 10 3 ♣ 10 7 5

WEST ♠ K 7 2 ♥ 8 7 5 4 3 ♦ 8 5 4 ♣ 6 3 EAST ♠ 6 3 ♥ A Q 9 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K Q J 8 4 2

The bidding: South West North East 1♠ Pass 2♦ 3♣ 4♠

Opening lead — six of clubs.

It is usually poor policy to false-card on defense because there is a much greater chance of fooling partner than declarer.

Nevertheless, there are times when a player should deliberately mislead partner in order to achieve the best result.

South is in four spades, and West leads a club in response to East's overall. Declarer follows low from

dummy, and East's normally correct play is the jack. This is consistent with the rule that a defender should play the lowest of equal cards when winning or attempting to win a trick.

But in this deal, East should play the king of clubs instead of the jack. When South wins the king with the ace, West will naturally conclude that declarer started with the A-Q of that suit.

At trick two, South crosses to dummy with a diamond, leads the nine of trump and lets it ride, losing to West's king.

East's falsecard at trick one now comes home to roost because West — under the impression that South started with the A-Q of clubs — does not lead another club.

Note that if East plays the club jack at trick one, West might decide to lead another club at trick four, thus handing South the contract.

Tomorrow: Test your play.

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3-21

CRYPTOQUIP

H GQAZNJ XOBX HR XOQ F.D. UQQG XN DXNI LBJFRBAXFGHJS IQJJHQD, HX UNFPE JN

PNJSQG LBZQ AQJXD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I'D LIKE TO BECOME A SKILLED DRIVER OF STICK-SHIFT VEHICLES, BUT I CAN'T FIND A MANUAL.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: S equals G

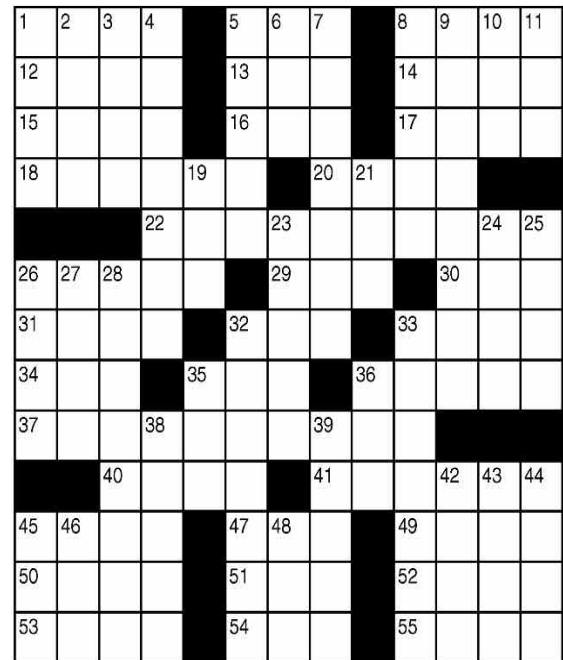
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS 1 Voting group 5 "The Raven" writer 8 "Huh?" 12 IRA type 13 Raggedy doll 14 Quasi-modo's creator 15 Play opener 16 Filming site 17 Town near Padua 18 Bone-head 20 "Yeah, right!" 22 Pet protector 26 Bamboo unit 29 Puzzle 30 British verb ending 31 Deserve 32 Writer's block? 33 Use scissors 34 Do sum work? 35 French pronoun 36 Painter of ballerinas 37 Sea urchin 40 Desertlike 41 Arrival 45 Copenhagen native 47 "Viva — Vegas" longer in 49 Notion 50 Sea predator 51 Summer hrs. in D.C. 52 Play group 53 Obey 54 Snake's sound 55 CPR pros 21 Jury enclosure 23 Use 24 Nepal's continent 25 Workout count 26 Global septet 27 "Mary — Little Lamb" 28 Artillery 32 Curly haired dogs 33 Military stint 35 Roman 1501 36 June honoree 38 Fear greatly 39 Endures wax-coated cheese 43 Hatchling's home 44 Makes lace 45 "What was I thinking?" 46 Exist 48 Bill-boards

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Yesterday's answer 3-21



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# Sports



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Shimp's snag

Jozey Shimp snags a throw down from catcher Jaelynn Lykins during the Jay County High School softball team's scrimmage at Winchester on Tuesday. The Patriots will open their season on April 1 when it travels to take on the Blackford Bruins.

