

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Influx overnight

*Flood of residents from Randolph Nursing and Rehabilitation came to Portland's Persimmon Ridge following March 14 tornado*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

Thirty-six new residents flooded into Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Portland on March 14. A tornado had struck their home, Randolph Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Winchester, forcing them to evacuate to nearby shelters.

Getting an influx of patients at that level all in one night doesn't happen, noted Melinda Hodgson, administrator and executive director at Persimmon Ridge. But addressing the need for beds and shelter, Portland's facility opened its doors.

Most residents arrived with only the clothes on their back.

"They literally came in their pajamas," said Alicia Emerick, assistant director of nursing at Persimmon Ridge. "No paperwork, no other personal belongings. Some didn't have their glasses, some didn't have their teeth."

Nurses, administrators and other staff at Persimmon Ridge worked around the clock to situate the new residents. As of Monday morning, about 30 residents from Randolph Nursing and Rehabilitation Center are still living at Persimmon Ridge.

### Devastation

Kory Carpenter was working at Randolph Nursing and Rehabilitation in the midst of the storm March 14.

"I was running around trying to get everybody to fill the oxygen, because if the power goes out, we have to have oxygen," he explained. "My coworker, Eli, was like, 'Kory, we need to go in the shower room, because it sounds like it's getting bad outside.'"

Carpenter grabbed a resident in the hallway and began to leave to check on a nurse. His coworker told him to stay.

"Literally, as soon as I got pulled into the shower room, the door slammed and hit me



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Portland honored its staff this month for their efforts in caring for the 36 additional residents brought in as a result of the March 14 tornado in Winchester. Pictured above at right, Tonya Nunez Smith, regional director of operations for Magnolia Health Systems, speaks to staff and residents at Persimmon Ridge on April 4.

in the head because of the wind," he said. "We opened the door (afterward) and it was just everything everywhere."

Carpenter posted a video online in the aftermath of the tornado, showing fallen ceiling tiles, insulation, lights and

other debris scattered around one of the facility's wings. His video has had more than 1 million views on TikTok, and he posted a few other videos in March showing damage to the exterior of the building.

After the storm had passed,

Carpenter and others began clearing debris and relocating residents.

"We were in 4 feet of water," recalled Carpenter, who now works at Persimmon Ridge.

His workplace wasn't the only aspect of his life that

changed. Carpenter's car was damaged beyond repair in the tornado, having lost the entire front engine compartment and flipped on its top. (He made a GoFundMe to help pay for a new vehicle.)

See **Influx** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### Patriot prom royalty

Jay County High School crowned Molly Muhlenkamp and Luke Vormohr as its prom queen and king during promenade Saturday night. This year's prom was themed "Through the Looking Glass."

## Court set to hear arguments

*Cases involve abortion, Trump immunity*

By MICHAEL MACAGNONE  
CQ-Roll Call  
Tribune News Service

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court will close out oral arguments for the term this week with two high-profile cases: whether federal law guarantees access to abortion in emergency rooms and whether former President Donald Trump is immune to federal criminal charges.

The cases are emblematic of a term in which the conservative-controlled court is poised to broaden its impact on American law and politics in ways that could reverberate for years — as well as the remaining months before this fall's presidential election.

This term doesn't have

cases that could match up to the court's 2022 decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization* that overturned the constitutional right to an abortion, said Laurie Levenson, a law professor at Loyola Marymount University.

But the court's decision in the Trump immunity case could come close, she said. Oral arguments in that case are scheduled for Thursday, the last in a term that could reshape abortion access, gun rights, the balance between federal agencies and the courts, and more.

"I think the election year adds to the significance of it," Levenson said. "I mean, you can't take the intellectual issues in the Trump case and say, 'Well, those are interesting issues.' We have one here where there can be a chain reaction that actually affects an election. That's beyond the usual impact, the direct impact that we see from the Supreme Court."

See **Court** page 2

### Deaths

**Mary Johnson**, 79, Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 52 degrees Sunday. The low was 37.

There is an 80% chance of rain tonight with a low around 40. Expect partly cloudy skies Wednesday with a high in the lower 50s. Highs are expected to climb into the 70s this weekend.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Tickets for Jay County Civic Theatre's production of Disney's "Finding Nemo Jr." are on sale. Shows are at 7 p.m. June 6, 7, 8 and 9. Tickets are \$10 for students/children and \$12 for adults and are available at [bit.ly/JCCTNemo24](http://bit.ly/JCCTNemo24), by calling (260) 726-4809 or by visiting Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

### Coming up

**Wednesday** — Coverage of Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

**Thursday** — Results from the JCHS softball game against Marion.



# Influx ...

Continued from page 1  
As of the beginning of this month, the Audi was still sitting in the field just southwest of the facility.

Kayla Powell, director of rehabilitation at Randolph Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, had been sheltering at Delta High School when the tornado struck Winchester. With traffic and road closings, it took her about an hour to get to her facility after the storm.

"My job was to get everybody on the buses," said Powell, who had worked at the facility for almost seven years. "A lot of the patients, they all know me, so they kept asking me, like, 'Why are you making me leave my home?' So that, like, broke my heart, when I was trying to tell them, 'We're not, we're just trying to keep you safe.'"

**Response**  
Hodgson said Persimmon

Ridge received a call about taking in residents from Winchester's facility shortly after the tornado hit March 14.

"They said that they needed beds, and we offered up our services at that time," she recalled.

The Portland facility took in approximately 36 new residents, a record-high for intake in one night. It put Persimmon Ridge at its capacity.

"In the 11 years I've worked here, we've never been at capacity," said Lisa Holcomb, a nurse at Persimmon Ridge. "So that was new for all of us. A lot of new faces to learn, medical diagnoses to be aware of."

Holcomb pointed out administration spent their days in the office and nights on the floor, helping to get the new residents situated, passing out medication and handling other tasks to keep the facility running smoothly.

Amanda Adair, director of nursing at Persimmon Ridge,

said the transition has been emotional and busy, noting staff has been working to meet the needs of all its patients. All employees, both on the clock and off, responded to the Portland facility that evening. Anne Patch, a Fort Recovery resident and nurse practitioner at IU Health Jay Family Practice, contacted residents' families to let them know their relatives were safe.

Amid the chaos, married couple Donald and Marilyn Pearson — they both had been living at Randolph Nursing and Rehabilitation Center — were separated. Donald was sent to Persimmon Ridge in Portland and Marilyn was sent to Parker Health and Rehabilitation Center in Parker City.

"They just had to take (us) where they could," said Donald Pearson, noting his daughter visited him that night and helped make arrangements to

reunite them the next day at Persimmon Ridge.

"We're just thankful it turned out the way it did," he said. "Thank the good Lord for taking care of us. It's amazing to me nobody got hurt."

Magnolia Health Services — it owns and operates 35 nursing and assisted living facilities in Indiana, including Persimmon Ridge — recognized the staff's efforts April 4 at the Portland facility.

Representatives from Magnolia Health Services, Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake and Winchester Mayor Bob McCoy addressed rehabilitation center residents and staff, celebrating the facility's quick response to the disaster.

"The Jay County and Randolph County communities, along with Magnolia teams' reaction to the devastating event was outstanding," said Tonya Nunez Smith, regional director of operations at Magnolia Health Systems. "So

many people should be committed for their heroic efforts."

In an interview, Emerick talked about Portland's response as a community to the disaster, noting the amount of donations — money, food, toiletries and services — that have been poured into Persimmon Ridge. She also praised the facility's team for its hard work and resilience as it adjusted to meet the needs of more than 30 additional residents.

The merger between staff from Randolph Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center has also gone well, Powell said. Staff from the Winchester facility has been hired on to help with the influx of residents at the Portland facility.

"It honestly here feels like two families kind of merged together," she said. "It's just kind of like we just made one big family."

