

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Dress code updates reviewed

*Board expects to vote on new policies next month*

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

The school dress code policy may get some updates.

Jay School Board on Monday received proposed updates to the elementary and junior-senior high handbooks, including to the dress code policy, for review in preparation for a vote at its May meeting.

Jay School Corporation assistant superintendent Trent Paxson told the board that dress code, bus regulations, cheating and plagiarism, and student privacy and access to information were the four main areas where changes were made in the handbooks. He noted that the elementary school handbook was also adjusted to bring it more in line with the junior-senior high document.

Junior-senior high assistant principal/dean Brad Milleman presented details of the dress code changes, explaining that the process included looking at dress codes from other area school districts, seeking staff, student and parent feedback and reviewing data on "referrals" from the last two years. Through that process, it was found that there were minor concerns about the overall policy with greater concerns about how violations are handled, consistency and being "overly nit-picky."

Among the changes made in the proposed handbook are grouping like items — headwear, upper garments, lower garments — together in order to make the guidelines easier to understand. There will also be photographic examples of what is permissible and what is not.

See Code page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Bandaging Billy

Pictured above, Billy Sipe of rural Portland chats with American Red Cross volunteer Tami Metz of St Marys, Ohio, while she wraps his arm Tuesday during the blood drive at Jay Community Center. At right, Teresa Kelly of rural Portland reaches to hold her arm as a volunteer removes the needle. Upcoming blood drives are scheduled for 2 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, April 23, at Bryant Wesleyan Church and 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 7, at IU Health Jay.



## FR adds wrestling as a club sport

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Students will have the opportunity to wrestle competitively at Fort Recovery High School next year.

Fort Recovery School Board on Monday authorized superintendent Tony Stahl to approve high school girls and boys wrestling as a club sport activity and approved the club as an Ohio High School Athletic Association

### Hemmelgarn, Grieshop were approved as coaches

tournament sport for the 2024-25 school year.

School board members also accepted Brian Hemmelgarn and Reece Grieshop as volunteer wrestling coaches for the

club, which could begin practice as soon as September.

Hemmelgarn, a Coldwater High School graduate and J&M Manufacturing employee, has lived in

Fort Recovery for about a dozen years. A lifelong wrestler, he started participating in open tournaments at 7 or 8 years old and continued his involvement through high school. Hemmelgarn served as volunteer wrestling coach for three years at his alma mater before stepping away to focus on his career and family.

"I never thought I'd really, after moving to Fort Recovery, I'd have a pitch in it again, and then

one of the Grieshop boys has been in my ear since (forever)," he said.

Hemmelgarn said he expects anywhere from nine to 15 students to join the club initially, with hopes to draw more to the team as time goes on. He noted details are still in the works but expressed excitement to launch the club.

"(I'm looking forward) to getting back into it," he said.

See FR page 2

## Officer addresses turnover

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

A Portland police officer says compensation is the key factor leading to a high turnover rate within the department.

City council members say they have provided raises each year and have not denied any request that has come from the department.

The bulk of Monday's Portland City Council meeting involved the discussion about police compensation after officer Patrick Long presented his concerns.

Long, who has worked as a full-time officer for the city for a year and has been with the department since 2018, told council that of the 11 road officers currently employed by the police department eight have been hired in the past year. (The department has a roster of 14 officers, with three of those positions considered as administrative.)

"I would say this is critical," he said. "This is unsustainable."

Two other officers are planning to leave the department soon, Long said, one for an annual salary of \$64,000 — a 23%

increase from the officers' current rate — and the other of more than \$75,000. He noted salaries of \$62,000, with a take-home vehicle, for police in Hartford City, Montpelier and Ossian. (Council last month agreed to talk with police regarding a take-home vehicle policy, with a work session planned for that purpose.)

He said other officers are fielding offers to leave.

Long pointed out the cost of turnover — paying for Indiana Law Enforcement Academy and covering shifts while that training is being conducted — and the loss of camaraderie and leadership.

"If we continue to lose experienced officers, I worry about what the future of this depart-

ment is going to look like ... and how this is going to affect our department's ability to serve the community," he said. He also suggested considering longevity pay or a pay matrix.

Council member Matt Goldsworthy said raises have been made — council member Dave Golden later noted that the increases for city employees were 5% for 2023 and 4.5% for this year — and that the department has not been turned down for anything it has requested during his time on council. (Council last month approved nearly \$150,000 for new police vehicles.)

"Since I've been on this council I've done everything to try to support you guys," he said. "And yet I feel like it's never enough."

See Turnover page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Training talk

Ron Huffman of Responder Training Enterprises explains aspects of safely dealing with propane leaks to firefighters from the Portland, Redkey and Bryant departments during a training session Saturday afternoon. The training paid for by the Local Emergency Planning Committee also included new equipment to help handle propane emergencies.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 73 degrees Monday. The low was 55.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 50 with showers, a chance of thunderstorms and winds gusting to 30 miles per hour. Expect mostly sunny skies Thursday with a high of 70.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

### In review

The United Way of Jay County has been awarded federal funds made available through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS)/Federal Emergency Management Agency under the Emergency Food and Shelter National Board Program. These funds are to supplement emergency food and

shelter programs in Jay County. Public or nonprofit agencies interested in applying for these funds should contact Jane Ann Runyon at the United Way of Jay County by calling 260-726-7010 or e-mailing the office at unitedwayofjaycounty@gmail.com no later than Friday, April 26 2024.

### Coming up

**Thursday** — Results from the Jay County track meet against Bluffton.

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

**Saturday** — Results from the JCHS baseball team's game against Woodlan.



# Code ...

Continued from page 1  
Other recommended changes include:  
•Using the term “mid-thigh” for shorts, skirts and dresses rather than “fingertip length”  
•Removing pajamas, wristbands and biker shorts from the restricted list  
•Adding sunglasses and flags to the restricted list  
It is also being recommended that staff be trained to pull students aside rather than disciplining them in front of other students and to maintain a respectful demeanor in order to reduce student embarrassment. Processes and documentation will be put in place to help with consistency of enforcement.  
Jay Schools superintendent Jeremy Gulley reminded that board that multiple parents visited meetings in spring 2023 to

lodge complaints about the dress code policy.  
“I think it addressed all those issues of last year,” said board member Marcie Vormohr of the proposed changes.  
Also Monday, the board heard from junior-senior high principal Chad Dodd and assistant principal James Myers that the school has been re-certified as an Early College program through the Center of Excellence in Leadership of Learning (CELL). The recertification process included interviews with students and staff.  
“They went on about how highly the students spoke of our teachers and how much the teachers have helped and supported them and made themselves available after school,” said Dodd of the endorsement committee. “And they said they

don’t hear that everywhere they go.”  
Myers pointed out that more than 80 students took at least three college classes in 2020, ’21 and ’22 and that about 15% of this year’s graduating class will graduate with the equivalent of an associate’s degree.  
In other business, board members Donna Geesaman, Phil Ford, Vickie Reitz, Jason Phillips, Marcie Vormohr and Chip Phillips, absent Ron Laux:  
•Approved the retirements of assistant principal/athletics director Steve Boozer, Bloomfield Elementary School second grade teacher Kim Hyatt, high school business teacher Rhonda Clott and junior high business teacher Connie Lyons.  
•Heard from business manager Shannon Current that she projects a positive cash flow of

\$3,000 in the education fund and a positive cash flow of \$1,500 in the operations fund for 2024. Projected year-end cash balances are \$7.9 million in the education fund and \$4.7 million.  
•Approved the following: the hiring of speech language pathologist Shannon Coe, Latchkey instructional assistant Amanda Butcher and Lifeskills instructional assistant Tamara Pitman; extracurricular assignments including Marvin Buckner as assistant boys and girls golf coach, Ian Ruiz as assistant boys soccer coach and Quinn Faulkner as freshman football coach; the resignation of Christie Sommers as assistant swim coach leaves of absence for Rebecca May, Kim Hyatt and Stacy Campbell; a field trip for high school Spanish students to El Meson restau-

rant in Dayton, Ohio; service contracts with Curtis & Livers for special education professional consulting services and East Coast Migrant Head State Project for transitioning children from East Coast Migrant Head Start into the public school system; adoption of textbooks for the junior-senior high business department; the flexibility waiver to allow late starts on four days during the school year for the purpose of professional development.  
•Accepted the resignation of seventh grade math teacher Ava Kahlig.  
•Accepted the donation of a communication board for the playground at West Jay Elementary School from Psi Iota Xi sorority. (Similar boards were installed last year at Hudson Family Park in Portland.)