## Best 3 weeks in American sports

By GREG COTE

Miami Herald  
Tribune News Service

Greg Cote



The now-iconic phrase March Madness traces to 1939 and one Henry V. Porter, assistant executive secretary of the Illinois High School Association, who, prior to the state basketball tournament, said in the group's magazine: "A little March madness may complement and contribute to sanity and help keep society on an even keel."

(Back in '39 the Great Depression was ebbing and World War II was about to begin, so Mr. Porter wasn't lying that societal sanity may have been a just concern. I might argue we can use that even keel and the diversion that March Madness brings every bit as much in 2024.)

Fortuitously, Dick Vitale would be born that very year of 1939, and continues to this day as the optimistic soul of college basketball, smiling through cancer battles and predicting Kentucky will be this year's men's champion. He's awesome, baby!

Getting back to the NCAA Tournament's two-word description, "Madness" certainly fits the definition of "frenzied or chaotic activity" inherent in men's and women's mosh pits of 68 teams each of varying levels bracketed in a relentless must-win format.

It also accurately defines millions of brackets hopelessly taking shape as office pools

fill. There is nothing else quite like it in sports. College football is expanding its playoff in hopes of getting some of what hoops has. It won't work.

"Madness" fits on a second level, too:

Selection Sunday always makes lots of people mad. Before the games, upsets, busted brackets and rapture take over and consume America, there is anger. Let's start there with our quick thoughts on March Madness '24...

— The members of the selection committee that divvied up teams on the women's bracket were either drunk or fit yet another definition of Madness: "Extreme or foolish behavior."

The Albany 2 Regional includes reigning women's champ LSU, No. 1 seed Iowa with Caitlin Clark and UCLA not to mention Kansas State. The crazy-tough grouping disrespects Iowa to give it a particularly difficult path to the top — or even out of the Elite Eight. It also denies the chance of a rematch of the LSU-Iowa national championship game that last spring set a record with just a shade under 10 million viewers.

See Best page 7

## MLB players push to oust Bruce Meyer

By PETER SBLENDORIO

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — A slow-moving MLB free agency in which top-tier stars settled for underwhelming contracts served as a strike against the MLB Players Association's No. 2 executive, whom union members are now pushing to be replaced, according to reports.

The majority of the players who took part in a Zoom call Monday night called for the removal of deputy executive director Bruce Meyer, sources told ESPN's Jeff Passan.

Participating players were said to have voiced their stance through an informal vote, telling MLBPA executive director Tony Clark they want lawyer Harry Marino, 33, to take the 62-year-old Meyer's place.

Players reportedly argued Meyer, a trial lawyer hired by the union in 2018 and made deputy executive director in 2022, has similar ideologies as agent Scott Boras, whose clients include Blake Snell, Cody Bellinger and the yet-to-be-signed Jordan Montgomery.

Meyer reportedly denied the allegation during the Zoom call, while Boras ripped the alleged "coup d'état" by Marino and others.

"If you have great ideas, and you want those ideas to be promulgated in a manner that is beneficial to the union and the players they represent, you go to Tony Clark with your plan," Boras told The Athletic on Tuesday.

"You discuss it with him first, and the many lawyers in the union. If you have issues with the union and you want to be involved

with the union, you take your ideas to them. You do not take them publicly, you do not create this coup d'état and create really a disruption inside the union. If your goal is to help players, it should never be done this way."

Marino, who spent less than a year with the MLBPA from 2022-23, led the minor league players' unionization. Responding to Boras on Tuesday, Marino said in a statement to The Athletic, "The players who sought me out want a union that represents the will of the majority."

"Scott Boras is rich because he makes — or used to make — the richest players in the game richer," Marino said. "That he is running to the defense of Tony Clark and Bruce Meyer this morning is genuinely alarming."

Clark, a former Mets and Yankees first baseman, did not make any changes during Monday's nearly three-hour virtual meeting, according to ESPN. The MLBPA did not immediately respond to a New York Daily News request for comment.

Meyer previously denied Boras' influence over him in 2021, calling the notion "absurd."

"The players run the union," Meyer told The Athletic at the time. "Scott's obviously an important agent to the extent he represents a lot of players, and we talk to Scott just like we talk to any agent who wants to talk to us."

"I hesitate, because the more specific you get into it, the more it dignifies it. But I didn't know Scott when I was hired, and I don't think I met him, spoke to him, for the first 10 months I was here."



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