## CR almanac

Wednesday 4/24	Thursday 4/25	Friday 4/26	Saturday 4/27	Sunday 4/28
<b>53/32</b>	<b>59/40</b>	<b>69/59</b>	<b>73/62</b>	<b>78/62</b>
Mostly cloudy on Wednesday, when the high will be in the lower 50s.	Widespread frost on Thursday under sunny skies. The high may be in the upper 50s.	There's a 50% chance of showers on Friday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy. The high may be 69.	Saturday has a 60% chance of storms amid temperatures in the low 70s.	Another chance of rain and thunderstorms on Sunday, with the temperature soaring to 78.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$115 million	47-50-56-57-62-66-69-76 Cash 5: 10-27-30-35-36 Estimated jackpot: \$95,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$202 million	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 4-2-7 Pick 4: 8-6-3-5 Pick 5: 5-3-2-1-4 Evening Pick 3: 8-5-1 Pick 4: 7-3-3-7 Pick 5: 5-6-2-3-5 Rolling Cash 5: 10-13-23-30-31 Estimated jackpot: \$130,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 2-4-7 Daily Four: 8-0-7-8 Evening Daily Three: 1-5-1 Daily Four: 8-4-1-0 Quick Draw: 9-14-19-21-22-24-33-34-35-36-37-39-	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.43 May corn .....4.43 Wheat .....4.88	May beans .....11.58 Wheat ..... 5.48
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.48 May corn .....4.48 June corn .....4.49	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.23 May corn .....4.26 Beans.....11.55 May beans .....11.59 Wheat .....5.45
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.32 May corn .....4.32 Beans .....11.58	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.39 May corn .....4.39 Beans.....11.35 May beans .....11.40 Wheat .....5.06

## Today in history

In 1791, James Buchanan, who served as the 15th president of the United States, was born near Mercersburg, Pennsylvania.

In 1813, Stephen A. Douglas was born in Brandon, Vermont. The United States congressman, senator and presidential candidate was nicknamed "Little Giant" for his short stature but notable influence in Congress.

In 1984, the United States Secretary of Health and Human Services announced the HIV virus that causes AIDS had been discovered.

In 2022, longtime chairman and president of the Graphic Printing Company and retired editor and publisher of The Commercial Review Jack Ronald died at the age of 73. Ronald was one of the first inductees into the Circle of Corydon and was a member of the Indiana Journalism Hall of Fame. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Wednesday**  
5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.

**Thursday**  
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council work ses-

sion, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.  
6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 200 S. Mooney St.

**Friday**  
8 a.m. — Portland Redevelopment Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

## Obituaries

### Mary Johnson

Sept. 28, 1944-April 19, 2024  
Mary E. Johnson, age 79, of Portland passed away on Friday, April 19, 2024, at her residence.

She was born in Winchester on Sept. 28, 1944, the daughter of Dairel and Evelyn (Castle) Butcher. She was married on June 15, 1962, to David Johnson who survives.

Mary was retired from United Telephone Company and had worked at Murphy's Five and Dime and also Jay County Hospital. She was a Precious Moments collector and enjoyed crafts and sewing.

Surviving are her husband David; one son, Shawn Johnson of Portland; two daughters, Cindy Bessesen (husband: Tim) of Portland and Jackie Spice (husband: David) of Berne; one brother, Elvin Butcher of Bryant; one sister, Annabelle Kunce of Defiance, Ohio; and three grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Melvin Butcher.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, April 24, 2024, at 1 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home



Johnson

with Howard Castle presiding. Burial will follow in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the Jay County Heart Fund.

Condolences may be expressed at [bairdfreeman.com](http://bairdfreeman.com).

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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.

## Court ...

Continued from page 1  
After Thursday's arguments, all that remains for the court are about four dozen cases argued this term on which the court has yet to decide. The justices are expected to issue decisions before the conclusion of the term at the end of June.

The Supreme Court's remaining cases this term deal with the fallout of previous decisions like *Dobbs* or affect how the federal government would work, such as a case that could change the balance of power between courts and federal agencies.

"There are some reasonably big cases still to be decided. That's not unusual," Levenson said. "But we will have some real blockbusters in there too."

### Trump immunity

The most high-profile oral arguments will be over whether Trump's presidency makes him immune to federal charges tied to his effort to overturn his loss in the 2020 election.

The prosecution has remained on pause while Trump appeals the issue

and the Supreme Court's decision could determine whether Trump faces trial before the election.

Levenson said the Supreme Court's decision in the case could determine whether Trump faces trial before the election. Even if the justices ruled against Trump, they could return the case to the lower court for more deliberation and forestall a trial, she said.

### Abortion case

On Wednesday the court is scheduled to hear arguments in *Moyle v. United States*, a dispute over whether a federal law guaranteeing emergency care, known as *EMTALA*, supersedes Idaho's law banning most abortions.

The case comes as the ripple effects of the court's decisions have frequently outpaced Congress, for instance leaving more than 300 members on both sides of the aisle arguing over how a statute passed in 1986 to guarantee emergency room care should apply in Idaho.

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## SERVICES

Wednesday  
Johnson, Mary: 1 p.m.,  
Baird-Freeman Funeral Home,  
221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by  
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[progressiveofficeproducts.com](http://progressiveofficeproducts.com)

## A card shower for Bill Fennig.

He will have his 94th birthday on April 24th

Please help make his birthday special by sending a card to:  
**Albany Health and Rehab**  
910 west walnut street  
Rm 301  
Albany, IN 47320



# Infant spent time on earth being loved

By JAMES FULKS  
The Commercial Review

The subject matter for these columns I submit are sometimes planned out well in advance, at times rather "off the cuff" so to speak, and then there's the inspiration for this one.

This one was inspired by a truly terrible tragedy, suffered by a good friend.

A fine young couple I know was anxiously expecting their first child. They did absolutely everything to prepare to responsibly welcome a new addition to their family.

On March 23, a precious little girl arrived, almost right on her projected due date, and by all indica-

**Fulksy  
Mayhem**



tions, a perfectly healthy pregnancy with no serious complications.

Almost immediately, things just went horribly wrong.

Complications with a longer-than-anticipated birth canal timeframe, with the added complication of a cord entanglement, caused grave consequences.

The transfer to Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis was her

absolute best shot at pulling through.

Several days passed, and the outpouring of love, warmth, prayers and hope for a good outcome was quite simply overwhelming.

Unfortunately, fittingly on the most holy day of the year, Easter Sunday, a higher power saw fit to call the little girl home to her heavenly reward.

Today we take our health care and medical capabilities so for granted that losing a newborn infant is almost unfathomable in the modern Westernized world.

I, and so many others, tried in vain to find a way to assuage grief beyond comprehension.

An event like this really

tests one's faith. The Heavenly Father saw fit to call her home, but that sure left her earthly father, mother and extended friends and family with a lot of questions.

Personally I will never grasp what higher power is served by such a tragedy. It's simply beyond the ability of my feeble mind to even begin to comprehend.

We attended a simply magnificent funeral on Friday, April 12, in a church that was featured prominently in a magnificent photo, taken during the recent solar eclipse.

The girl's earthly father, my friend, hand built the most beautiful black walnut coffin for his little girl. Seeing her in it at her

funeral was a sight I'll certainly never forget.

During the process of building her casket, her father said at times it literally seemed like his hands were being guided by God as he was working with the wood.

I struggled to come up with something — anything — that could at the very least provide comfort, knowing how totally futile it would be to heal the pain of such a terrible loss.

Then, the following was laid on my heart, to share with my friend, and I hope that it helps in some small way.

She, quite literally, lived a perfect life.

She was born to love, surrounded for her all-too-

brief time on this mortal coil by absolutely nothing but the purest form of love and adoration anyone could ever possibly experience. Thousands of prayers went up on her behalf for the duration of the nine days God saw fit to share her with us. She never experienced anything but pure love and adoration. If that's not a perfect life, I certainly don't know what is.

However, I would certainly "wish it all away" were it in my power to do so.

My friend and his lovely wife would much rather have their precious little girl.

In loving memory of God's newest Angel, Lydia Hyatt. Rest in Heaven precious child.

# Sister's true feelings come out during vacation

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, my sister and I took our kids on vacation together. She and I get along but have never been close. Sometimes I walk on eggshells around her because I never know what might make her upset.

I thought we were having a good time on that vacation and getting along well, even though I was anxious. We were both tak-

**Dear  
Abby**



ing pictures with our phones, and she handed me hers to forward myself some of the pic-

tures. While I was looking at them, a text message pinged, and I checked it without thinking about it not being my phone.

It turns out my sister had spent the entire vacation texting about my "B.S.," my inability to do anything competently and even referenced something that happened years before. I had noticed her constant texting but said nothing because I didn't

want to risk an argument. I am still angry about this and don't know how to let it go. I really don't want to travel with her again, since I know the invisible third party will be with us the whole time. How do I deal with this? — STAYING PUT IN NEW JERSEY

**DEAR STAYING PUT:** When you saw that message from your sister's text part-

ner you should have handed her the phone and started packing. You are not obligated to travel with someone who causes you to walk on eggshells, ignores you, puts you down and says nasty things behind your back. Don't be mean about taking steps to protect yourself. Simply stop vacationing with her. (I know I sure would!)

