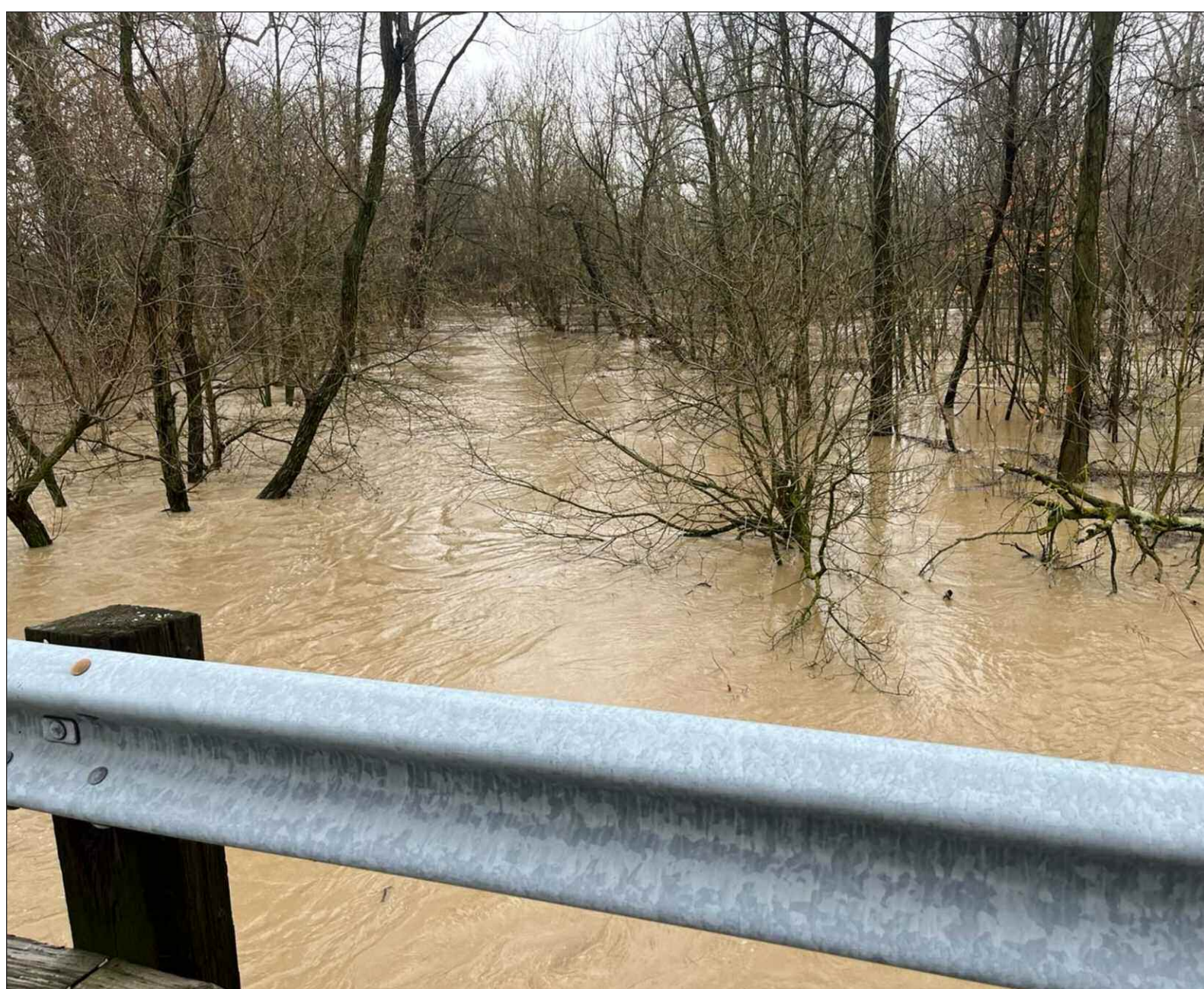


# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## High water

Rainy weather that began over the weekend led to high water across the area, including this view of the Little Salamonie River looking south from county road 300 South just west of Boundary Pike. County road 200 South was closed west of Indiana 1 because of water over the road. Jay County was under a flood warning until 9 a.m. this morning. More rain, with snow showers possible, is expected tonight.

## Rules stall; mayor, council spar

*Meeting got heated over roles in government process*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

A recreational vehicle ordinance stalled.

Discussion about the proposed rules led to a heated exchange between council members and the mayor.

Portland City Council held off on the second reading of a proposed recreational vehicle ordinance after hearing conflicting opinions from members of the public in attendance and verbally sparring with Mayor Jeff Westlake.

Council heard various public comments, including from Portland Board of Works member Steve McIntosh who asked for clarification about the proposed ordinance saying he was confused by the details as presented in The Commercial Review following the March 18 meeting.

Council president Kent McClung read proposed ordinance, which passed unanimously on first reading and details the following:

- Recreational vehicles, defined as RVs, motor vehicle carriers, motor homes, campers, boats, boat trailers, recreational equipment trails and trailers, may not be parked in a front yard unless they are in a garage, carport or driveway

- When parked in a street or alley, recreational vehicles may not impede or obstruct traffic or the line of sight for a regular vehicle.

- Recreational vehicles may not be parked "on residential premises" for more than 24 hours during loading and unloading

- Recreational vehicles may not be used for living, sleeping or housekeeping when parked or stored at any location not approved for that use. (The city's board of works may approve temporary use in extreme circumstances, such as a fire or natural disaster.)

Violations of the ordinance call for a fine of between \$100 and \$1,000.

The conversation started with Westlake saying residents were angry that the ordinance that was passed was different from the original changes he had proposed. He said residents should be part of the decision-making process. He asked for clarification from city attorney Wes Schemenaur regarding the city's legislative process, saying it seems he doesn't have much recourse if council members choose to amend ordinances he proposes.

"They are the legislative body of the city," Schemenaur said of city council.

See Stall page 2

## FR considering options for funding

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village is still figuring out what to do about its dilemma with water tower bids.

Fort Recovery Village Council heard about a potential grant Monday that would aid in covering the cost difference.

Initial plans called for building a 250,000-gallon elevated water tower — it would be similar to the existing tower located along Industrial Drive on the southeastern side of the village — with an

### *Bids for water tower project came in higher than expected*

additional 2,600 feet of water line to connect it to the village's distribution system.