## CR almanac

Thursday 4/18	Friday 4/19	Saturday 4/20	Sunday 4/21	Monday 4/22
<b>70/50</b> Partly sunny skies on Thursday, with rain expected at night. The low may be around 50 degrees.	<b>59/41</b> Friday looks to be rainy with an 80% chance of thunderstorms and showers.	<b>55/36</b> Mostly sunny skies on Saturday. The low at night may dip into the upper 30s.	<b>55/35</b> Partly sunny on Sunday, with the high temperature hitting the mid 50s.	<b>60/45</b> Sunny skies are in the forecast for Monday, when the high will be around 60 degrees.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 7-16-41-56-61 Power Ball: 23 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$78 million	Daily Four: 2-7-6-9 Quick Draw: 1-8-10-15-18-20-22-23-35-37-47-48-49-50-58-61-62-65-70-76 Cash 5: 2-18-28-31-40 Estimated jackpot: \$693,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$148 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 6-5-4 Pick 4: 8-0-9-4 Pick 5: 4-5-8-9-2 Evening Pick 3: 1-3-8 Pick 4: 3-3-2-1 Pick 5: 1-4-5-9-7 Rolling Cash: 2-19-28-30-34 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 6-6-0 Daily Four: 6-6-6-3 Quick Draw: 7-10-11-12-15-21-22-25-26-28-29-41-47-49-51-55-61-65-67 Evening Daily Three: 2-3-9	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.37 May corn.....4.37 Wheat .....4.30	May beans .....11.39 Wheat ..... 5.26
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.37 May corn.....4.37 June corn .....4.42	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.10 May corn.....4.14 Beans .....11.30 May beans .....11.33 Wheat .....5.23
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.23 May corn.....4.23 Beans .....11.39	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.25 May corn.....4.27 Beans .....11.16 May beans .....11.21 Wheat .....4.85

## Today in history

In 1492, Christopher Columbus penned his name on a contract with Spain to find the “Indies” and convert people to Catholicism.  
In 1970, Beatles star Paul McCartney released his first self-titled solo album. He released another album, “Ram,” the following year before forming the band Wings with his wife, Linda.  
In 2011, “Game of Thrones” premiered on HBO. Based on the novels by George R.R. Martin, the show continued for eight seasons. It follows two families in a medieval fantasy realm fighting for control.  
—The CR

## Citizen’s calendar

<b>Today</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, municipal airport, 661 W. 100 North.	Indiana 67, Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
<b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	5:30 p.m. — Center Cemetery Board, Community Room, Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 S. Mooney St.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
<b>Monday</b> 3:30 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District, 5948 W. St.	7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

## Capsule Reports

### Scam warning issued

The United States Marshals Services and FBI issued a warning Monday regarding a scam.  
Individuals are claiming to be representatives of the Marshals Services, court officers or other law enforcement. They provide information like badge numbers, names of

actual law enforcement officials, federal judges and courthouse addresses in order to seem credible.  
The FBI notes:  
•The U.S. Marshals Service will never ask for credit/debit card/gift card numbers, wire transfers, or bank routing numbers or to make bitcoin deposits for any purpose.

•Never divulge personal or financial information to unknown callers.  
•Report scam phone calls to your local FBI offices and to the FTC.  
•You can remain anonymous when you report.  
•You can authenticate the call by contacting the United States District

Court Clerk’s in your area to verify the court order given by the caller.  
Anyone who has been contacted in such a fashion should report it to the Federal Trade Commission online at report-fraud.ftc.gov/#/?orgcode=USM or to contact the Federal Bureau of Investigation at ic3.gov.

# Crouch leads in funding

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

As the six Republican candidates round the final bend before the May 7 primary in the 2024 governor’s race, Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch leads the pack in terms of money on hand, according to the new campaign finance reports filed Monday.  
Others vying to succeed the term-limited Gov. Eric Holcomb include: U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, businessmen Brad Chambers and Eric Doden, former Attorney General Curtis Hill and Jamie Reitenour.  
Combined, the candidates have nearly \$5 million left to spend and have spent a jaw-dropping \$20 million in the first quarter of 2024. In 2023, the six potential nominees spent nearly \$14.5 million, almost certainly making this race the most expensive gubernatorial nomination in Indiana history with another few weeks to go.  
As of March 31st, Crouch had over \$3 million on hand and no debts.

The next leading contender, in terms of money on hand, is Braun, with \$946,000 followed by Chambers with \$761,000 and Doden with \$250,000.  
Hill and Reitenour have lagged behind their competitors in terms of fundraising and spending, both reporting less than \$35,000 in terms of money on hand with less than a month to go. Hill had \$34,000 — according to the reports — compared to Reitenour’s \$6,000.  
Both Chambers and Doden have campaign debts, with Chambers owing himself \$8 million compared to Doden’s debt of \$1 million to his parents.  
In a statement, Braun campaign senior advisor Josh Kelley criticized the two campaign for “self-funding.”  
“With 21 days until Election Day, Mike Braun raised more money than anyone else without self-funding his campaign. On March 31, Braun reserved \$3.6 million in television ads for the final six weeks, he’s the

only candidate with the cash to make that reservation, and now in the final three weeks he has the largest presence on any of the candidates currently on television,” Kelley said.  
The cash on hand will be critically important to purchase campaign advertising and sway voters in the upcoming election in which polls have identified a swath of voters who are still undecided, though Braun leads by double digits across five polls compiled by Five Thirty Eight.  
The latest poll, from SurveyUSA for State Affairs/Howey Politics, puts Braun at 44% of the vote, followed by Crouch with 10% while both Chambers and Doden got 8%.  
Hill and Reitenour each had 2% but over a quarter of those polled, 26%, were undecided.  
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Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

## Felony arrests

### Drug possession

A Ridgeville man was arrested Tuesday for drug possession.  
Lucas J. Kelsay, 34, 6893 U.S. 27, was preliminarily

charged with a Level 6 felony for possession of cocaine or a narcotic drug.  
He was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

## Turnover ...

Continued from page 1  
Council member Ashley Hillfiker asked, “How many are leaving currently because of pay but not because of issues internally?” She said she knows of departures that are not because of pay.  
Kent McClung, council president, asked if exit interviews are held with departing officers. He also noted that the cost of the city’s health insurance premiums for employees has not gone up in 20 years.  
Council members and Long also went back and forth on how the city’s pay compares to similar municipalities and details

of past wage studies.  
Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips noted that Accelerate Indiana Municipalities conducts an annual wage survey which should be available around June 1.  
Council agreed to look at the pay rate for police officers through the city’s budget and salary ordinance process this year.  
See Turnover page 5



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### SERVICES

**Today**  
Martin, Loretta: 1 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

**Friday**  
Glancy, Max: 11 a.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Service listings provided by  
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### FREE Mammogram Screenings

Must be scheduled by May 31, 2024.

**Eligibility Requirements:**

- Women over the age of 40
- Women without insurance
- Resident of Jay or Blackford Counties or immediate surrounding Indiana county
- Have not had a mammogram in the past year
- Never had breast implants
- No personal history or symptoms of breast cancer

\*Additional testing, views, or procedures after the initial screening is the financial responsibility of the patient.