# Community Calendar

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

**Today**  
JAY COUNTY PASTORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 8 a.m. on the fourth Tuesday of each month at Richard's Restaurant.

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

**Wednesday**  
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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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**  
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.

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

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

**Saturday**

MISSISSINAWA CHAPTER DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 27, at Jay County Historical Society. Paula Book, committee chair of the Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution, will be speaking. Call regent Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Somers at (260) 726-2678.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

**Sunday**

A BETTER LIFE - 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 in Portland.

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

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# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

**Saturday's Solution**

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by-nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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# Redkey residents deserve better

To the editor:  
I am deeply disappointed by the recent chaos that ensued during the Redkey Town Council meeting.

As a resident of Redkey, I believe it is crucial for our local government to conduct meetings in a civil and productive manner, focused on addressing the needs and concerns of our community.

The dispute regarding the placement of a sewer cleanout on the property owned by

## Letters to the Editor

Alicha and Bob Miller underscores a breakdown in effective communication within the council and town employees.

The discrepancy between the quoted date of August and

Alicha Miller's assertion that the decision to relocate was made in January raises pertinent questions. Where is the documented agreement outlining the terms of the location of the sewer complete with signatures?

It baffles me that no one on the council was concerned with the discrepancy in the date of this supposed contract. It's imperative to address the absence of a formal contract, as conducting business with-

out one undermines transparency and accountability.

It is particularly concerning that motions aimed at resolving the issue were met with resistance.

The refusal to consider alternative solutions, such as moving the cleanout at no cost to the Millers, reflects a lack of willingness to prioritize the well-being of residents over bureaucratic hurdles.

As a community, we deserve better.

I urge the members of the Redkey Town Council to reflect on the events of the recent meeting and commit to upholding the principles of transparency, collaboration and civility in future proceedings.

Our town deserves leadership that listens to its residents and works diligently to address their concerns in a constructive manner.

Sincerely,  
Sara Grady Kolodka  
Redkey

## Financial literacy is important for teens

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

Adulting is hard, and it's gotten much harder even for mature adults. That's especially true when it comes to personal finances.

We are subjected to more sophisticated and sometimes downright insidious online marketing that often uses influencers instead of ads.

The investing world has grown more complicated, with investment apps, digital brokers and cryptocurrency.

Hard-to-spot scams come to us every day via social media, emails and text.

We buy more of our goods online, sight unseen, and take the risk that our personal data might be compromised.

Fewer employers provide traditional pensions; instead, it's up to employees to figure out how much to put away for retirement, where the money should be stowed and how it should be managed.

Many colleges are downright unaffordable, but the financial aid process makes doing taxes seem easy by comparison, and lenders beckon with federally guaranteed loans that have put far too many young Americans into serious debt.

As the gig economy becomes a bigger slice of the employment picture, it shifts the burden of healthcare and calculating tax deductions on to workers, and makes getting a mortgage, buying a home and creating stability more difficult.

Clearly, young adults need to be better equipped to tangle with the modern world of money.

That's why there's been growing interest in teaching financial literacy in high school, the point at which students are old enough to understand the topic and find it relevant as they apply to college and prepare to enter the working world.

According to Next Gen Personal Finance, a nonprofit that promotes financial literacy instruction and provides free curriculum and teacher training, half of all states have passed a requirement for a one-semester course.

And more states require financial education to be taught as part of other courses, such as math or economics.

California isn't among the states that require teens to take a designated financial literacy course, at least not yet.

## Guest Editorial

A bill before the Legislature this year would mandate a course for public schools.

Silicon Valley businessman Tim Ranzetta, co-founder of Next Gen Personal Finance, has gathered signatures for a ballot measure to do the same; he says he would withdraw the measure if the bill becomes law.

The concept is great. But turning it into reality isn't as simple as proponents would have us think.

David Tokofsky, a former member of the Los Angeles school board, told The Times that if the state is going to add new high school requirements, it also has to take some things out.

Otherwise, there will be practically no time for high school students to pursue electives that most interest them.

It's a good point. The state recently added a one-semester ethnic studies course to its requirements.

How many more courses can be fit into the school day? Adding new coursework should be undertaken only with a more comprehensive look at California's curriculum standards, with the involvement of teachers and administrators.

Educators should look for possible areas of overlap and repetition.

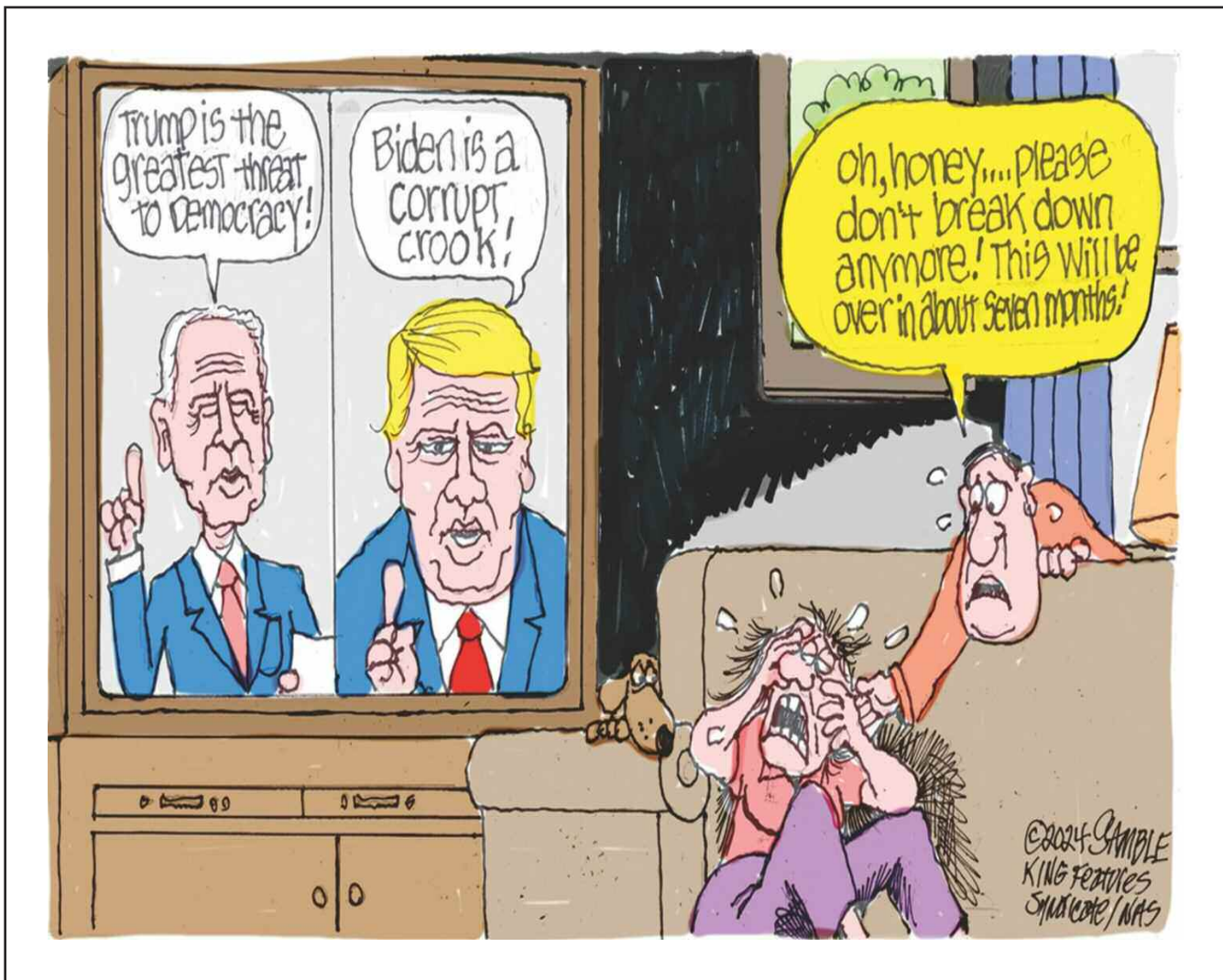
That might make room for a couple of high school courses to be moved to eighth grade, though it would require the involvement of the University of California to ensure those courses would be accepted as part of the A-G curriculum.

The worst scenario would be a ballot initiative, no matter how well-intentioned.

There is too little flexibility in such initiatives to meet changing needs of students and schools.