At the end of 2021, Fort Recovery applied for \$1.25 million through the Ohio Department of

Development for the project, which was estimated to cost around \$1.45 million at that time. Although it was denied the first round of funding, the village was awarded a \$1.25 million grant in

June 2023 from the Ohio BUILDS water infrastructure program. The village at that time anticipated the project to cost about \$1.7 million and planned to contribute about \$450,000 from its water tower improvement and water capital funds.

Council discussed bids March 18 for constructing a second water tower on the north side of the village. Each bid came in higher than expected, with the lowest from Caldwell Tanks of Louisville, Kentucky, at \$2.4 million.

See Options page 2

## Group says strike killed aid workers

By ARADHANA ARAVINDAN and FARES AKRAM

Bloomberg News Tribune News Service

Seven aid workers from World Central Kitchen were killed in an air strike by the Israeli military in Gaza, the disaster relief group founded by celebrity chef José Andrés said in a post on X.

The U.S.-based group has helped oversee the construction of a pier and the delivery of aid through it to the northern Gaza Strip, where humanitarian agencies say hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are living in dire conditions, including malnutrition and hunger.

"This is not only an attack against WCK, this is an attack on humanitarian organizations showing up in the most dire of situations where food is being used as a weapon of war. This is unforgivable," said

*'This is unforgivable.'*

—Erin Gore, World Central Kitchen CEO

World Central Kitchen CEO Erin Gore, adding that the organization was pausing operations in the region.

"The seven killed are from "Australia, Poland, United Kingdom, a dual citizen of the U.S. and Canada, and Palestine," the group said in a statement.

"Unfortunately, in the past day there was a tragic case of our forces unintentionally hitting innocent people in the Gaza Strip," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said, without specifying further.

See Strike page 2



The Commercial Review/Lina Ling

## Easter art

Leo Cox colors a pictured Saturday during the Asbury United Methodist Church Easter egg hunt. The church had a variety of activities, including decorating Easter eggs, available for children.

### Deaths

Mona Fairchild, 91, Portland

Emilie Steveson, 84, Portland

Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 50 degrees Monday. The low was 43. About 1.75 inches of rain fell Monday with another 0.8 inches before noon Tuesday.

More rain, with a chance of snow, is in tonight's forecast with a low in the lower 30s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

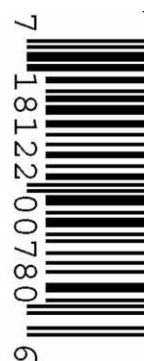
### In review

Portland Plan Commission will meet at 5:30 p.m. Thursday at Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. The agenda includes an informational meeting regarding Portland's zoning ordinance and the city's comprehensive plan.

### Coming up

Thursday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Development Corporation meeting.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS softball game against Delta.





# Obituaries

## Mona Fairfield

Sept. 16, 1932-March 27, 2024  
Mona M. Fairfield, age 91, of Portland passed away on Wednesday, March 27, 2024, in Briarwood Village in Coldwater, Ohio.

She was born in Portland on Sept. 16, 1932, the daughter of William and Edna (Derrickson) Gierhart. She was married to Bob Fairfield on Oct. 10, 1985, and he passed away on July 11, 2015.

Mona was retired from Anchor-Hocking in Winchester and was a member of the Moose Lodge and V.F.W. Mona was a generous and giving person.



Fairfield

Surviving are one son, John Barker (wife: Sheila) of Celina, Ohio; one daughter, Yolanda Davis (husband: John) of Celina, Ohio; one brother, Richard Gierhart of Muncie; six grandchildren; 12 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandson.

She was preceded in death by a son, William Lowe; grandson Brandon Barker; and eight siblings.

There will be no services. Memorials can be made to The Midwest Pet Refuge in Portland.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

## Emilie Steveson

June 28, 1939-March 21, 2024  
Emilie G. Steveson, age 84,

passed away Thursday morning, March 21, 2024, at her residence.

She was born in Dayton, Ohio, on June 28, 1939, the daughter of Fred and Mildred (Beck) Leuthold. She was married Oct. 26, 1957, to Jesse Dale Steveson and he passed away on April 6, 2022.

She was retired as a press operator at Jay Products. Emilie was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Jay County Hospital Auxiliary, Moose Lodge and was a 1957 Fort Recovery High School graduate. She volunteered at the Harvest Food Bank, Meals on



Steveson

Wheels and Red Cross blood drives. She was a member of Red Hat Society, worked the polls during elections and was recipient of Lifetime Achievement Award from Cincinnati League.

Surviving are three daughters, Patricia Bost of Portland, Julie Steveson of Dayton, Ohio, and Angela Scarduzio (husband: Frank) of Hendersonville, North Carolina; one brother, Karl Leuthold of Fort Recovery; nine grandchildren; 10 great-grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by a son, Mark Steveson; and a sister, Mary Ann Bell.

Funeral services will be Saturday, April 6, at 11 a.m. in the Immaculate Conception

Catholic Church with Fr. Peter Logsdon presiding. Burial will follow in the Springhill Cemetery. Visitation will be at Baird-Freeman Funeral Home prior to the services from 9:30 to 11 a.m.

Memorials can be made to Jay County Humane Society.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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

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

# CR almanac

Thursday 4/4	Friday 4/5	Saturday 4/6	Sunday 4/7	Monday 4/8
<b>43/31</b>	<b>45/29</b>	<b>50/32</b>	<b>57/42</b>	<b>61/47</b>
Thursday has a 60% chance of rain or snow, with wind gusts reaching up to 25 mph.	Friday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with a low of 45 degrees. The low may hit 29.	Saturday looks to be mostly sunny with a low at night around the freezing point.	Another day of mostly sunny skies is in the forecast for Sunday. There's a chance of rain late.	Showers may continue into Monday, when the high will swell to the 60s.

# Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 19-24-40-42-56 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$1.09 billion	Daily Four: 8-4-4-2 Quick Draw: 11-12-13-16-24-26-33-41-42-44-46-47-50-52-57-70-73-75-76-77 Cash 5: 5-6-7-37-43 Estimated jackpot: \$362,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$45 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 8-9-3 Pick 4: 2-0-0-2 Evening Pick 3: 6-8-0 Pick 4: 1-6-4-1 Pick 5: 5-5-4-2-2 Rolling Cash: 2-9-21-22-24 Estimated jackpot: \$218,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 8-1-1 Daily Four: 1-8-7-6 Quick Draw: 3-8-10-11-18-22-23-27-33-43-44-50-57-63-64-65-68-69-74 Evening Daily Three: 7-1-8	

# Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.24 April corn .....4.29 Wheat .....4.28	April beans .....11.74 Wheat ..... 5.23
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.35 April corn .....4.35 May corn.....4.43	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.07 April corn .....4.18 Beans .....11.70 April beans .....11.73 Wheat .....5.21
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.14 April corn .....4.14 Beans .....11.74	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.23 April corn .....4.28 Beans .....11.54 April beans .....11.26 Wheat .....5.04

# Today in history

**In 1837**, John Burroughs was born in Roxbury, New York. A writer, he formed nature essays about the world around him. Some of his best-known works are "Birds and Poets," "Locusts and Wild Honey," "Signs and Seasons" and "Ways of Nature."  
**In 1860**, the Pony Express began, delivering mail by horse between St. Joseph, Missouri and Sacramento, California.