Funding provided by: IU Health Foundation  
IU Health Jay: 500 W. Votaw St, Portland, IN  
IU Health Blackford: 410 Pilgrim Blvd, Hartford City, IN

Schedule your **FREE Mammogram Screening today!**

**260.726.1868**



\*\*Screening for state-assisted insurance will be completed prior to scheduling.

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Photo provided

## Regional finalists

Optimist Clubs of Jay County recently announced Anna Fisher and Londyn Cavanaugh, pictured above, as finalists of the Optimist Indiana North Regional Oratorical contest. Fisher and Cavanaugh advanced to the district contest April 20 at Creative Financial Center in Kokomo.

## Public forum is Thursday

Another community forum about recovery housing in Jay County is slated for Thursday.

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition will lead the forum, which is the second the group has hosted this year in an effort to address concerns and questions about creating a sober living facility in the community. Local residents are invited to attend the meeting at 6 p.m. Thursday in IU Health Jay's conference rooms A and B, 500 W. Votaw St., Portland.

### Recital weekend

Jay County Campus of Arts Place is hosting spring recitals for MusicWorks students Friday and Saturday.

MusicWorks, a comprehensive program of music instruction for all ages, helps to teach students how to read music and learn proper playing techniques and fundamentals of music theory.

Recitals are at 7 p.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday and 12:30 p.m. Saturday at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. Admission is free, with no tickets or registration needed.

For more information or questions about how to be involved, contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-

### Taking Note

4809 or email [jcc@myart-space.org](mailto:jcc@myart-space.org). In related news, registration for summer MusicWorks programs goes live Thursday. To register, visit [bit.ly/Summer-MusicWorks2024](http://bit.ly/Summer-MusicWorks2024).

### Fine Art Show

Art collectors and enthusiasts are invited to a fine art show and sale this weekend in Ohio.

Artistry at the Harvest Barn, a show and sale at the dairy barn at 6915 Olding Road, Maria Stein, is set for 6:30 to 9 p.m. Friday, 2 to 9 p.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday. The show features 30 fine artists from across Ohio and Indiana, according to a press release from event coordinators.

All sales will directly support artists. Admission is a suggested \$1 donation, with children 12 and younger getting in free. To learn more, visit Artistry at the Harvest Barn on Facebook.

### Self-care session

There's an opportunity next week to learn more

about self-care. Jenni Van-Skyock with IU Health Jay will be at Jay County Public Library at 6 p.m. Tuesday to share why self-care is important and offer techniques to use daily.

Participants in the seminar will also be able to create self-care jars to take home. The session serves as the next installment in the Design Your Life Adult Mental Health Series offered at the library with VanSkyock.

To reserve a spot, visit the library at 315 N. Ship St., Portland call (260) 726-7890 or go to [bit.ly/4d1T2Ez](http://bit.ly/4d1T2Ez).

### Workshop is Monday

Randolph County Purdue Extension and Randolph County Recycling District will partner to host the Speak for the Trees and Plant for Free Workshop at 6:30 p.m. Monday at Randolph County Fairgrounds.

The event will include Jay County Purdue Extension educator Emily Kring discussing soil, Edward Oehlman of Indiana Society of American Foresters, Michael Bane of Creation Conservation and Liz Yetter of State of Indiana Cooperative Invasives.

To register, call the extension office at (765) 584-2271 or email [aalka@purdue.edu](mailto:aalka@purdue.edu).

## Relationship upsets friend

DEAR ABBY: My husband's best friend, "Kevin," lost his wife three years ago. He's currently in a relationship with his niece (his deceased brother's daughter). Kevin is in his 60s; she's in her 50s. We find this disgusting and do not condone it. They are both from Portugal. Is this acceptable in other countries?

We have tried to discuss it with him; he said he doesn't care what we think. Kevin tries to plan things for all of us as couples, and we don't want to be in their company. Am I wrong? I have known his niece for several years, and I don't want to be unkind, but I just cannot be around them. His wonderful wife is turning over in her grave. — SCANDALIZED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SCANDALIZED: This type of incestuous relationship is not specifically prohibited under Portuguese law, nor is it prohib-

Dear Abby



ed in the state of New Jersey. If you don't wish to socialize with this couple, you are not compelled to do it. Your husband can do it without you if he wishes.

DEAR ABBY: A childhood friend invited me to stay at his home for a visit. We had a great time. A few days after I left, he texted me that something expensive was missing from his home and asked if I knew anything about it. I told him I was sorry to hear the bad news and I don't know what

happened. He has now blocked me on all forms of communication. I suppose he thinks I had something to do with the missing item. I wonder if I could have handled the situation differently. Should I have perhaps offered to compensate him for at least part of the value of the missing item despite not being responsible for its disappearance? I don't want to appear to admit fault, but I'm sad that our friendship has apparently ended over this. — INNOCENT IN FLORIDA

DEAR INNOCENT: If you offer to compensate your host, it WILL look like an admission of guilt. Don't do it. If you feel you must say anything at this point, write the person a LETTER expressing that not only are you sorry he is missing the item in question, but also that its disappearance has ended what was, to you, a treasured friendship. Period.

## 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.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each

Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

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.

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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.

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## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

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

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.

## Help us choose our TEACHER OF THE YEAR

The Graphic Printing Company will honor its second Teacher of the Year in a special section in May (We may honor multiple teachers based on your nominations.)

- Anyone can nominate a teacher. The award is open to anyone who:
- Teaches in our coverage area (Jay, Randolph and Blackford counties, eastern Delaware county and Fort Recovery)
  - Is a teacher who lives in our coverage area
  - Is a teacher who previously lived in our coverage area.

To nominate, send us a letter that includes your name, the name of the teacher being nominated, their school, the grade(s) and subject(s) they teach and your reasons for nominating them.

You can send it to [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com)

The deadline is April 30.



# Birthday present hit a home run

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from April 20, 2005. Jack and Connie and baseball were regular column topics each April. This one included more family as a special surprise. While not a surprise for Connie this time, their daughters were all back in town last week for a birthday celebration and the solar eclipse.*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

When it comes to birthdays, sometimes you hit a home run and sometimes you strike out.

I've had plenty of gifts misfire over the years, but I think I've knocked it over the fence a good many times as well.

Earlier this month, when Connie notched another year on the calendar, I didn't have much in the way of presents for the occasion.

We'd taken a trip over spring

## Back in the Saddle



break, and the intent was for that to count as part of her birthday celebration. But as any husband can tell you, that's a move into dangerous territory.

To compensate, I proposed that we take a trip down to Indy for an Indians game as a way to celebrate.

Technically, it was the day after her birthday.

But I was knocked down with a cold on the big day and actually spent most of it in bed.

I could tell when we headed out that Saturday morning that the

trip was going to be a good one. The sun was shining. Spring was in the air. And my cold had abated.

Meanwhile, as we headed south, I could see the wheels turning in my wife's head.

ESP is one of those things which comes and goes in a marriage, but this time I knew what she was thinking.

It's a great day for a ball game, she thought. But it's too bad Sally can't join us.

Now, all of our daughters are baseball fans. But the twins came to it a little later than their sister. They'll freely admit that they were pills when they attended their first Cincinnati Reds game, if they even remember it. Today, they're loyal Red Sox fans and live in the metropolitan Boston area; but as children, they were impatient with the game. Not so their sister.

Sally's been a baseball fan from the beginning and marked a number of her birthdays with the Fort Wayne Wizards. So it's been more of a tradition over the years for the three of us — Sally, Connie, and I — to attend about half a dozen minor league games each summer.

This particular game, however, would be just the two of us.

Or so my wife thought as we passed through New Castle and got onto Interstate 70 heading west.

I could tell she didn't want to complain, but having Sally with us would have been the frosting on the cake. Instead, our youngest was down in Bloomington at Indiana University.

Or was she?

Secrets are hard to keep in our family, but this one was carefully sealed. Sally and I knew, of course, and so did her sisters in

Boston. Only my wife was in the dark.