Mandates from Sacramento have generally not proved to be the best way to improve education, unless they are undertaken with the involvement of the people who have to carry them out.

Let's teach our high school students the complicated of personal finance, but let's do it thoughtfully, with the bigger picture in mind.



## Hoosiers see through illusion

By OSEYE BOYD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

"Your vote counts."  
"If you don't vote, you can't complain."

"Your vote matters."  
"Your ancestors shed their blood, sweat and tears, some even died for your right to vote. You honor them by voting."

I've heard those words in one form or another throughout my lifetime. I've repeated those words time and again to those who tell me they don't vote. I was raised to believe voting is your civic duty and it's how you effect change.

I still believe that, but now I understand why people become disillusioned with voting and our political system. Once you see the behind-the-scenes machinations of parties and politicians, you realize it's more complicated than the lessons we learned in high school government class.

The cold, hard truth is sometimes your vote doesn't matter — or that's how it feels.

It's not just voter suppression efforts such as gerrymandering where cracking and packing diminish voices and feed apathy, but it's also gatekeeping by political parties that creates few choices, making it harder for voters to see why they should care.

### Limiting choice

The recent death of Sen. Jean Breaux is an example of voters being left out of the political process. Before Breaux's death, her challenger Chunia Graves was removed from the ballot because she couldn't prove she voted in two Indiana Democratic primaries. Removing Graves would've meant an uncontested primary race and win for Breaux. Since there's no challenger, Democratic leaders — not voters — will caucus to choose Breaux's replacement.

The change in state law that



Oseye Boyd

raises the bar to prove party affiliation has made it more difficult for newcomers such as Graves to break into politics and challenge the incumbent. Before 2022, you only had to vote in one recent primary to prove your party affiliation. Now, a potential candidate's two most recent primary votes have to match the party they wish to represent. If you don't meet this requirement, county party chairs can allow you to run by issuing a waiver. "Can" being the operative word. Without clear guidelines on waiver issuance, the decision is left to the whims of party chairs in each county, creating a hodgepodge of reasons for approving or denying waivers.

Thanks to this law, Marion County lost Democratic challengers in Senate District 32, Senate District 34 and House District 96.

Now, only five of the 23 Marion County legislative races in the upcoming primary are competitive. That's it. Five. The incumbents in the other 18 districts will win no matter what. Let's be real, races without competition are boring and uninspiring. Candidates bring out their A game when there's competition. Our political system should encourage public service not discourage it by creating arbitrary obstacles.

The competition in the Republican primary for House District 90 is heartening. Although these candidates aren't running against incumbent State Rep. Mike Speedy, as Autumn Carter is in her challenge to State Rep. John Bartlett for House District 95, there's still

energy around the race that voters elsewhere won't experience.

The fact that many Democratic incumbents don't have a challenger hasn't gone unnoticed. What's up with that?

### Voting record

Given our state's abysmal voting record — we ranked 50th out of 51 states and Washington, D.C., in voter turnout and 40th for the number of voters registered in 2022, according to the 2023 Indiana Civic Health Index — it seems we should want to do more to get voters voting.

Yes, we should always encourage — even admonish — Hoosiers to vote, but it will take more than catchy slogans and campaigns to get more people to do so. We can't keep chastising those who don't vote without acknowledging there's a system that seems to only want a few people participating.

Don't believe me? Look at the number of people who voted in Marion County's last two primaries; it's quite sad. In 2023, 12.74% or 79,156 people out of 621,384 registered voters cast a ballot. In 2022, 10.78% or 73,086 people voted in that primary. The number of registered voters was 678,067.

I surmise more people would vote if they felt they had something to vote for. However, we can't sit idly by, waiting for that to happen. We still have to cast those ballots. It's still the best way to be heard.

Early voting continues until May 6 at noon. Election Day is May 7. You can find out who's on your ballot with this handy-dandy virtual ballot from The Indiana Citizen.

Boyd is editor in chief of Mirror Indy.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Disney plans major expansion

By DEWAYNE BEVIL

Orlando Sentinel  
Tribune News Service

ORLANDO, California — Disney has confirmed what one executive said would “probably be the largest expansion ever” of the Magic Kingdom at Disney World, a project that’s been dubbed “beyond Big Thunder.”

At a Walt Disney Imagineering media event this week, Michael Hundgen, a Walt Disney World site portfolio executive, said the plan is to expand the world’s most popular theme park by 12 to 14 acres. Magic Kingdom added 11 acres with its New Fantasyland project, completed with the opening of Seven

Dwarfs Mine Train roller coaster in 2012.

Details are thin about the expansion. There have been no official announcements about a theme or a timeline.

“I think they’re being a little coy,” said Dennis Spiegel, founder and CEO of International Theme Park Services. “I think they kind of spoon-feed us some of this stuff – keep us on track and off track.”

Spiegel maintains his thinking that Disney World will announce the development of its fifth theme park within the next two years.

“I believe everything they say is strategically thought through before it comes out,” he said.

Last week, Walt Disney Co. settled lawsuits over Disney World’s governing district with Gov. Ron DeSantis, lifting some obstacles that could have delayed future projects. This week, CEO Robert Iger said that resulted in a “win-win” situation for future Disney World endeavors, as the company embarks on \$60 billion worth of improvements worldwide in the coming years.

“There’s a lot they could do back there,” said Michele Atwood, owner of the Main Street Mouse website, of the land beyond Big Thunder. Some fans favor a home for Disney villains and others hope for a “Frozen” land or a “Tan-

gled” ride for the site, she said.

“I think that because of Epic Universe, they (Disney fans) want to see more than something that’s just a new ride or a new addition or changes to something that’s existing,” Atwood said.

“So I think that maybe it’s time and maybe it is timely that (Disney’s) talking about it now,” she said.

Epic Universe, Universal Orlando’s third theme park, is under construction a few miles from its original parks. Epic is scheduled to open in 2025 and feature lands based on Super Nintendo, “How to Train Your Dragon” movies and Ministry of Magic from the “Harry Potter” series.



Tribune News Service/Dreamstime/Libo Tang

A statue of Walt Disney with Mickey Mouse outside the entrance to Cinderella's Castle at Disney World in Orlando, Florida. Plans are to expand Walt Disney World by 12 to 14 acres. There have been no official announcements about a theme or a timeline.

# Community awards set for May 11

Registration is open for the Jay County Community Awards.

The event on Saturday, May 11, at Wheel & Spoke Event Center will include a reception with appetizers and refreshments followed by dinner and the awards ceremony. The reception will begin at 5 p.m., with the dinner and awards program at 6 p.m.

Honored will be winners of the awards for The Spirit of Vicki – Lifetime Achievement, Citizen of the Year, Business of the Year, Industry of the Year, Not-for-profit of the Year, Young Professional of the Year, Dunkirk Community Commitment, Innovator of the Year, Community Group of the Year and Small Community Commitment. Businesses celebrating an anniversary will also be recognized.

Those interested in attending can RSVP at [form.jotform.com/241007774707154](http://form.jotform.com/241007774707154), by emailing [tabby@jaycounty-chamber.com](mailto:tabby@jaycounty-chamber.com) or by calling (260) 726-4481. The deadline is April 30.

## Comment on increase

Ohio Valley Gas customers are invited to comment on the utility’s proposed rate increase.

The Indiana Office of Utility Consumer Counselor is reviewing the Ohio Valley Gas request and will fill testimony to the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission in mid-May.

For Jay County, the proposed increase would take consumer bills for \$45.16 for 20 therms from the current \$31.74, an increase of 42%. For 50 therms it would go to \$79.24 from the current \$79.24 (a 38% increase) and for 100 therms it would go to \$136.05 from the current \$100.54 (a 35% increase).

The company’s current base rates were approved by the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission in 2017.

Consumers who wish to submit written comments for the case record may do so online at [in.gov/oucc/2361.htm](http://in.gov/oucc/2361.htm), by email at [uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov](mailto:uccinfo@oucc.IN.gov) or by sending mail to Public Comments, Indiana Officer of Utility Consumer Counselor, 115 W.

## Business roundup

Washington St., Suite 1500 SOUTH, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

### Applications open

Indiana Chamber of Commerce is accepting applications for the Indiana Best Places to Work in Manufacturing 2024 awards.

Manufacturers can register for the program at [bestplacestowork-manufacturing.in.com](http://bestplacestowork-manufacturing.in.com). For more information, email [answers@workforcerg.com](mailto:answers@workforcerg.com) or call (281) 602-5004.