**In 2012**, Jay County Development Corporation executive director Bill Bradley outlined proposed changes in procedures for JCDC's board of directors. The changes — they still needed to be approved by Jay County Commissioners — were set to virtually eliminate direct loans and grants to private entities and establish more levels of oversight on major EDIT expenditures.  
— The CR

# Citizen's calendar

<b>Thursday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N.	<b>Tuesday</b> 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

# Abortion amendment OK'd

**Orlando Sentinel**  
Tribune News Service  
TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida voters will decide in November whether abortion rights should be guaranteed in the constitution, the state's Supreme Court ruled Monday, but the court also approved a new

abortion ban at six weeks that will begin in 30 days in a separate case.

The second abortion ruling, which wasn't expected Monday, upheld the 15-week abortion ban already in place and will allow the six-week ban approved by Gov. Ron DeSantis and the Republican Legislature to take

effect. It overturned a long-standing precedent by the Florida Supreme Court that the right to an abortion was enshrined in the constitution's privacy clause.

Of the current seven-member court, five justices were appointed by DeSantis.

# Strike ...

Continued from page 1  
He added that Israel "will do everything so that this does not happen again."

The war in Gaza started shortly after the militant group Hamas attacked Israel on Oct. 7, killing about 1,200 people and abducting some 250 others. Israel started a military campaign against the group, which is designated a terrorist group by the U.S. and E.U., in a conflict that has killed more than 32,000 Palestinians, according to authorities in the Hamas-run enclave.

The U.S. is "heartbroken and deeply troubled" by the strike, White House National Security

Council spokesperson Adrienne Watson said, calling on Israel to investigate quickly.

The Israeli military is reviewing the incident to understand what happened, spokesman Daniel Hagari said. He added he had spoken to Andrés and expressed deepest condolences.

"We will be opening a probe to examine this serious incident further," Hagari said. "This will help us reduce the risk of such an event occurring again."

Last month, the charity delivered the first shipment of aid via a sea route. Two more ships have set sail from Cyprus and arrived in Gaza.

# Options ...

Continued from page 1  
(Other bids from Pittsburgh Tank and Tower Group of Henderson, Kentucky, and Phoenix Fabricators of Avon, Indiana, were more than \$3 million.)

Village administrator Randy Diller noted Monday he has applied for a \$600,000 grant through Ohio Senate president Matt Huffman's office. The purpose of the one-time community infrastructure funding, he explained, was established for situations such as Fort Recovery's current predicament.

"It's not meant to be the (main) funding for a project, it's meant to make sure the project can happen," he said. "I'm hopeful ... but there's no guarantee."

He noted it's possible but unlikely the village will hear back about its grant

application prior to village council's first meeting in May. (Caldwell Tanks' bid is valid until May 14.) Diller said he and fiscal officer Roberta Staugler will be reviewing the village's budget and capital improvement plans this week to determine how many dollars will be available for different projects.

Also Monday, Diller said he is looking into doing a case study on the wastewater lagoons with Aquafix, a wastewater treatment group. The company has pitched a 120-day treatment for \$10,000 — it would provide the product at 50% cost with the village agreeing to conduct testing — in an effort to reduce sludge buildup. Diller said if the treatment would reduce the sludge by even half the current amount, it would make dredging the ponds considerably cheaper.

Diller also pointed out two new aerators have been installed in the wastewater lagoons, with one already running and other being hooked up sometime this week. The equipment is intended to increase the amount of dissolved oxygen in the water.

In other business, Fort Recovery Village Council members Al Post, Luke Knapke, Cliff Wendel, Scott Pearson, Erik Fiely and Greg Schmitz:

• OK'd closing the brick portion of Wayne Street from 1 p.m. to midnight June 12 for Fort Recovery Jubilee's Taste of the Town event.

The family of the late  
**Dennis Franck**  
would like to thank everyone for their prayers, thoughts, cards, flowers and gifts in memory of our husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. A special thanks to Boechman Funeral Home in Fort Recovery.  
Also, thank you to Father peter Logsdon for the liturgy.  
**Dennis Franck Family**

**Jay County FFA Parent - Member BANQUET**

6:30 p.m.  
**Friday, April 5, 2024**

in the Jay County Junior-Senior High School auxiliary gym

**A pork chop dinner will be provided. Awards and a live auction will follow the dinner.**

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**Elephant Logo**

*Paid for by the Gregory W. LeMaster for House District 33 Candidates Committee*

Jesus words to St. Faustina  
**"I promise that the soul that will venerate this image will not perish"**  
Diary 48



## Minnetrista plans for eclipse

Minnetrista Museum and Gardens is partnering with Muncie Children's Museum to host Magic at Minnetrista in celebration of the upcoming solar eclipse.

The event will include programming on April 6, 7 and 8. Activities range from constellation-making and storytelling crafts to solar viewing crown crafting and sensory exploration. There will also be readings from local author Laurie Lunsford, a performance of an original short play and a performance by Orchestra Indiana.

"We are deeply honored to receive funding from the Simons Foundation, which will allow us to expand and enrich our total solar eclipse experience for visitors of all ages," said Minnetrista president and CEO Brian Statz. "With this funding, we aim to create a truly impactful event that celebrates the marvels of the universe while fostering curiosity and appreciation for science and astronomy within our community."

For more information, visit [minnetrista.net/solar-eclipse](http://minnetrista.net/solar-eclipse) or call (765) 282-4848.

### Eclipse at fairgrounds

Indiana State Fairgrounds is offering its grounds as a viewing location and enter-

### Taking Note

tainment center during the solar eclipse this month.

Gates open at the fairgrounds, 1202 E. 38th St., Indianapolis, at 9 a.m. April 8. Multiple areas will be equipped with viewing glasses, as well as weather experts who will provide insights about the spectacle, according to a press release from the fairgrounds. Campsites are also available.