Thanks to a friend on her floor, Sally was heading north to Indy while we came in from the east.

I'd hoped to meet up as a complete surprise on the sidewalk by the gate to Victory Field that we usually use, but that didn't work out.

Still, there was a moment of triumph — yes, a home run — when my wife noticed that I'd picked up three tickets, not two, from the "will call" window.

Before she could utter a word, I said, "Now we just have to find Sally."

Five minutes later, after we'd met up and had found our seats, I still felt as if I was rounding the bases.

Sometimes you strike out, but sometimes — if you keep your eye on the ball — you can knock it out of the park.

# Netanyahu is to blame for rift

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

Israel has pulled most of its troops from southern Gaza amid talks over the release of the more than 100 hostages held by Hamas since its Oct. 7 attack that killed about 1,200 people. It has also reopened previously closed entry points for food and water to prevent Palestinian civilians from starving after the Israeli military destroyed much of the infrastructure in counterattacks that have killed more than 33,000 in six months of warfare.

These are positive developments but, given the level of death and destruction in Gaza, there is little room for cheer.

In the wake of the Hamas attack, Israel had the support and sympathy of much of the world. But the unremitting fierceness of its actions in Gaza eroded that goodwill so swiftly and completely that even President Joe Biden has expressed increasing levels of dismay over the actions and attitudes of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government.

Indiscriminate bombing, Biden said in December, was costing Israel international support.

Israel's military response, he said after prepared remarks at a February news conference, were "over the top."

Biden was particularly critical — appropriately so — of the inability of humanitarian relief workers to get food and water to Gaza's 2.3 million people, many of whom face famine.

In March, the U.S. for the first time declined to veto a United Nations Security Council resolution calling for a cease-fire, and instead abstained.

The situation may have reached a turning point with Israel's April 1 attack that killed seven aid workers in a World Central Kitchen convoy. They are among the more than 200 aid workers who have been killed in the war.

Biden called for measurable steps to, as Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken recounted, "address civilian harm, humanitarian suffering and the safety of aid workers." The president told the Israeli leader that "U.S. policy with respect to Gaza will be determined by our assessment of Israel's immediate action on these steps," according to Blinken.

That stops short of demands by some members of Congress to condition

## Guest Editorial

continuing U.S. military aid to changes in Israel's conduct of the war.

But it comes close.

The most positive development now would be for the lull in fighting to lead to hostage releases and a lasting cease-fire. If that's not to be, though, it will be time for Biden to follow up on his warning to Netanyahu by finally requiring that Israel meet the same standards as other nations that receive U.S. military aid.

That includes transparency and tracking to ensure that weapons are used "solely for internal security, for legitimate self-defense," and that the recipient not commit gross violations of human rights.

Calls to hold Israel to these standards were underway before the current conflict. The Biden administration deflected those efforts and continued honoring traditional exceptions for Israel.

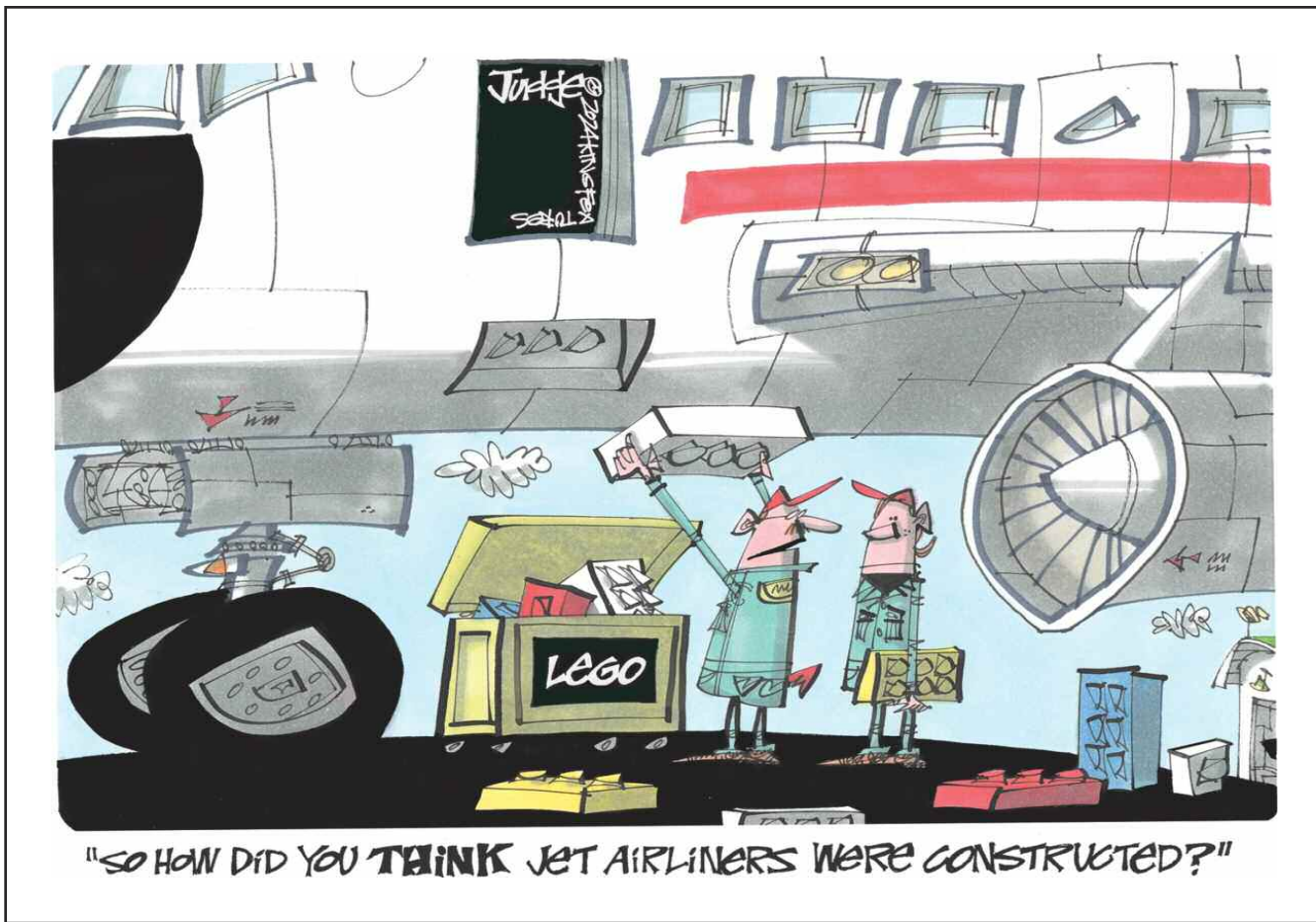
Israel's special status in U.S. arms policy has been justified by the argument that it is a rare democracy in a region of authoritarian and sometimes hostile states, and a close U.S. ally that shares values, including support for fundamental human rights (notwithstanding the treatment of Palestinians in the West Bank by Israeli settlers and in Gaza by Israeli policies to seal off the territory).

Now some of the values expressed by the most right-wing government in Israel's history have caused some Americans to question the relationship. Netanyahu pushed a plan to diminish the judiciary's ability to hold government power in check. And statements by the prime minister and other members of his government suggest a postwar plan to hold Gaza in perpetual subjection.

Meanwhile, Israel produces and exports weapons of its own, raising the question of why the U.S. needs to keep supplying arms.

It is Hamas that keeps the war going by continuing to hold the hostages it brutally kidnapped in its October attack.

But it is Israel's retaliatory actions in Gaza that may be leading the U.S. to reassess the two nations' relationship.