The deadline is July 26. Portland’s Joyce/Dayton Corporation was among the companies honored in 2023.

### Hosting walk

Adams Health Network Foundation will host March for Mental Health from 5 to 6 p.m. Friday, May 3, in support of Adams Behavioral Health.

The walk is three quarters of a mile around Adams Memorial Hospital. It is intended to raise awareness to break the stigma with mental health needs.

### Station honored

WLBC-FM of Muncie was honored last week as a winner of the 37th annual National Association of Broadcasters Crystal Radio Award.

The award recognizes radio stations for their commitment to community service. They are chosen by a panel of judges representing the broadcasting industry, community service organizations and public relations firms.

“WLBC has been a finalist for the coveted award before, and having two of our radio stations (WMUN) considered this year was even more gratifying,” said WLBC vice president of programming Steve Lindell in a

press release. “The hard work affirmed by this award is deserved and appreciated.”

### To showcase

Ardagh Glass Packaging – North America is showcasing its beer and beverage bottles at the 2024 Craft Brewers Conference/BrewExpoAmerica this week in Las Vegas.

The company, which has glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester, offers bottles ranging from 7 ounces to 64 ounces in a variety of styles. It offers pry-off, twist and cork options.

“Quality beer deserves premium glass bottles,” said Rashmi Markan, Ardagh vice president of sales, in a press release. “Ardagh Glass Packaging is committed to crafting quality in every container, and we continue to focus on developing our portfolio of American-made glass bottles to meet the demands of craft brewers. With 12 glass manufacturing facilities located throughout the U.S., Ardagh offers coast-to-coast coverage in North America.”

The event includes a presentation by Ardagh director of sales Thaddeus Luebbers regarding sustainability.

### No confidence

Indiana University’s faculty last week voted in favor of no-confidence resolutions for president Pamela Whitten, provost Rahul Shrivastav and vice provost for faculty and academic affairs Carrie Docherty.

The vote of no-confidence for Whitten passed with 93.1% of more than 900 faculty members in attendance in favor; the Indiana Daily Student reported. The votes of no confidence for Shrivastav and Docherty passed at 91.5% and 75%, respectively.

In a statement after the vote, Whitten issued a statement encouraging the faculty “to suggest innovative opportunities within your department, school or college to share your ideas. In turn, I pledge to listen and learn.

I will weigh the guidance from faculty council and the participation of the campus community through shared governance to achieve our collective vision of a thriving campus.”

### Adding option

Comcast on Wednesday announced the launch of NOW, a prepaid and month-to-month internet and phone program.

The program includes options for phone, internet and television service as well as access to wifi hotspots. It is in addition to the company’s existing Internet Essentials packages.

“Consumers have told us they want low-cost, easy-to-use connectivity and entertainment options that deliver the same reliability and consistency of our leading Xfinity services,” said Comcast president and CEO of connectivity and platforms Dave Watson in a press release. “With NOW, we’ve developed a new product construct from the ground up to be simple and easy for anybody who wants Internet, mobile or TV on their own terms without sacrificing quality. It rounds out our product offering to provide something for every consumer segment of the market and plays to our strengths in superior network capabilities, WiFi and streaming.”

### Growing fast

Yelp recently named Scooter’s Coffee as the second-fastest growing brand.

Scooter’s showed a 50% increase in customer interest nationwide based on data from Yelp, which publishes crowd-sourced reviews about businesses. It ranked No. 1 for growth among coffee companies.

“Our tremendous growth as a company is due to the efforts of our amazing team, our franchisees who truly believe in our mission, our baristas who serve up smiles, and our customers who decide to make us part of their day,” said Scooter’s CEO Joe Thornton in a press release. “We can’t wait to give more people in

more places the opportunity to Scoot on Around™ to one of our drive-thrus and experience ‘amazing’ for themselves.”

### Partnering on line

Walmart last week announced that it is collaborating with The Jessica Simpson brand on a new collection of women’s apparel and accessories.

The line launched last week with 100 new items, including shorts, jackets and dresses. Swimwear and jewelry are also part of the line.

“Our mission is to be the customer’s first choice for fashion by offering great style at an incredible value, and we’re excited that the new Jessica Simpson Collection delivers on that mission in an authentic way,” said Ryan Waymire, Walmart senior vice president of fashion, in a press release. “Jessica’s trademark Texas charm and highly coveted personal style is reflected across this beautiful collection, and we know customers are going to love it.”

### Bringing back

Subway restaurants have brought back their honey oat bread and creamy sriracha sauce.

The honey oat bread will be offered for a limited time after a four-year hiatus. The sriracha sauce will be a permanent fixture on the Subway menu.

“These latest upgrades to Subway’s menu will delight any sandwich lover craving something with bold and unique flavor; whether it’s light and sweet or bringing the heat,” said Paul Fabre, Subway senior vice president of culinary and innovation, in a press release. “While our fans know and love our Honey Oat Bread and Creamy Sriracha sauce, I can’t wait for them to see how we reimaged our signature Baja Chipotle Sauce in our partnership with Miss Vickie’s.”

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*Does your business have news to share? Email us at [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com) to be included in our weekly business roundup.*

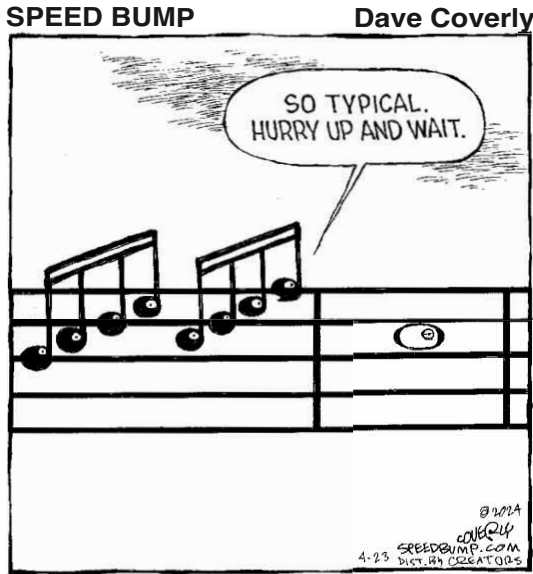


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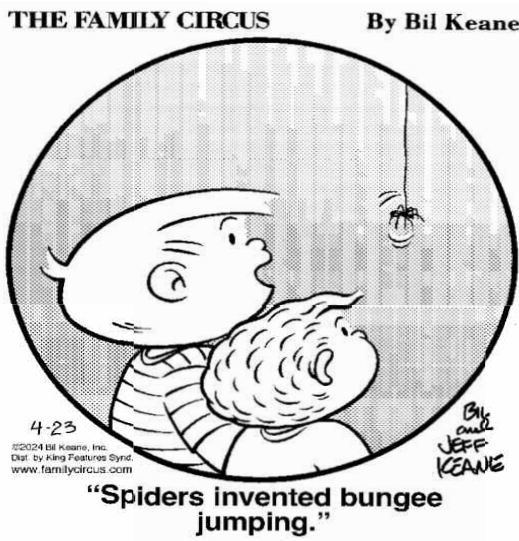
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<p><b>Brigade</b> You're safer with us</p> <p>1976 W. Tyson Road, Portland, IN 47371 (260)766-4343 <a href="http://brigade-electronics.com/en-us">brigade-electronics.com/en-us</a></p>	<p><b>Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition</b></p> <p>100 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371 260-251-3259 Email: <a href="mailto:jcdpcccontact@gmail.com">jcdpcccontact@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Baird Freeman Funeral Home</b> 221 N. Meridian St. Portland, IN 260-726-7171</p>	<p><b>Williams Auto Parts, Inc.</b></p> <p>1127 Detroit Ave. Portland, IN 8-5:30 Mon-Fri, Closed Sat &amp; Sun. Used auto parts since 1951 (260) 726-8001 <a href="http://www.williamsautoparts.com">www.williamsautoparts.com</a></p>
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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



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**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



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**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Power of positive thinking**

South dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ 6 5 3  
 ♥ A K Q 10 5  
 ♦ J 7 2  
 ♣ A K

**EAST**  
 ♠ J  
 ♥ J 7 4 3 2  
 ♦ 9 5  
 ♣ J 10 8 6 5

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ K Q 9 8 7 4 2  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ 6 4  
 ♣ Q 9 2

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

Opening lead — king of diamonds.