Family friendly music and performances will be ongoing throughout the event. Interactive activities will also be offered on-site with educational exhibits and displays.

### Senior Learning

Another session of the Senior Learning Series is slated for this week.

Kim Rammel, site manager of Fort Recovery State Museum, will be presenting the history of the fort following the luncheon at 11:30 a.m. April 4 at John Jay Center for Learning. The meal costs \$5,

and reservations for lunch must be paid in advance.

### Looking for director

Jay County Civic Theatre is accepting applications to direct its December production of "The Sound of Music."

Auditions will be scheduled for the fall in consultation with the director. Shows are scheduled for mid-December.

Applicants should email their letter of interest, resume (include previous directorial experience and a list of the last four shows in which you were involved in any capacity) and a list of three references to [jaycounty-civic@gmail.com](mailto:jaycounty-civic@gmail.com).

The deadline is 4 p.m. Monday, April 8, 2024.

### Dean's list

A Fort Recovery local was named to Ohio University's dean's list.

Megan Diller, a College of Business student, made the list for her efforts in fall 2023.

Ohio University's dean's list recognizes undergraduate students who complete a semester with a GPA between 3.5 and 3.999 with a minimum of 12 credit hours. Approximately 6,000 students qualified for the list.

## Secret revealed when farm sells

DEAR ABBY: I need a second opinion. My grandfather sold me an old farmstead that has been in the family for 200 years. Last week, he showed me a wooded area behind the barn with a human skull. He told me that when his father died more than 50 years ago, he was curious about how long it would take a body to decompose, so he left his body in the woods to keep track of its progress. He has 50 years' worth of pictures and notes. He told the rest of the family that Great-Grandpa had been cremated, and apparently no one questioned him about the ashes.

At this point, the skull is all that's left. I checked with a lawyer, who tells me that in my state no laws were broken. That said, I don't want my great-grandfather's skull sitting in the woods behind my barn! My husband says I should quietly bury it, burn the pictures and the notes and forget about it. That just doesn't feel right to me.

It feels like I'm helping my grandfather get away with something and it feels "icky." Should I tell the rest of the family, or continue allowing them to believe that Great-Granddad was cremated? I'm resenting my grandfather for putting me in the middle of this, and any advice you have would be greatly appreciated. — BOUGHT MORE THAN I BARGAINED FOR

### Dear Abby



DEAR BARGAINED: Your letter is a first. Why do I get the impression that your grandfather must have HATED his father to have treated his remains so disrespectfully? The farmstead and everything that goes with it is yours now to keep or dispose of. What you need to do is decide whether to donate your great-grandfather's skull to a medical or dental school (or coven?), place it in a columbarium or bury it on your property. As to whether to tell the rest of the family, what positive thing would be accomplished by sharing this unpleasantness with them? You are a caring individual; let your conscience be your guide.

\*\*\*\*\*

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](http://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](mailto:news@thecr.com).

### Today

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

PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.

PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday

in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

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 Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

### Thursday

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.

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Ran-

dolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

### Friday

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon, April 5, at the Harmony Cafe.

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.

SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

### 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.

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., Portland. (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](http://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.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

Jesus words to St. Faustina  
"Let the greatest sinners place their trust in My mercy."  
Diary 1146

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Our agriculture special section will be distributed in The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester), The News Times (Hartford City) and The News and Sun (Dunkirk)

Full-page color — \$500 (only one available)  
1/2-page color — \$400  
1/2-page B&W — \$325  
1/4-page color — \$275  
1/4-page B&W — \$225  
Big business card (3x3.5) — \$100  
Business card (2x2) — \$60

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis

Contact Lindsey at [L.Cochran@thecr.com](mailto:L.Cochran@thecr.com) or (260) 726-8141

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

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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# Indianapolis hunt came up empty

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from April 5, 2006, shortly after the Jay County High School boys basketball team played in the Class 3A state championship game. Jack arrived early enough to go on a wild goose chase in downtown Indianapolis. He saw some friends and learned a valuable lesson, but was unable to fetch any fowl.*

**By JACK RONALD**  
The Commercial Review

Like most folks, I arrived early. It was about 4 p.m. when I parked my car in a garage on Pennsylvania Street not far from Conesco Fieldhouse. With a little time to kill, I gave Ray Cooney a quick call and asked if there was anything I could do for him in advance of Jay County's debut in the IHSAA state basketball finals.

There was. A memory card for the digital camera he was using — and

## Back in the Saddle



which Mike Snyder would be using to shoot the game — had failed. He'd borrowed a replacement, but it would be better if I could pick one up before game time

No problem, I said. You can buy media for digital cameras at just about every drugstore or big box discount store. Some convenience stores stock them.

No problem. I couldn't have been more wrong.

Downtown Indy isn't the right place to shop for that sort of thing. It doesn't sell things peo-

ple need. It just sells things people want.

My first stop was Border's, though I had little hope I'd find what I was looking for. Thousands of books and CDs, but nothing camera-related.

So I set out for Circle Center Mall. Big mistake.

It was a great chance to see a lot of people from Jay County. There was something dream-like about all those familiar faces plunked down in the middle of an urban landscape.

But Circle Center has absolutely nothing practical for sale.

I could have bought overpriced kitsch by the truckload, but nothing utilitarian was available. Finding the mall directory, I scanned it for something like a CVS. The only thing remotely close was a health food store.

If I'd wanted herbal tea or echinacea, there wouldn't have

been a problem. A compact flash card for a camera was a problem. The search continued.

Thinking back to the time we lived and worked in Indianapolis, I remembered a camera store on the circle and set out in that direction.

Trouble is, we lived in Indy more than 30 years ago. Sure, there used to be a camera store on the circle. But there used to be a J.C. Penney store there too. Both are long gone.

Everything was at once familiar and alien when I got to the circle. Some of the old landmarks were there, but most had evaporated.

I went around a corner onto Market Street expecting to see Weiss's delicatessen. It had vanished. I went around another corner, hoping to find Ober's stationery store, and found a parking garage instead.

Finally, I wandered back into

Border's. There, a helpful clerk suggested a store two blocks away, the last of the independent camera stores in Indianapolis.

Heading back into the streets, which by now were looking more like the Jay County Fair than a Saturday in the state capital, I found the shop.

As I reached for the door, I heard a click. Through the tinted glass, I caught a glimpse of a figure turning quickly away and moving toward the back of the store.