# Four-day week is decades away

By ALLISON SCHRAGER  
Bloomberg Opinion  
Tribune News Service

Billionaires and Bernie Sanders agree on at least one thing: They see a four-day workweek in America's future. Hedge fund manager Steve Cohen is investing in golf courses because he anticipates a big increase in leisure time, and IAC founder Barry Diller is expecting people to be in the office only four days a week. The senator from Vermont, meanwhile, has proposed legislation that will set the workweek to 32 hours.

Put me down as skeptical. Some big technological innovations promise to make people more productive, but a four-day workweek will not be the norm anytime soon. And legislation imposing it over the next four years would harm the economy.

The first question is what a "four-day workweek" means. Sometimes it means working 40 hours in four days instead of five, though this tends to be less efficient. Or it may mean working an eight-hour day four days a week, which is what Sanders has in mind. Both kinds of arrangements have become more common over the years in the U.S. and elsewhere — though much of the increase is among people who work fewer than 40 hours.

As for the merits of the idea, there are basically two arguments for a shorter workweek. One presumes that people waste so much time at work that working 20% less won't make a difference if they use the time more efficiently. A few small studies, mainly in non-customer-facing service jobs, find that a 20% drop in hours does not result in a decline in revenue.

But whether this finding applies to more labor-intensive jobs is doubtful. The only large experiment comes from France, which imposed a 35-hour workweek in 1998 on large firms, with the hope it would increase

## Allison Schrager



employment. Studies show it did not increase employment or happiness — and France later tried to appeal it.

The Sanders bill is in many ways worse than the French law. Like that law, it does not force people to work fewer hours. Instead, it lowers the threshold at which overtime pay kicks in. The Sanders bill also stipulates that employers can't reduce pay if people work fewer hours as a result, so for some workers it would be akin to a 20% pay increase on an hourly basis.

That is a remarkable burden to impose on the economy (though some workers will be exempt). Perhaps some very profitable companies will be able to accommodate such a big pay increase. Advocates insist that people will be so happy and productive, companies won't notice any difference. But a 20% productivity increase just from being happier and more engaged? And for many firms — in, say, manufacturing, or industries where face time is necessary — the productivity gains from higher morale are more limited.

The labor-time-intensive jobs also tend to be at companies that have lower margins. When Iceland reduced the workweek by just a few hours for 1% of its population about a decade ago, the Icelandic government had to hire more people, increasing labor costs. A 20% wage increase will force many private firms to either close, increase prices or replace workers with technology. The gains from the Sanders bill will mostly benefit high-skill and well-

paid workers in already productive companies.

Besides which, imposing fewer hours may not be necessary. The 40-hour workweek has been the full-time standard since 1938 in the US, but even without big legislative changes, work hours have fallen as technology and wealth have shortened the workweek for many people in the developed world. There are reasons to believe this trend will continue.

The other, somewhat related, argument for a shorter workweek is that technology makes people more productive, enabling them to work less. In 1930, for example, John Maynard Keynes envisioned a 15-hour workweek.

That did not pan out. But Keynes was not totally wrong: People are working fewer hours than they did in his day. Back then, low-wage workers tended to work more. Today, high earners do. Technology does not always mean people work less. What matters is how technology affects their job. In the last 50 years technology has tended to benefit high-skill workers, so working more brought them greater gains.

Now technology allows for working from home and more flexibility — for white-collar workers. This will probably enable more part-time work and fewer hours for high earners, and perhaps a convergence toward everyone working less.

Overall, however, when it comes to economic matters, I have more faith in John Maynard Keynes than in Bernie Sanders. By which I mean, we'll all probably be working fewer work hours in the future. But it will be several decades before the 32-hour workweek is standard — and moving to it too soon will make a lot of people worse off.

Schrager is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist covering economics. A senior fellow at the Manhattan Institute.

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Turnover ...

Continued from page 2  
“I’m not your guys’ enemy,” said Goldsworthy. “I never have been. Actually I’ve always been one to always work with you guys.”

“But what I want you guys to understand ... our job is to try to manage everything. ... The last thing we want to do is give you guys such a good raise — obviously we want to give you a good raise — but we don’t want to give you such a good raise that it’s not sustainable and now we need to say, ‘Patrick, sorry that you’ve got kids at home, but you don’t have a job anymore because we’ve got to cut back.’ There does become a point where we have to be smart with our money too and make sure the money’s there ...”

Council also heard from Portland Park Board president Brian Ison regarding the installation of a heater at Portland Water Park.

He informed council that the park board accepted a gift of \$60,739.50 from a local group led by Rob Weaver and Bev Arnold for the purchase of a heater for the water park. (Those funds have already been turned over to the city.) The goal is to have the heater in operation for the 2024 swim season.

Ison added that the fundraising group agreed to provide \$5,000 to help with installation and related costs estimated at \$10,212.38. The remainder will come from the park board’s budget.

He said the park board has looked at trying to get more utilization at the facility.

“Our biggest restriction has always been weather,” Ison said, adding that

over the last few years temperatures have not been consistently in the mid 70s for the first several weeks of the season. (The facility typically opens on Memorial Day weekend.)

The park board’s policy requires that the outdoor temperature be at least 65 degrees to have the water park open. The goal is to have a water temperature in the 70s.

The first year of the heater being in place will be used to gauge the additional cost of operation, he said, estimating the number at \$2,000 to \$5,000 for the year. A budget increase may be needed to help cover those costs.

Golden thanked the park board for its efforts as well as all those involved in raising funds to purchase the heater.

In other business, council:

- Approved a change to the city ordinance adjusting the city council meeting time to 5:30 p.m. on the first and third Monday of each month. The shift in the time of the meeting — council previously met at 7 p.m. — was made in practice in 2014 but the ordinance had not been modified to reflect the change. (Phillips noted that all proposed ordinances are now being posted on the city’s website — thecityofportland.net — prior to being voted on by council.)

- Goldsworthy thanked all those who were involved in sand bagging during last week’s heavy rain. Golden noted his appreciation for projects that have been completed in an effort to mitigate flooding, including last year’s addition of a new storm sewer line along Meridian Street in the downtown area.



Photos provided

## Helping the Rockets

The Portland Rockets are preparing for their 65th season of baseball and received several contributions recently. Pictured above, Rockets supporter Randy Fisher (left) and manager Randy Miller (center) are pictured with former Rocket Steve Takats, whose family made a donation toward the construction of a new batting cage at Runkle-Miller Field. Also, Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake (below left) and Jay County Commissioners (below right) donated funds for a fireworks celebration as part of the team’s opening-day festivities May 18.



# FR ...

Continued from page 1

Also Monday, the school board hired Taylor Thien to fill the full-time high school math teacher position formerly filled by the late Joe Bruns, who died in August after a battle with cancer. Bruns had served in the role for 27 years.

Fort Recovery High School principal Ryan Steinbrunner noted there were 12 applicants for the position, with Thien’s application and interview standing out among the rest.

“I am more than pleased to say that we found a candidate that’s not only got a strong passion for math, but also a strong passion for Fort Recovery,” said Steinbrunner.

Thien, a 2018 Fort Recovery

High School graduate, earned her bachelor’s degree in math education from Bowling Green State University.

“(I’m) looking forward to the upcoming school year, and I’m excited to be an Indian again,” she said.

In other business, school board members Mitch Fullenkamp, Sean Kahlig, Greg LeFevre, Nick Wehrkamp and Don Wendel:

- Approved — Kahlig dissenting — a three-year agreement with Fort Recovery Education Association that calls for raises each year for Fort Recovery Local Schools employees. Staff will see a 3% salary increase in school year 2024-25, a 3.5% salary increase in school year

2025-26 and a 3% salary increase in school year 2026-27.

- OK’d Fort Recovery High School band and choir to visit Chicago for an overnight trip from Feb. 27 to March 1, 2026. Plans are to put the trip on a rotating cycle with the band and choir’s quadrennial trips to Disney World in Orlando, Florida, allowing the students to go on a trip every two years.

- Accepted resignations from teachers Patricia Lefeld and Chris Guggenbiller effective at the end of the school year.