A fundamental rule of defensive play is that until proven otherwise, you should never credit declarer with a hand that would allow him to make the contract. Rather, you should try to picture holdings that would allow you to defeat the contract. At times these imagined holdings might seem farfetched, but, even so, it cannot be right to think in a manner that in effect concedes the contract.

Let's say you're West in today's deal, defending against four spades. You cash the king of diamonds and continue with the queen as everyone follows suit. You assume that South has a good seven-card suit for his opening three-spade bid. How would you continue?

Looking at dummy's impressive hearts and clubs, you realize that you can't defeat the contract unless your side can score two trump tricks. All your thoughts should therefore be devoted to visualizing trump distributions that would allow your side to collect a second trump trick in addition to your ace.

You should conclude that if South has the K-Q-J-x-x-x of spades, scoring a second trump trick will not be possible. But if partner happens to hold the singleton jack or queen, you are in business.

So at trick three you continue with a third diamond, and just to be sure that partner ruffs with whatever trump he has, you lead a low diamond rather than the ace! As it happens, partner ruffs dummy's jack with the spade jack, and your ten of spades becomes the setting trick.

Tomorrow: Seek and ye shall find.  
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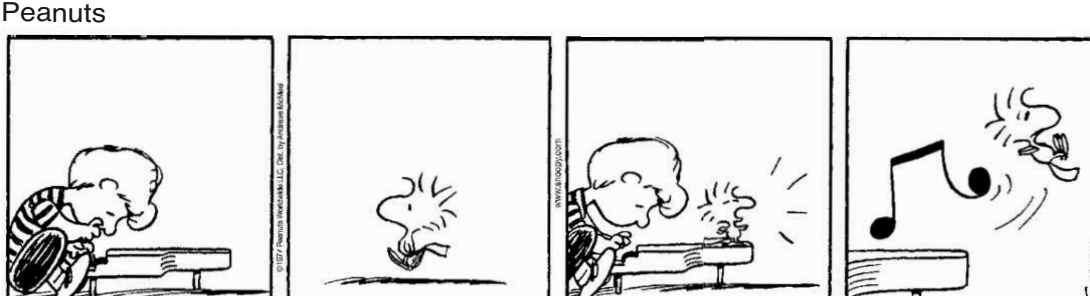
**4-23 CRYPTOQUIP**

HN ZXSZPX RQX PSMGFHGF  
 RQSMGJ HJPU QHFDK RK KDX  
 NRAX SN R APHNN, KDXU'QX

PSRNHGF SG KDX XJFX.


Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PROTEIN-RICH BEVERAGE THAT BODYBUILDERS CONSUME TO DEVELOP HEFTY CALF MUSCLES: LEG-NOG.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

**Peanuts**



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**Rose is Rose**



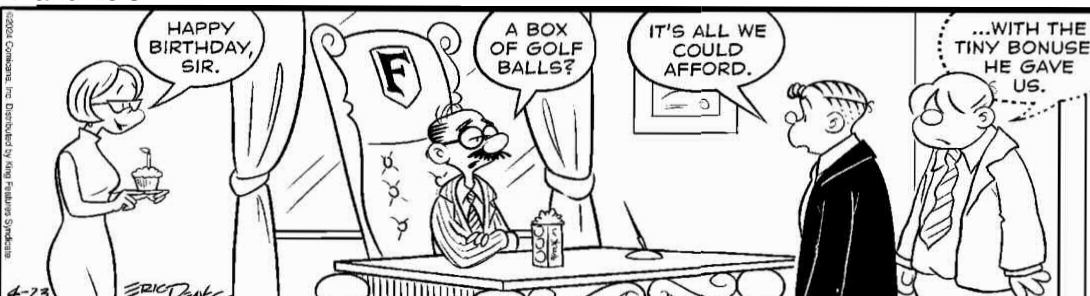
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**Agnes**



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**Hi and Lois**



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**Between Friends**



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HN ZXSZPX RQX PSMGFHGF  
 RQSMGJ HJPU QHFDK RK KDX  
 NRAX SN R APHNN, KDXU'QX

PSRNHGF SG KDX XJFX.  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: PROTEIN-RICH BEVERAGE THAT BODYBUILDERS CONSUME TO DEVELOP HEFTY CALF MUSCLES: LEG-NOG.  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals P

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

- |                                |   |                                |                                      |
|--------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                  | <b>37</b> Observes Ramadan              | <b>DOWN</b>                    | <b>22</b> Jessica o "Fantastic Four" |
| <b>1</b> Soccer score          | <b>38</b> Per Franklin, a certainty     | <b>1</b> Prattle               | <b>23</b> Recoils                    |
| <b>5</b> Runs (into)           | <b>40</b> End-of-wk. cry                | <b>2</b> Yucatan               | <b>24</b> Elitist                    |
| <b>9</b> Cranberry territory   | <b>42</b> "How adorable!"               | <b>3</b> Mornings, briefly     | <b>26</b> Some WWII vets             |
| <b>12</b> Mater lead-in        | <b>43</b> Elaborate architectural style | <b>4</b> Not long ago          | <b>27</b> — jiffy event              |
| <b>13</b> Latin 101 word       | <b>48</b> Fluffy scarf                  | <b>5</b> Indy event            | <b>28</b> Help a hood                |
| <b>14</b> Commotion            | <b>49</b> —                             | <b>6</b> Quantities (Abbr.)    | <b>29</b> Auction signals            |
| <b>15</b> Oscar category       | <b>50</b> Online auction site           | <b>7</b> Chinese chairman      | <b>31</b> Reception feature          |
| <b>17</b> Cotillion celeb      | <b>51</b> Blue hue                      | <b>8</b> Weird trouble-makers  | <b>34</b> "Dig in!"                  |
| <b>18</b> Checks out           | <b>52</b> Campus group                  | <b>9</b> River to the Baltic   | <b>35</b> Tennis star                |
| <b>19</b> Arcade pioneer       | <b>53</b> Fibs                          | <b>10</b> Asian desert         | <b>37</b> Repair foundations.        |
| <b>21</b> Aesopian story       |   | <b>16</b> Sailor's "yes"       | <b>38</b> Smidgens, as of cream      |
| <b>24</b> Use scissors brand   |   | <b>20</b> Frank McCourt memoir | <b>39</b> Furry sci-fi critter       |
| <b>25</b> Skin care brand      |   | <b>21</b> Type choice          | <b>40</b> Wilson predecesor          |
| <b>26</b> Airplane measure     |   |                                | <b>41</b> Avocado dip, for short     |
| <b>30</b> "This Is Us" network |   |                                | <b>44</b> "Xanadu" band              |
| <b>31</b> Kayak's cousin       |   |                                | <b>45</b> Hitter's stat              |
| <b>32</b> Wall St. deal        |   |                                | <b>46</b> Inventor's monogram        |
| <b>33</b> Go by taxi           |   |                                | <b>47</b> Method (Abbr.)             |
| <b>35</b> Clarinet insert      |   |                                |                                      |
| <b>36</b> Get lippy            |   |                                |                                      |

Solution time: 22 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 4-23

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51				52					53		

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# Damian Lillard leads Bucks over Pacers in game 1

By **AARON FENTRESS**  
oregonlive.com  
Tribune News Service

Damian Lillard returned to the NBA playoffs for the first time since 2021 and performed like a man who had sorely missed playing on that stage.

The former Trail Blazers star scored 35 points, all in the first half, to lead the Bucks to a 109-94 victory

over the Indiana Pacers in Game 1 of their first-round Eastern Conference series.

Lillard, who led Portland to eight playoff appearances in 11 seasons, scored 19 points in the first quarter and 16 in the second to finish the first half with 35 on 11-of-19 shooting while sinking 6 of 10 three-point attempts.

"I feel great," Lillard told reporters at Fiserv Forum. "I knew coming in that they would give me a lot of attention. Other times we played them, I remember them face-guarding me on the inbound. I didn't want to fight it too much early and I was patient. Just got the catches on the other side of half court a lot of

times and just tried to play with pace. If they were gonna pick up that high up the floor, I wanted to just get my pace up and attack. I was able to get into a rhythm. And I know I gotta be aggressive so I stayed in attack mode."

The Bucks, who began the series without Giannis Antetokounmpo (lower leg

strain), led 69-42 at half-time.

The Pacers put the clamps on Lillard in the second half. He attempted just five shots missing all of them to go scoreless the rest of the way.

The Bucks, expected to have Antetokounmpo available later in the series, went 1-4 against the

Pacers during the regular season.

Game 2 is set for 5:30 p.m. Tuesday.