Closed. As it turned out, we were able to use another card which we borrowed from Clint Anderson of the Berne Tri-Weekly and everything worked out all right.

But I've learned my lesson. If I ever need something practical, I won't look for it in downtown Indianapolis.

# The aid that Gaza needs is a ceasefire

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

In Gaza, famine is imminent.

To get urgently needed food, clean water, temporary sanitation facilities and medical supplies to more than 2 million Palestinians, President Biden ordered construction of a floating dock. Building it will take weeks.

In the interim, aid trickles into the narrow strip of land between southwestern Israel and the Mediterranean. A Spanish-supplied ship from Cyprus offloaded rice and flour at a makeshift jetty formed from some of the ample rubble left by weeks of Israeli bombing. Some trucks are permitted to enter through "Gate 96," a hole in the barrier that seals off Gaza from Israel. Some food is dropped by parachute. So far it is insufficient to slow the steady advance of severe hunger.

In the northern part of Gaza, largely destroyed by the Israeli air and ground assault that followed the Oct. 7 Hamas attack that killed 1,200 Israelis, people are desperate. Some have reportedly raided the few aid trucks that get in. Others were killed and seriously injured by air-dropped cargo when parachutes failed to open. Emergency aid is hardly a substitute for peace.

In the southernmost part of Gaza, in and around Rafah, hundreds of thousands who fled the Israeli strikes in the north now wait in terror — and hunger — for a threatened final assault.

The dock, welcome though it may be, is an almost perverse footnote to Biden administration policy that supplies and supports the Israeli destruction at the heart of the crisis.

By demanding an immediate and lasting cease-fire, thus permitting the return of regular supply convoys, the U.S. would save many more lives and stave off far more hunger than any number of docks and air-drops.

But the best the administration could muster Monday was an abstention in a United Nations Security Council cease-fire resolution. It represented a modest shift in policy (although Biden administration officials denied it) after three U.S. vetoes of previous resolutions.

Nearly six months into the Israel-Hamas war, more U.S. officials, including

## Guest Editorial

*... Hamas likely has little regard for the innocents and is only too willing to permit their slaughter to further its own power.*

dozens of members of Congress, are belatedly demanding an end to the Gaza horror. Or, as in the case of Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer (D-New York), a change in the Israeli government.

Such calls should not be mistaken as support for the religio-fascist Hamas regime, whose brutal attack began this latest tragedy, and which continues to hold more than 100 hostages.

It is high time for Biden to acknowledge that there are at least three parties in the Gaza disaster. Israel of course is one. Hamas is another.

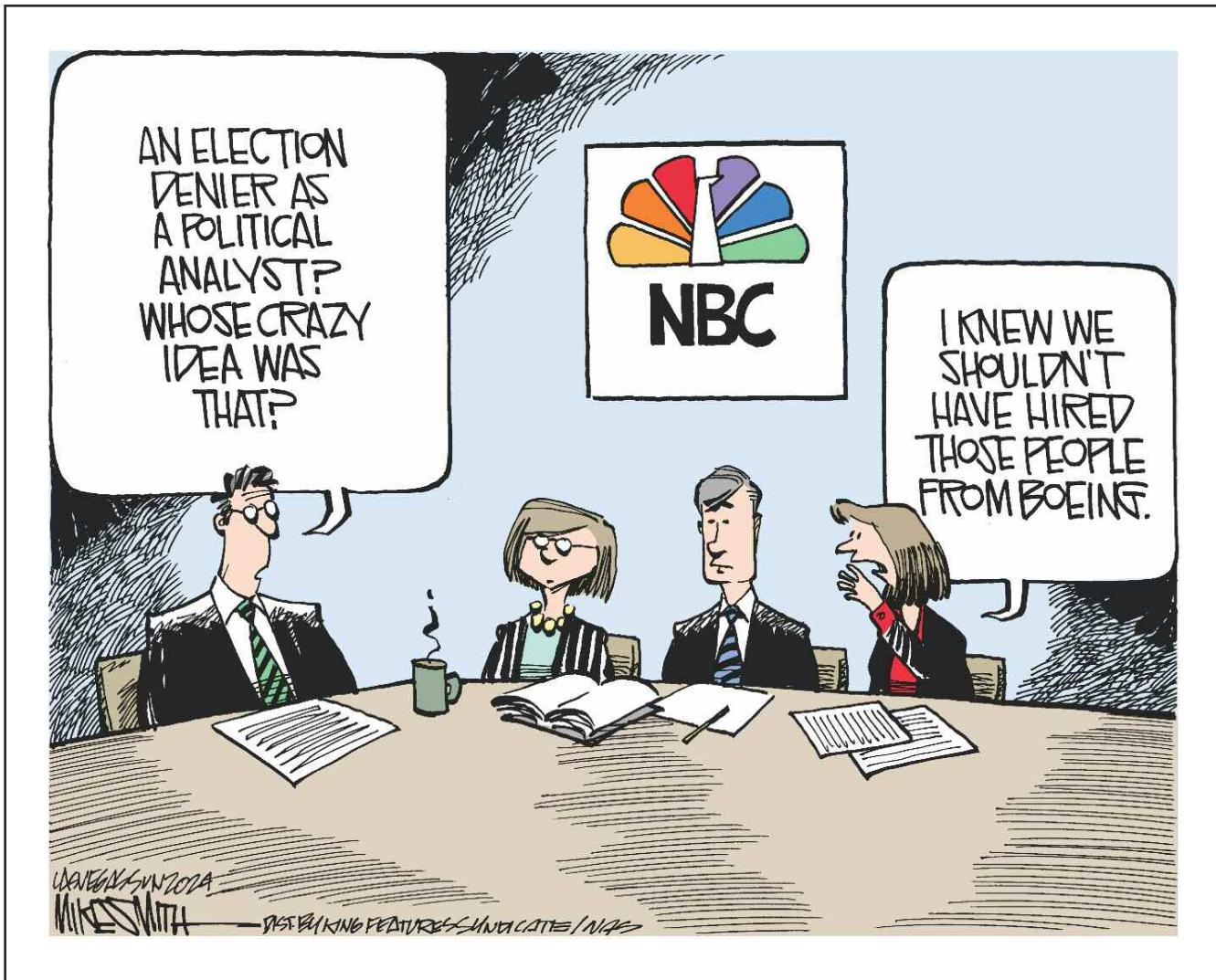
Palestinians just trying to avoid starvation are a third.

It may be convenient for the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to pretend that Hamas combatants and innocent Palestinian civilians are a single adversary, and that bombing and starving Palestinians is putting pressure on Hamas to release the hostages.