- Were reminded Fort Recovery High School is hosting its annual promenade starting at 6 p.m. April 26.

- Renewed or approved various contracts with staff,

including Lindsey Bruggeman, Courtney Westgerdes, Melissa Homan, Jill Ranly, Matt Kerns, Renee Huelsman, Charley Vasey and Chad Miller.

- Approved the list of high school graduation candidates for the 2023-24 school year.

- Renewed or approved various contracts with high school coaches and athletic staff, including Travis Guggenbiller as volleyball coach, Brent Niekamp as football coach and weight room supervisor, Christy Diller as cross country coach, Dean Sanders as boys golf coach, Jeff Vaughn as girls golf coach, Bob Leverette as boys basketball coach and Tyler Deitsch as girls basketball coach.

- OK’d Reese Rogers as a vol-

unteer assistant baseball coach for the remainder of the year.

- Accepted the following volunteer coaches for next school year: Scott Dilworth as assistant boys basketball coach; Amy Bihn as girls golf coach; Tiffany McEldowney as assistant volleyball coach.

- OK’d three-year contracts starting in August with district technology coordinator Ryan Fullenkamp and building maintenance and custodial supervisor Kevin Will.

- Accepted donations, including \$500 from Psi Iota Xi Sorority for drama club (\$100), Senior Fest (\$200) and students’ field trip to Barnes & Noble (\$200).

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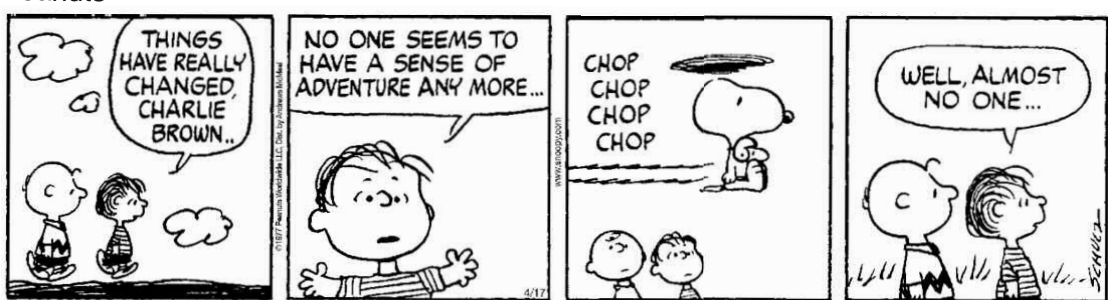
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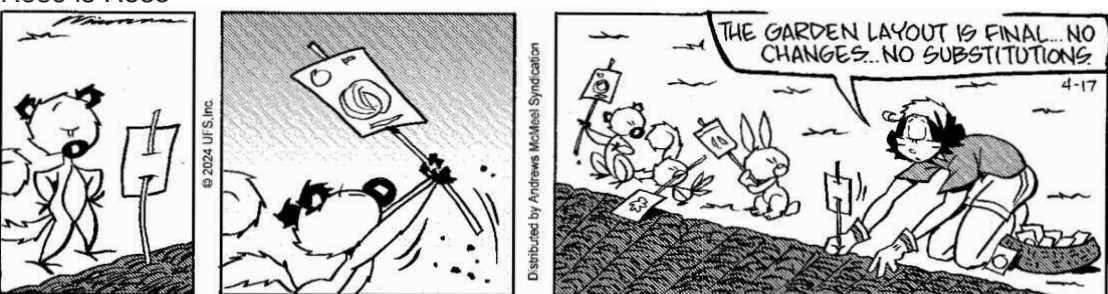
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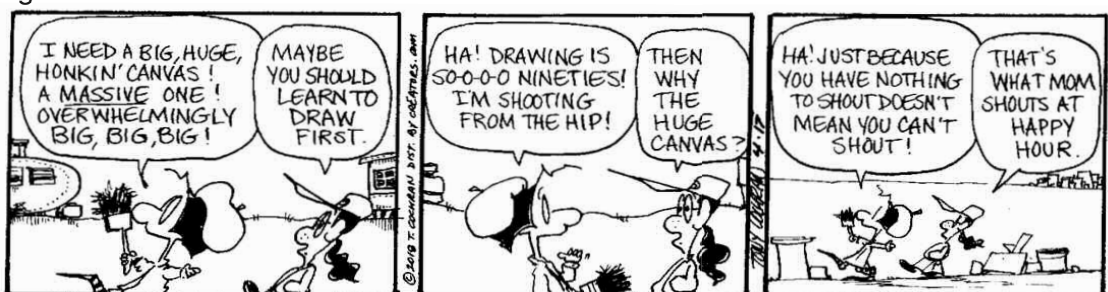
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Once upon a midnight dreary

West dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH 95 AKJ53 6 J9732 WEST AKJ764 64 Q52 104 EAST Q1032 Q10987 83 Q6 SOUTH 8 2 AKJ10974 AK85

Here is a dream hand played once upon a time by Dorothy Hayden Truscott. She didn't actually play the hand — it occurred in one of her rare bridge dreams — but it features a play the likes of which you've probably never seen.

Tomorrow: Think before you act. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

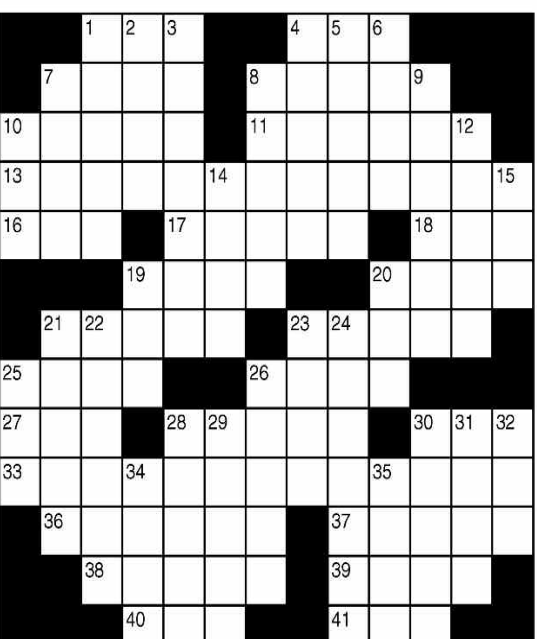
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Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE SUPREME BUDDHIST FIGURE KEPT A CAMEL-LIKE BEAST FOR A PET, COULD IT BE THE DALAI LLAMA? Today's Cryptoquip Clue: U equals G

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# Jay County softball stays scorching hot

ST. HENRY, Ohio — The Patriots got off to a scorching 9-0 start last season. They are inching their way back to that mark this season as well.

## Jay County roundup

The Jay County High School softball team only needed five innings to blow out St. Henry 20-8 on Monday as it remains perfect on the season.

Jay County (4-0) put up a crooked number in every

inning other than the fourth — St. Henry (4-6) held it scoreless — with seven runs in both the second and third innings.

Six Patriots drove in multiple runs, with Riah Champ and Jozey Shimp both contributing four.

Champ's RBIs came on a two-run home run that opened the scoring in the first, a single in the second and a double in the third.

Shimp drove in runs on a double, a single and a walk.

Mallory Winner earned

the win after giving up five runs on seven hits and zero walks through three innings of work.

## Sectional win

WINCHESTER — The Jay County girls tennis team bounced back Monday with a 4-1 victory over sectional foe Winchester.

All three singles players won with ease for Jay County (2-1). Brenna Bai-

ley's victory in the No. 2 singles match was the most dominant. She only surrendered two games to Addyson Bogue, taking the match 6-1, 6-1.

Brenna Haines claimed the No. 1 singles match against Emily Cockerill 6-2, 6-2, while Maggie Dillon defeated Meredith Ward 6-1, 6-2.

Zion Beiswanger and Chloe Ruiz also picked up

a win. The duo defeated Britain McFarland and Miranda Williams by a score of 6-2, 4-6, 6-2 in the No.2 doubles match.