Lillard's last playoff appearance ended with a 4-2 series loss to Denver in 2021. The Blazers missed the playoffs in 2022 and 2023 contributing to Lillard requesting a trade last summer.

## Patriots ...

Continued from page 8

One of the boys' top finishes was also in the long jump. Peyton Yowell and Kaiden Reynolds combined for a distance of 35 feet, 4 inches, to take third.

The other third-place finish came from the distance medley

relay. Max Klopfenstein, Blake Collins, Joseph Boggs and Caleb Garringer combined for a time of 11:54.91.

### Sims Leads

GENEVA — The Jay County

boys golf team placed third in South Adams Invitational on Saturday at Wabash Valley Golf Course.

The Patriots combined for 342 strokes to finish third behind Norwell (328) and Fremont (340). Monroe Central

and South Adams trailed with scores of 357 and 360, respectively.

Gage Sims put together the best match of the day for Jay County. He finished third overall with 81 strokes. Caleb

DeRome wasn't far behind with an 83.

Cody DeHoff also shot in the 80s, finishing with 87. Lima Garringer wrapped up the Patriots' team score with a 92.

Luke Fugiett's score of 97 didn't affect Jay County's team score.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS freshman Joe Geesaman hurls a pitch during the Patriots' 23-2 win over the Randolph Southern Rebels on Saturday. Geesaman earned the win in his first varsity pitching experience, while striking out five batters in three innings.

## Five ...

Continued from page 8

The game opened up in the second inning as two hits, three walks, one hit batter and three consecutive errors by Wolfal led to eight runs. The second inning was just the first of three consecutive innings in which they batted around the order.

The Rebels (1-5) gave up five runs in the third despite no errors and another eight in the fourth with three defensive mistakes.

Nichols led the Patriots in RBIs with three, while Jackson Edwards, Garrett Bennett and Kade Sommers all had two. Edwards, Myers, Nichols, Ryne Goldsworthy and Cody Rowles all tied for the most runs scored with three apiece. Bennett, Myers, Nichols and Sommers all had a pair of hits in the game.

"It's getting better as we're going," Farr said. "We're getting that production throughout the lineup. If one guy doesn't get it, it's the next guy stepping up and getting it done. I'm very pleased with the offense and where it's going — still got a long way to go — but it's headed in the right direction."

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Girls tennis at Union City — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Marion — 5 p.m.; Track at Heritage — 6 p.m.; Junior high baseball vs. Muncie Burris — 5:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Track at Anna — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Saint Henry — 5 p.m.; Softball at Saint Henry — 5 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
3 p.m. — Premier League: Chelsea at Arsenal

(USA)  
5 p.m. — College softball: Iowa at Nebraska (BTN)  
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Phoenix Suns at Minnesota Timberwolves (TNT)  
7:40 p.m. — MLB: Houston Astros at Chicago Cubs (TBS)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Indiana Pacers at Milwaukee Bucks (Bally Indiana)  
10 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Dallas Mavericks at Los Angeles Clippers (TNT)  
10:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup:

Pachuca at America (FS1)  
**Wednesday**  
1:15 p.m. — MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks at St. Louis Cardinals (Bally Indiana)  
3 p.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United at Crystal Palace (USA)  
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at Cincinnati Reds (Bally Indiana)  
7 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Miami Heat at Boston Celtics (TruTV)  
7 p.m. — NHL: Boston Bruins at Toronto Maple Leafs (ESPN)  
8:15 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup:

Monterrey at Columbus Crew (FS1)  
9:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: New Orleans Pelicans at Oklahoma City Thunder (TruTV)  
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Dallas Stars (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at Edmonton Oilers (TBS)

### 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).  
.....  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to [sports@thecr.com](mailto:sports@thecr.com).

90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	110 HELP WANTED	190 FARMERS COLUMN	250 PUBLIC NOTICE
<p><b>PUBLIC AUCTION</b> Located: Women's Building 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN Friday Afternoon April 26th, 2024 5:00 P.M.. <b>HOUSEHOLD GOODS – OLD &amp; COLLECTORS ITEMS</b> Maytag side by side refrigerator; GE Profile washer &amp; dryer; Proform 585 treadmill; Marcy Power Series Fitness System; curved sofa; WICKER: couch, rocker, chair, coffee table and end table; Lazy Boy leather recliner; wood Adirondack chair; Master Built smoker; Kenmore gas grill; cement stand; decorative flower pots; vintage ladies hats; metal horse head; hat boxes; and many other items not listed. <b>MOWERS – SCOOTER - BICYCLES – TOOLS</b> John Deere X350 mower with 48" deck; Troy Bilt TB46 Hydrostatic mower; Drive Spit Fire Ex mobility scooter; Trek Multitrack 7000 men's and women's bicycles; Westward stack tool box; Stihl MS 170 chain saw; Stihl tree trimmer; Black &amp; Decker cut saw kit; and many other items not listed. <b>AUCTIONEERS NOTE:</b> Please note that we will be running 2 rings so please come prepared.</p>	<p>Doors will open at 3:30 day of auction <b>JOHN SCARBROUGH, Deceased</b> Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 <b>PUBLIC AUCTION</b> Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall, Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E Votaw St., Portland, IN Saturday April 27th, 2024 9:30 A.M. <b>MODERN HOUSEHOLD GOODS – OLD &amp; COLLECTORS ITEMS</b> Cochrane Oak dining room table 4 extra leaves, 6 chairs, and matching lighted hutch; Oak 3 section bookcase; Oak small church pew; Lazy Boy reclining sofa with matching reclining loveseat; (2) Adirondack chairs; XPC golf clubs; Kitchen Aide Artisan stand mixer; Kitchen Aide food processor; Kitchen Aide chopper; Yeti cooler; <b>VINTAGE TOYS:</b> Structo Fire Dept Truck, Tonka Car Carrier, Service Center, Sears Motorific Super Torture Track, Big Red wagon; and many other items not listed. <b>MOWER - TOOLS</b> Cub Cadet CC – 30 hp Hydro Drive riding lawn mower; Troy Bilt Storm</p>	<p>2410 snow blower; Snapper SP70 self propelled mower with bagger; Craftsman 10" band saw; Craftsman reciprocating saw; Wagner power painter; furniture clamps; pole tree trimmer; and many other items not listed. <b>AUCTIONEERS NOTE:</b> Please note we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview. <b>CHRIS &amp; DEB WHITE-SEL, Deceased</b> Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 <b>PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY, MAY 4TH, 2024</b> 9:00 A.M. LOCATED: 3430 W State Road 67, Portland, IN or 3 1/2 miles west of Portland at the corner of Hwy 67 and County Road 200 South. <b>FARM TRACTORS-FARM EQUIP.-CONSTRUCTION EQUIP. – TRUCKS-TRAILER-VEHICLES- RIDING MOWERS-ATVS- ATTACHMENTS-MISC.</b> NOW ACCEPTING CONSIGNMENTS UNTIL NOON, THURSDAY, MAY 2ND, 2024. Statements made sale</p>	<p>day take precedence over written ad. <b>TERMS: CASH OR GOOD CHECK NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ACCIDENTS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR NO SHOWS</b> <b>AUCTIONEERS NOTE:</b> Indiana Sales Tax will be collected at this auction. <b>AREA CONTRACTORS &amp; FARMERS OWNERS AUCTIONEERS</b> Zane Shawver Lic. #AU10500168 260-729-2229 Pete D. Shawver Lic. #AU19700040 260-726-5587 <a href="http://www.auctionzip.com">www.auctionzip.com</a> – Auctioneer ID #4243 <b>100 JOBS WANTED</b> <b>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR</b> any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489. <b>110 HELP WANTED</b> <b>HELP WANTED CITY OF PORTLAND</b> The Portland Water Park is accepting applications for CERTIFIED lifeguards for the 2024 season. The guards need to be certified in Lifeguarding, CPR and First Aid Training and Aquatic Attraction. Starting rate for lifeguards will be paid \$14/hr with additional pay for returning guards based on prior year of</p>	<p>service. Additional positions at Portland Water Park to include concession stand. No certification is required. Starting rate for concession stand is \$13/hr with additional pay for returning employees based on prior year of service. The Water Park is open 7 days per week and employees will be expected to work weekends. Applications are available at Portland City Hall, city website: <a href="http://thecityofportland.net">thecityofportland.net</a> or Portland Water Park Facebook page. Season will begin May 25th till mid to late August. Applications will be accepted at City Hall, 321 North Meridian Street, until Friday, May 3rd at 4:00p.m. The City of Portland is an Equal Opportunity Employer. <b>130 MISC. FOR SALE</b> <b>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE</b> Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information. <b>ALUMINUM SHEETS</b> 23"x30", .007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.</p>	<p><b>AG RENTAL</b> Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309 <b>200 FOR RENT</b> <b>LEASE SPACE</b> available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. 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By Charles William Coffey Plaintiff-Pro SE By Brandy Ruchelle Coffey Plaintiff-Pro SE CR 49,16,23-2024-HSPALPL <b>Visit Us At: <a href="http://thecr.com">thecr.com</a></b></p>

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## Five straight

*Patriots win their fifth straight game after dropping first five of season*

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

After a poor start to the season, the Patriots have started to pick things up.