But Hamas likely has little regard for the innocents and is only too willing to permit their slaughter to further its own power.

The deaths of more than 32,000 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry, and the grief and misery of the survivors is not merely tragic, but gratuitous. Whatever clout the U.S. retains in the region should be used to end this madness. It is a fourth party to the conflict. As is the rest of the world.

And then build the dock.



# Memories fend off loneliness

By BRUCE WEXLER  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

This year, at the age of 72, I started living alone for the first time in my life.

For 42 years before that, I lived with my wife, Diane, who passed away in December. In college and as a young man, I always had roommates.

When my wife was diagnosed with Stage 4 cancer, about a year ago, she tried to prepare me for living alone. She taught me how to do the laundry. She showed me where the contact information was for the various tradespeople who repair our 100-year-old house.

All this was necessary, practical information, but I told her I didn't understand how I could live without her.

"We have a wonderful family and really good friends," she said. "Depend on them."

This has been good advice, but family and friends don't live under the same roof as me. They're not there when I want to complain about a McMansion going up down the block or when I wake from a bad dream in the middle of the night.

It's also difficult to live alone in a house suited for four people. It was just right for me, my wife and our two children. Now, it feels vast (even though it's not), and I wander its empty spaces at night like a character in a Gothic horror novel, startled by every floorboard creak.

It would be easier to live by myself if I were more outgoing. Diane was much more social than I am, and she drew a steady stream of people to our door and engaged in conversations with everyone — not just friends and

## Guest Opinion

neighbors but also the mailman and Amazon delivery employees.

Diane was what my mother referred to as a balabusta — Yiddish for a good homemaker. She was always vacuuming, dusting, straightening. I became accustomed to her literally sweeping through a room.

I miss her familiar motions.

To compensate for their absence, I fill the house with noise and light. I blast the stereo. I turn on lamps in every room as it grows dark. I watch television as I eat dinner with my new best friend, CNN's Erin Burnett.

I didn't need the U.S. Surgeon General's recent report on loneliness to know that it's dangerous to be alone for extended periods of time. But even on my best days, when it comes to groups I'm not much of a joiner. I tried an online site for people who have lost their spouses, but it felt like being locked in a virtual room saturated with grief. It made me want to be by myself.

Isolation is a slippery slope that can send you splashing down into depression's depths. To avoid it, I do what my wife advised and see or at least talk to family and friends as much as possible.

None of this, though, teaches me how to live alone.

I suspect I just have to avoid being lonely — a neat trick if you can pull

it off. I've made the effort to keep busy, to exercise, continue working full-time and meet friends for lunch. People tell me that eventually I'll be ready for a relationship with someone else — the ultimate cure for living alone. I can't imagine it. Just as I wouldn't want to be the quarterback who takes over from Tom Brady, I wouldn't want to be the woman who takes over from Diane. She was the one. For now, at least, I prefer not to date the equivalent of Mac Jones.

I resolve to go on alone and make the best of it, engaging in small talk with the delivery people and listening to sad songs (Linda Ronstadt's "Long Long Time" is possibly the saddest song ever sung).

As I wander from room to room during my insomnia midnights, the house sometimes comes alive with memories. Diane's piano still squats in the music room where she taught her students, and I can hear her patient voice correcting their mistakes. Upstairs are our children's bedrooms where I read them "Green Eggs and Ham" and "Where the Wild Things Are." The fireplace in the living room used to be our family gathering spot during holidays, the burning, crackling oak and birch punctuating our conversations.

William Faulkner wrote: "The past is never dead. It's not even past." I never understood this famous quote until I began to live alone. Diane may be gone and my kids may live more than 1,000 miles away, but the memories keep them close and me, not so much alone.

.....  
Wexler is a book ghostwriter and editor in the Chicago area.

# The Commercial Review



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VOLUME 150-NUMBER 224  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, 2024

[www.thecr.com](http://www.thecr.com)

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Stall ...

Continued from page 1

Portland resident Trisha Myers argued that she should be able to use her property as she pleases. (Council members confirmed with Myers that her recreational vehicle would not be in violation of the new ordinance based on where it is currently parked.)

Karin Somers, another Portland resident, said she feels recreational vehicles should not be allowed to be parked on the streets or alleys where they could be left for years without being moved. She suggested the council should slow down the process and reconsider the ordinance.

Her comment led to several council members pointing out that the topic has been discussed for months — it was brought up in late 2023 and revisited beginning in January with a new mayor and several new council members in office — and that having a first and second reading of the ordinance allows time for public comment.

At that point, the meeting turned contentious as council member Ashley Hilfiker said she felt the mayor was throwing council members “out to the wolves” regarding the proposed ordinance. She noted that the mayor has been part of the process throughout.

“I told my constituents that I was going to serve them,” responded Westlake, pointing out that his original proposal was changed. “We need to keep in mind that the people we are serving are the ones who put us here. ... And we need to keep in mind that the people need to feel included in the decisions that we make for their future.”

He noted the importance of keeping campaign promises. “And if the community always sees the mayor just trying to make the change alone, then they’re going to see the true colors of the council,” he added.

Goldsworthy responded by saying everyone involved is working hard.

“I find that very insulting,” he added in response to Westlake’s comments, with Hilfiker chiming in her agreement.

Westlake then expressed frustration about council not making

his requested changes to the city’s trash collection ordinance.

Goldsworthy pointed out, based on the recreational vehicle discussion, that residents have differing opinions and that elected officials are never going to make everyone happy.

Westlake said he didn’t realize people were going to fight him on his campaign promises.

“Those are your promises,” council president Kent McClung retorted.

“You go out and you talk to people and come back with your own ideas about what’s right for the citizens,” he added. “But you have to remember that each of us up here has their own ideas as well. And just because we don’t vote everything you want doesn’t mean that we don’t represent the people.”

Westlake accused council members of looking at things “through their own lenses” and not getting the public’s perspective on issues.

Council members took issue with that statement, saying they do talk to members of the public and care about the community. Hilfiker noted that she attended the last council meeting a week after giving birth.

“So don’t tell me that I do not care or I’m not a leader,” she said. “It’s not fair.”

“And just because we don’t vote with something that you want, we’re not all going to have the same opinion.”

Westlake said he feels there’s a need to work together, with Hilfiker responding that the mayor needs to start working with the council.

Westlake added that he doesn’t understand why he and council members are not seeing eye-to-eye on some issues. Hilfiker responded that when council members share their reasons, he gets upset.