JCHS only lost the No. 1 doubles match. Meredith Dirksen and Sophia Sprunger took Brooklyn Friend and MacKenzie Meadows to three sets, but fell 2-6, 6-2, 6-4.

The junior varsity team also captured five wins.

# Colts ...

Continued from page 8

"DeForest has been the epitome of what it means to be a Colt the last four years," Ballard said in a team release. "As one of the premier defensive tackles in the league, he is a destructive force on our defensive line. DeForest is one of the pillars of our locker room. His hard work, consistency and approach to the game are vital to the success of our team."

Ballard traded a first-round draft pick to the San Francisco 49ers to acquire Buckner in 2020, and the 30-year-old has been nothing short of sensational since joining Indianapolis.

Despite facing constant double-teams and occasional triple-teams, he has recorded 281 tackles, 32.5 sacks, 42 tackles for loss, 16 pass deflections and 87 quarterback hits during

four seasons with the Colts.

In 2023, Buckner was named to the Pro Bowl for the third time — and second with Indianapolis — after setting career highs with 81 tackles and seven pass deflections.

He added eight sacks, 11 tackles for loss and 21 quarterback hits and scored his second career touchdown on a fumble return against the Jacksonville Jaguars in the

season opener.

Buckner also was a Pro Bowler in 2018 and 2021. He was named an Associated Press first-team All-Pro during his first season with the Colts and was named to the second team in 2019.

The Hawaiian native was drafted by the 49ers with the seventh overall pick out of Oregon in 2016.

Buckner's return comes on

the heels of a new three-year deal for Grover Stewart — his tag team partner on the interior of the defensive line — keeping the duo together for the foreseeable future.

"We are fortunate to have DeForest, and the caliber of man he is, representing our organization," Ballard said. "I'm excited for him and his family on this much deserved contract extension."

# Indiana Fever takes Caitlin Clark No. 1 overall in WNBA draft

By FIIFI FRIMPONG

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

The No. 1 overall selection in this year's WNBA Draft was never in doubt. On Monday night, it became official.

The Indiana Fever selected sharp-shooting Iowa superstar Caitlin Clark with the first pick in Monday night's draft at Brooklyn Academy of Music a little over a week after Clark's record-setting collegiate career ended with a title game loss to unbeaten South Carolina.

Clark, 22, who became the NCAA's all-time scoring leader (3,951 points in passing Kelsey Plum and Pete Maravich) in her senior season with the Hawkeyes, now looks to continue her hoop dreams in the WNBA.

WNBA commissioner

*Clark, who averaged 31.6 points per game as a senior, will stretch the floor for the Fever and certainly will be a key piece in Indiana's rebuild.*

Cathy Engelbert — along with the rest of the basketball world — knew whose name would be inside the envelope as the Fever's top selection. After hearing her name, Clark hugged her family and then took to the stage in front of about 1,000 cheering fans. It was the first time fans attended the event since the 2016 draft that took place at

Mohegan Sun Arena in Uncasville, Conn.

Clark now joins Aliyah Boston — last year's No. 1 overall pick — on a team that finished last in the Eastern Conference with 13-27 record in 2023. Boston, the cornerstone piece in Indiana, unanimously won last season's Rookie of the Year award. The 13 wins is a jump from the 5-31 season the

team endured in 2022. Boston helped with that improvement. Now, Clark will join the mix.

Clark, who averaged 31.6 points per game as a senior, will stretch the floor for the Fever and certainly will be a key piece in Indiana's rebuild. Her eye-popping shotmaking overshadows her ability as a playmaker, which will bode well

in her transition to the WNBA. Clark averaged 8.9 assists in her time as a Hawkeye and her addition to the Fever creates a lethal pick-and-roll duo with Boston.

Boston, who averaged 14.5 points, 8.4 rebounds and 1.3 blocks in her rookie season, will now have a young playmaking running mate in the backcourt in hopes to soon end the Fever's seven-year playoff drought. Fever head coach Christie Sides will now have decisions to make on playing time. No. 1 pick Clark joins a backcourt that already includes 27-year-old Kelsey Mitchell, who lead the team with 18.2 points per game. Guard Erica Wheeler scored just 9.9 points per game while leading the team in assists (5.0).

## FRHS ...

Continued from page 8

Emily Vanhorn led off the seventh inning for Wapakoneta (7-3) with a triple. Kambrie Meier quickly drove her in with a ground out to second base that tied the game.

Shabryanna Worthington followed with another triple to put the winning run on third base with no outs.

Wasting no time, Alisha Holtzapple laid down a bunt that scored Worthington to end the game.

Jenna Homan suffered the loss, tossing 4.1 innings in which she gave up five runs on eight hits.

Emma Will, Ava Grisez and Ella Schoen had the strongest offensive performances. Will and Schoen both scored two runs to lead the Indians (3-5) while Will's three hits were a team-high as well. Grisez led FRHS with two RBIs while Schoen added one.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Thursday**  
Jay County — Boys golf vs. Northeastern — 4:30 p.m.; Girls tennis vs. New Castle — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Woodlan — 6 p.m.; Junior high baseball vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Junior high golf vs. Delta — 5 p.m.; Junior high track at Delta — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Baseball at Marion Local — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Marion Local — 5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Jay County — Track at Ansonia — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball at Shenandoah — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Madison-Grant — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Softball at Arcanum — 5 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**  
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League: Real Madrid at Manchester City (CBS)  
4 p.m. — College softball: Wisconsin at Minnesota (BTN)  
4:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Seattle Mariners (Bally Indiana)  
7 p.m. — NHL: Toronto Maple Leafs at Tampa Bay Lightning (TNT)  
9:30 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Dallas Stars (TNT)

**Thursday**  
4:30 p.m. — College gymnastics: NCAA championships (ESPN2)  
8 p.m. — College football: Indiana spring game (BTN)  
9 p.m. — College gymnastics: NCAA championships (ESPN2)  
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN)  
9:45 p.m. — MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks at San Francisco Giants (FS1)

**Friday**  
3:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Chinese Grand Prix (ESPN2)  
2:45 p.m. — BBL basketball: Manchester

Giants at Leicester Riders (Bally Indiana)  
5:30 p.m. — NASCAR Xfinity Series: Ag-Pro 300 (FS1)  
6:30 p.m. — Wrestling: U.S. Olympic trials (USA)  
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Los Angeles Angels at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)  
7 p.m. — College baseball: Florida at Vanderbilt (ESPN2)  
8 p.m. — College baseball: Penn State at Central Michigan (BTN)  
10 p.m. — PFL fighting: Welterweights & featherweights (ESPN)  
11:45 p.m. — AFL football: Port Adelaide Power at Collingwood Magpies (FS1)

## Local notes

**Challenge set**  
The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge for the 2024 season will begin April 20, where participants 19-years-old or older can compete in a total of eight races within Adams County. The cost to register for the challenge is \$150 and will enter participants in all eight races, with five needing to be completed for the Challenge Series award. Challengers don't need to be from Adams County, but only the first 100 entries will compete. Participation in individual events is available as well. To sign up or for more information, visit [www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com](http://www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com).

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# Sports

## Patriots drop to Eagles

*Caleb DeRome wins match medalist, but Jay County comes up eight strokes short*

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

The Patriots got their first head-to-head match in, but they just didn't have enough to pull out the win.

Caleb DeRome earned the match medalist title, but it wasn't enough to lead the Jay County High School boys golf team to the win on Monday as the Delta Eagles came away with the 159-167 victory at Portland Golf Club.

"We had three pretty solid scores," JCHS coach Dave Haines said. "In golf, just one hole better for our No. 4 and 5 may not have won the match, but we only lost by eight strokes.

"Delta is always tough. I'm glad to be that close with them, so not bad."