After winning their first game, the Rebels have been trending downward.

When the teams recently clashed, nothing changed the direction each team was headed.

The Jay County High School baseball team extended its winning streak to five and dominated the Randolph Southern Rebels, which just dropped its fifth straight game, 23-2 Saturday.

The Patriots (5-5) had a disastrous first week of the season, dropping their first four games. They added a fifth straight loss in the first game of a doubleheader against Centerville before starting to turn things around in the second game. That win sparked what has now grown into a five-game winning streak over the past week.

"I feel good," JCHS coach Todd Farr said. "You always hate to win big like that because you don't want to show anybody up, but it ended a good week of baseball for us. That's why it feels good."

"We were 0-5 and now back to 5-5 so I'm pleased with our guys right now."

"We didn't panic. We got a little more time to practice to clean some of those things up and get comfortable with their spots."

While much of the Patriots' lineup reflected the other four games of the winning streak, Joe Geesaman moved from right field to get his first varsity innings as a pitcher.

The freshman got to work right away. He got Noah Allen to

look at the first two strikes before a swing and a miss to record his first strikeout. Geesaman then struck out Jackson Wolfal before Vance Taylor flew out to shortstop to end the inning in short order.

Geesaman's only hiccup came in the top of the second inning when he gave up back-to-back singles to Bryson Grimes and Trenton Jeffries. A pair of groundouts and a strikeout ended the inning, but not without allowing a run to score.

The third inning went just as smoothly as the first with a pair of strikeouts and a fly out to right field.

As the Patriots had developed a 15-1 lead by the fourth inning, Farr started to empty his bench, including taking Geesaman out of the game. He finished with the win after striking out five batters and giving up one earned run on a pair of hits.

"I felt great," Geesaman said. "It being my first high school outing, it was awesome."

"My fastball was really good and I just stuck with it. My teammates made plays and we won the game. It feels awesome to help my team like that and come through. It really means a lot."

Following Geesaman's exit, Brock Wasson tossed the fourth inning, giving up one unearned run. Camden Fraley finished the fifth with a walk, a strikeout and a double play to end the game.

Nearly all of the Patriots contributed to the offense. It started slow with back-to-back two-out singles from Sam Myers and Parker Nichols leading to a pair of runs in the first inning.

See **Five** page 7



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Cody Rowles, the centerfielder for the Jay County High School baseball team, leaps to catch a line drive during the Patriots' 23-2 win over Randolph Southern on Saturday.

### Box score

Jay County Patriots vs. Randolph Southern Rebels

#### Randolph Southern (1-5)

	ab	r	h	bi
Allen ss	3	0	0	0
Wolfal cf	2	0	0	0
Taylor c	1	1	0	0
Grimes 1b	2	1	1	0
Jefferson 3b	1	0	1	0
Gullett p	2	0	0	0
Rhotenhamel 2b	2	0	0	1
Moreland lf	1	0	0	0
Parsons rf	2	0	0	0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>

#### Jay County (5-5)

	ab	r	h	bi
Edwards lf	5	3	1	2
Schemenaur c	2	0	0	1
Phillips ph	1	0	0	0
Bennett c	2	1	2	2
Myers ss	2	3	2	0
Foster ss	1	1	1	0
Nichols 3b	3	3	2	3
Goldsworthy 1b	1	3	0	1
Brown 1b	0	0	0	0
Geesaman p	2	0	0	1
Wasson p	0	0	0	0
Vazquez ph	0	1	0	1
Sommers dh	1	2	2	2
Jetmore rf	1	1	0	1
Wendel 2b	2	1	1	1
Sollars 2b	1	1	0	0
Rowles cf	2	3	0	1
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>16</b>

Randolph S. 010 10X X-2  
Jay County 285 8XX X-23

LOB — Randolph Southern 2, Jay County 3. 2B — Jay County 2 (Nichols, Wendel). SB — Randolph Southern 2 (Taylor 2), Jay County 4, (Myers, Nichols, Goldsworthy, Rowles).

#### IP H R ER BB SO

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>Randolph Southern</b>						
Gullett	2.1	7	15	5	4	2
Jefferson	1	2	5	3	1	3
Allen	0.2	1	3	0	0	2

	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO
<b>Jay County</b>						
Geesaman	3	2	1	1	0	5
Wasson	1	0	1	0	2	0
Fraley	1	0	0	0	1	1

## Anna Roessner leads Tribe to fourth place

WEST MILTON, Ohio — Anna Roessner's breakout season is continuing strong.

The Fort Recovery High School junior won a pair of events at the Milton Union Bulldog Track Classic on Saturday to lead the Indians to fourth place.

Fort Loramie won both the boys and girls events. The FRHS boys team placed 14th of 16 teams.

Roessner earned the top spot in both the 100-meter and 200-meter dash. Her time of 12.25 seconds in the 100 dash beat out Fort Loramie's Izzy Meyer by 1.1 seconds. She beat out Sunni Voisard (27.68 seconds) of Fort Loramie 2.32 seconds in the 200 dash.

Mara Pearson owned the only other top finish for Fort Recovery in the long jump. Her top jump of 17 feet, 1.25 inches, beat Russia's Hazel Francis by over a foot.

Carson Fullenkamp claimed the best finish for the boys, placing fourth in the shot put with a mark of 39 feet, 10 inches.

### FRHS roundup

#### Tribe splits

LIMA, Ohio — The Fort Recovery softball team split with the Shawnee Indians in a doubleheader Saturday. FRHS took the first game 10-6, but fell in the second 6-5.

Back-to-back four-run innings powered the Fort Recovery (5-8) victory in game No. 1. Britney Tebbe and Ella Schoen had two-RBI singles in the third and fourth innings, respectively.

Tebbe finished with a game-high four RBIs and two hits while also earning the win in 5.2 innings pitched. She surrendered all six runs (only three were earned) on 14 hits and one walk.

A pair of errors allowed Shawnee (2-9) to score three runs in the first inning of game No. 2.

Fort Recovery tied the

game in the fourth inning on a triple by Emma Will, but SHS immediately reclaimed the lead on another error, a single and two sacrifice bunts. Two more runs in the sixth sealed the deal, handing Jenna Homan her seventh loss of the season.

#### Sixth decides

FORT RECOVERY — A disastrous sixth inning put the game out of reach as the Fort Recovery baseball team got beat by the Lincolnview Lancers 17-9 Saturday.

The Indians (4-5) gave up 10 runs in the sixth inning that gave the Lancers (7-3) a commanding 16-4 lead. Six singles, two walks, two errors and a double did the damage for Lincolnview.

Fort Recovery scored four in the bottom half of the inning, but couldn't complete a comeback.

Reece Wendel was the only Indian with multiple hits, while Alex Dues led with three RBIs.

Alex Gaerke suffered the loss, giving up six runs in the first 3 2/3 innings.

## DeHoff, Mende lead Patriots at Ansonia

ANSONIA, Ohio — The girls took home three first-place finishes. The boys could only manage a pair of third-place finishes.

The Jay County High School girls track team garnered 80 points to finish second at the Ansonia Tiger Relays on Friday, while the boys team finished sixth with 42 points.

The Patriot girls fell by just five points to host Ansonia in the seven-team field.

The Ansonia boys team also topped its seven competitors with a score of 112 points.

The 400-meter relay team of Morgan DeHoff, Jenna Dues, Ariel Beiswanger

### Jay County roundup

and Matilda Mende took the top spot with a time of 52.11 seconds.

DeHoff and Mende also combined for 30 feet, 6 inches, to claim the long jump.

The other win came in the 1,600 meter relay team of Aixa Lopez, Mya Kunkler, Moa Sakamoto and Makinsey Murphy by running a time of 4 minutes, 35.14 seconds.

See **Patriots** page 7



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