“You act like as soon as you propose it that we have to pass it, and we don’t,” said Hilfiker. “That’s the whole point of having city council.”

When the conversation turned back to the recreational vehicle ordinance, Schemenaur took issue with the characterization that the ordinance was being rushed. He said the ordinance has had the most intense discussion of almost any in his time as city attorney.

Myers and Somers again expressed their opposing opinions on the issue.

There was also a brief discussion about impact on the Tri-State Antique Engine and Tractor Show in August, with Schemenaur suggesting leniency during the event.

Goldsworthy ultimately made a motion to table the second reading of the ordinance, with fellow council members Michele Brewster, Mike Aker, Dave Golden, Ron May, Hilfiker and McClung agreeing unanimously.

Also Monday, council approved spending \$45,669.95 to equip three new police vehicles to be purchased for Portland Police Department. (Council approved the funding for the vehicles at its previous meeting, with the city’s board of works approving the purchase last week.)

Council members, Portland Police Chief Dustin Mock and other officers had a back-and-forth over whether the department was going to trade in existing police vehicles. There was also a push-pull conversation about where the funding would come from for the equipment, with some council members suggesting existing police equipment funds while Mock and officers advocated for using money that was brought in via fines for off truck route violations during the 2023 construction season.

## Council OKs \$ for equipping police vehicles, plans work session to discuss take-home policy

Ultimately, Golden proposed a split option, utilizing all of the \$30,000 from the police department’s local option income tax (LOIT) equipment fund — the department also has almost \$16,000 available in a general equipment fund — with the remainder to come from the city’s general fund. (Money from off truck route fines went to the general fund.) His motion was approved unanimously.

The purchase of the vehicles and equipment led to a discussion about take-home police cars. Council members offered various views on the issue, with Golden ultimately suggesting a work session be scheduled to hash out details. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said she will reach out to council members, police, firefighters and others who have take-home vehicles to schedule the work session.

In other business, council:

•Approved a pair of tax abatements for FCC (Indiana) after they were recommended for approval by the city’s tax abatement advisory committee. FCC is planning new investments of \$1.6 million in personal property and \$499,000 in real property. The investments are projected to create 10-plus new jobs.

•OK’d on second and final reading the conversion of the intersections of Ship and Main streets and the intersection of Middle and North streets to four-way stops. Both are currently two-way stops with through traffic on Main and Middle streets, respectively. (The vote was 6-1 with May in opposition.)

•Heard an update from street department superintendent Matt Shauver regarding the city’s recent spring clean-up week. He noted that city employees collected 84 tons of trash on their routes during the week after picking up 44 tons the previous week. Council

said it is in support of having a fall clean-up day as well and informally agreed to update the city’s trash pick-up ordinance to call for two clean-up days per year.

•Discussion of the trash pick-up ordinance led to several notes from McClung, who pointed out that the city ordinance still calls for council meetings to be held at 7 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month although they have been being held at 5:30 p.m. for years. He also pointed out that any ordinance changes to be discussed must be provided to the public and media in advance or read in full at the meeting prior to a vote. (Council informally agreed to change the ordinance regarding the meeting time, and Phillips said proposed ordinances can be posted on the city’s website to allow the public to review them prior to meetings.) McClung also suggested a new procedure for considering ordinance changes, with one meeting set aside for discussion before a potential vote at the following meeting.

•Heard a comment from resident Virginia Burkey regarding bags of trash that were left at a residence. Westlake said he talked to the individuals in question and that the issue is being addressed.

•Was reminded by Goldsworthy that a series of Jay County Development Corporation events in partnership with Jay County Junior-Senior High School, including a signing day for students who are being offered jobs at local businesses. It follows a career fair on April 3 and an interview day on April 26.

•Heard a question from Hilfiker about the flashing stop signs that were moved from the intersection of Franklin Street and Industrial Park Drive to another intersection in the city. Shauver said he would look into getting quotes to purchase another set of the signs.

•Was invited, along with the media to FIRE OPS 101 training that Portland Fire Department will host on Saturday, June 15.

•Following a question from Hilfiker, heard from Mock that he plans to hire a code enforcement officer for the city.

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Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



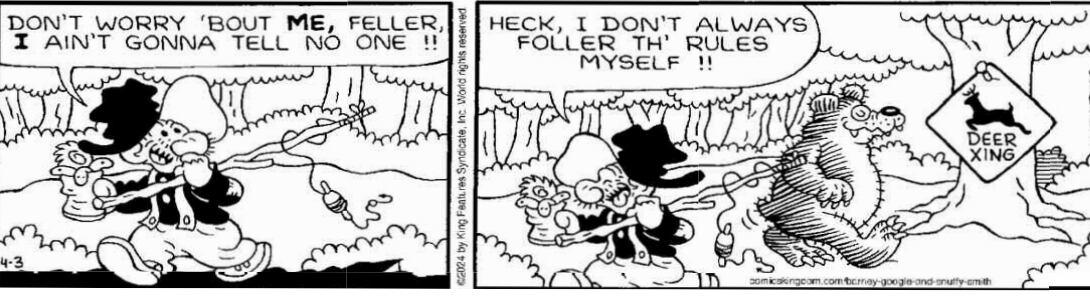
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



CRYPTOQUIP

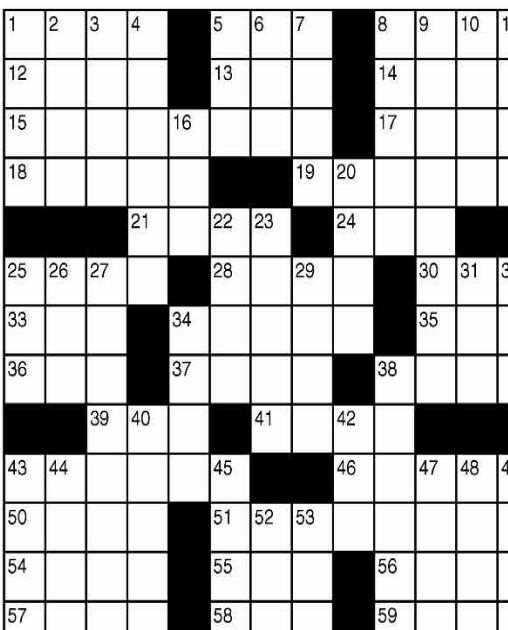
RDNXTG GNX ENFRAPSV SYSVG VSMVASYAFQ PNQ MDBM'R JNVF AF SBTVG NEMNJSV MN JS B TAJVB-PNV? Yesterday's Cryptoquip: STINGING INSECTS THAT HAVE DIED, BUT THEN BECOME MYSTERIOUSLY REVITALIZED: ZOM-BEES. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: J equals B