DeRome led the way for Jay County (0-1) by shooting a 36, beating out Delta's Jacob Bilby by just one stroke to earn match medalist honors.

The JCHS senior never shot worse than a bogey on any hole, finishing with three pars and a pair of birdies on the 414-yard, par-5 fifth hole and the 435-yard, par-4 ninth hole.

He started the match with a pair of bogeys before he started to get going on the third hole. His tee shot on the 385-yard hole came up just short of halfway to the green, but sat dead center of the fairway. His second shot got him to the green in regulation.

His first putt rolled just to the right of the cup to set up a tap in for par.

"He was just solid and consistent like he always is," Haines said.

Golfing alongside DeRome, Gage Sims put up the second-

best score for Jay County at 41 strokes.

Sims also had a slow start, shooting bogeys on the first two holes and double bogeys on No. 3 and 4.

He turned his match around on the fifth hole, where he also shot a birdie. He followed it up with pars on three straight holes before closing out with another bogey.

Liam Garringer and Cody DeHoff rounded out the scoring with scores of 44 and 46, respectively.

DeHoff was the third Patriot to have the highlight of their match come on the fifth hole. He drove his first shot just more than 210 yards in the middle of the fairway. His second shot put him just 3 feet off the green, making for an easy chip near the cup. He sank a two-foot putt to secure a birdie.

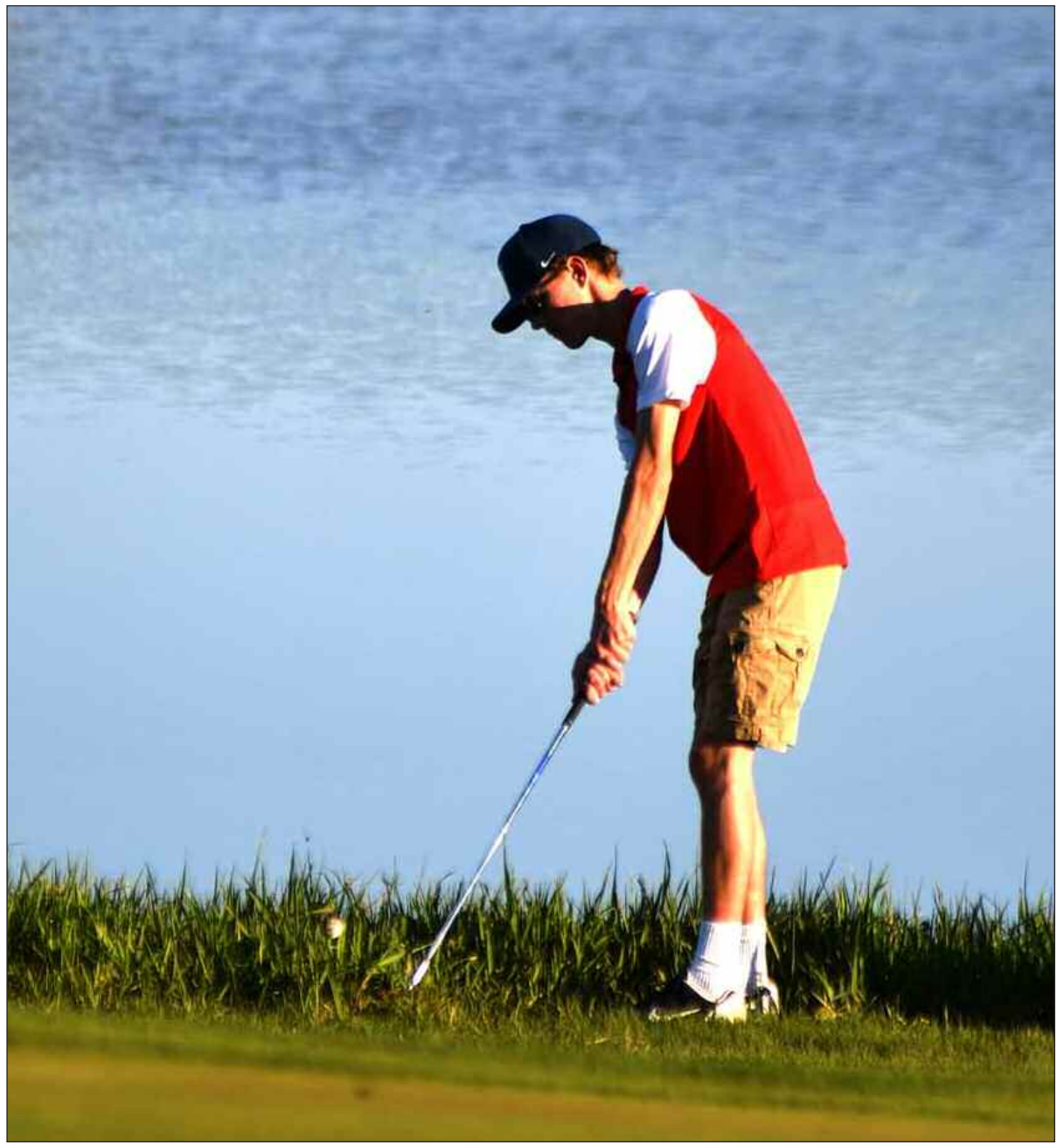
Garringer never broke par, but hit the mark three times en route to his score.

Luke Fugiett, who made his return to golf after missing nearly three weeks due to illness, finished just one stroke higher than DeHoff.

One of Jay County's main problems throughout the match was coming up short on putts, often not having a chance to reach the hole to potentially miss left or right.

"A lot of them, I think, were hitting the ball fat," Haines said. "So they weren't making good contact, which means they were coming up short. ...

"I'm just glad to have the first one in the books and we're going up to Bluffton (Tuesday) and hopefully we can do well there."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Luke Fugiett chips out of the weeds on the 358-yard, par-3 seventh hole at Portland Golf Club during the Jay County High School boys golf team's 159-167 defeat at the hands of the Delta Eagles on Monday.



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## FRHS offense powers victory

LIMA, Ohio — Offense was the Indians' initial worry coming into the season.

The Indians only managed one run in both of their losses, but scoring hasn't been much of a problem in every other game.

The Fort Recovery High School baseball team scored double-digit runs for the second time this season with a 10-3 victory over Shawnee on Monday afternoon.

The Indians (4-2) took control of the game with back-to-back three-run innings in the third and fourth.

Consecutive RBI singles by Caden Homan and Alex Gaerke got the Indians on the board before a ground out by Troy Homan plated another run.

Shawnee (3-3) walked three of four batters before Caden

### Tribe roundup

Homan drew a fourth walk to push across the first run of the fourth. Gavin Faller followed it up with a two-RBI double.

Gaerke took home the win on the mound after throwing four innings. He only gave up one earned run off of two hits and three walks, while sending three batters back to the bench on strikes.

### Walked off

WAPAKONETA, Ohio — Two triples and a single led to Wapakoneta walking off the Fort Recovery softball team Monday as the Indians fell 9-8.

See FRHS page 7

## Colts sign DeForest Buckner

*Defensive tackle gets two-year deal*

By **GEORGE BREMER**

The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)  
Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — DeForest Buckner took in the Indiana Pacers' victory against the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday at Gainbridge Fieldhouse and obviously was in very good spirits one day ahead of the start of the Indianapolis Colts' offseason training.

"It was a beautiful day in Indy, the sun was shining and the Pacers got the W," Buckner posted on X, formerly known as Twitter. "Who knows what tomorrow will bring!"

The Pro Bowl defensive tackle had good reason to anticipate the dawn.

The Colts announced Monday they have signed Buckner to a two-year contract extension that will keep him with the franchise through the 2026 season.

ESPN's Adam Schefter reported the deal is worth \$46 million.

The move continues an offseason trend that has seen general manager Chris Ballard re-sign 11 in-house free agents. Buckner is the second to be extended with time remaining on his existing deal, joining linebacker Zaire Franklin — a fellow defensive captain.

See Colts page 7

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