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Small fruit pie, 5 Moving truck, 8 French cleric, 12 "Sad to say...", 13 — de-France, 14 Repast, 15 Route for cyclists, 17 Annoys, 18 Handle, 19 "Amen to that!", 21 Leftovers recipe, 24 Lad, 25 Garage job, 28 Bath powder, 30 Remit, 33 Greek vowel, 34 Lair for bears, 35 Tennis great, 36 Actor, 37 Fashion's Cassini, 38 Nerd's kin, 39 Capita lead-in. DOWN: 2 "I cannot tell —", 3 Croupier's tool, 4 Dangerous fly, 5 By way of, 6 Flight stat, 7 Classic soda brand, 8 Pedro's pal, 9 Fruity picnic dessert, 10 Use the oven, 11 Differently, 16 Soup cooker, 20 Grade school basics, 22 And others (Lat.), 23 Signaled "Hi!", 25 Permit, 26 Multi-purpose truck, 27 Harmful publicity, 29 Toy block name, 31 Mature, 32 Tibetan beast, 34 Bottle stopper, 38 Grammy category, 40 Duck down, 42 Elmer, to Bugs, 43 "Star Trek" helmsman, 44 General — Chicken, 45 Online auction site, 47 Saab model, 48 Attire, 49 Gaelic, 52 Flamenco cheer, 53 Hotel amenity.

Solution time: 23 mins. O L A V T I C R A S P R E N O A S I E M U S R O A D S T E R M I L A K I A C M I N U S P L E A S T U E S A I L S P O L L S T E R L E T O U T A T R D A M U E N S T E R S E A M A L U M P O E M S L A P T O P I O U A L A L J O K E S T E R C O C O O N E E A R S E T O N B O A D I E T

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# Sports

## Hamlin brings home Easter victory

By SHANE CONNUCK

The Charlotte Observer  
Tribune News Service

Denny Hamlin wasn't going to lose his advantage.

Pit stops were, as always, critical late in the NASCAR Cup Series race at Richmond on Easter Sunday. Hamlin felt his team had executed them perfectly, and as an overtime restart began following a caution with fewer than two laps remaining, he found himself with a shot at victory.

Martin Truex Jr., who dominated the race in many ways, led the field to green alongside Hamlin. The two were side-by-side into Turn 1, and Hamlin pulled away and won the two-lap shootout at his home track.

Elton Sawyer, the sport's senior vice president of competition, told reporters post-race

### Denny Hamlin holds off dominant Martin Truex Jr. in history-making race

that NASCAR reviewed the finish and "deemed it to be a good restart."

"This is certainly the new age NASCAR," Hamlin said in his post-race news conference, "It is so equal on the race track, that really, the pit crew is the ones that make a difference when everyone is running the same speed."

For the No. 11 Joe Gibbs Racing team, winning Sunday's race at Richmond was gratification of its pit crew's efforts.

Hamlin noted that there

were stretches over the past few years when he'd be nervous every time he drove down pit road, just hoping deep down that he'd only sacrifice a position or two. He led just 15 laps on Sunday, but his crew made sure he was in the right places at the right times.

There probably weren't many nerves for Hamlin in his final time driving down pit road on Sunday — as he burned out and steered his Toyota into Victory Lane.

"That's their walk-off home

run," crew chief Chris Gabehart said. "What I really want to speak to is the intangibles, because that's where magic happens. It's people that believe they can do more than they can as individuals, and my team — not just my pit crew, my team. They pull the rope selflessly."

There was rain in Central Virginia throughout the afternoon and early evening Sunday. But the race only needed to be delayed roughly 15 minutes.

The precipitation started to let up toward the evening, and an on-time start still felt unlikely. The track was damp, but NASCAR had its trucks drying the surface. Cars were lined up on pit road in covers.

The race went green a little more than 15 minutes after it

had been scheduled — using wet-weather tires. That marked the first time in NASCAR history that a Cup Series points race was run on these tires.

"We could have been sitting there another hour getting everything dry," Sawyer said. "According to Jim France, this was his vision. A couple years ago, he tasked the (Research and Development) Center and Goodyear to come up with a tire that we could run when it's damp, and tonight was a success. We were able to get started pretty much on time."

It was the third time wet-weather tires have ever been used in any NASCAR event, after last year's All-Star race at North Wilkesboro and a recent Truck Series race at Martinsville.

## Former Colts CB found dead

By GEORGE BREMER

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)  
Tribune News Service

News of former Indianapolis Colts cornerback Vontae Davis' death spread quickly Monday, with several former teammates and coaches expressing condolences on social media.

Davis, 35, reportedly was found dead in his Miami-area home by a house assistant.

The Davie (Florida) Police Department released a statement saying it does not suspect foul play.

Other details about Davis' death were scarce.

See Colts page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Caught in the act

Fort Recovery High School shortstop Cali Wendel tags out Memorial's Cadence Hirschfeld as catcher Kylie Post gunned her down to prevent a stolen base March 28. The next two games for the Indians were canceled due to weather.

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## Rashee Rice sought out by Dallas police

By BLAIR KERKHOFF

The Kansas City Star  
Tribune News Service

The attorney for Rashee Rice said the Kansas City Chiefs wide receiver is "cooperating with local authorities" after a major car crash in Texas on Saturday.

Six cars were involved in the wreck, which dashcam video appears to show was caused by two luxury cars driving recklessly at high speed on a Dallas freeway. One of the high-end vehicles is registered to Rice, according to Dallas police.

After the pile-up, in which injuries were reported, the occupants of the two vehicles walked away from the scene. On Sunday, police said they were seeking Rice for questioning.

"On behalf of Rashee Rice, his thoughts are with everyone impacted by the automobile accident on Saturday," said Royce West of West & Associates of Dallas.

### Luxury car registered to the Chiefs' receiver was involved in a 6-car crash

"Rashee is cooperating with local authorities and will take all necessary steps to address this situation responsibly."

Dallas police spokeswoman Kristin Lowman said the accident took place around 6:25 p.m. Saturday after the drivers of a Chevrolet Corvette and Lamborghini Urus were speeding in the far left lane.

The drivers "lost control" according to Lowman, with the Lamborghini hitting the center median wall, which caused a chain-reaction collision with a total of six vehicles.

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