

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Another INDOT project set to begin

*Indiana 18 structured to be replaced beginning next week*

Another construction project is set to get underway.

Beginning next week, Indiana Department of Transportation will start as “small structure replacement” on Indiana 18 in the northwest corner of the county.

INDOT will be replacing a culvert on Indiana 18 bridge between county road 1050 West and the Jay/Blackford county line. (The waterway feeds into Stoney Creek, which then feeds into the Salamon River in eastern Blackford county south of Balbec Road.

Indiana 18 will be closed between Indiana 1 and Montpelier during the project. The official detour utilizes Indiana 3, Indiana 26 and Indiana 1.

The project that will start next week joins a lengthy list of INDOT projects in and around Jay County this spring, including on Meridian Street (U.S. 27) in Portland. The project involves paving Meridian Street between county roads 200 South and 100 north, reconstructing Americans with Disabilities Act ramps to sidewalks with extended “bump outs” at some intersections in the downtown area and replacing traffic signals. Brooks Construction, which is handling the project, is expected to take out traffic signals at Water, Main, Walnut, High and Lafayette streets this week. See **Project** page 2



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

## Patriotic performance

Jay County High School senior Hannah Boggs plays The Star-Spangled Banner on the flute with the Jay County ROTC presenting the colors prior to the Patriots’ girls tennis match and softball game Tuesday. The JCHS tennis program announced a donation prior to the match and donated to the band boosters previously as a thank you for Tuesday and to support what they do for the youth of Jay County.

## State piloting reimbursement program

By **LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ**  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A regional public defense office’s three part-time lawyers — and ad hoc help — stand between Fountain County and a constitutional violation: of the impoverished Hoosier’s right to a defense attorney.

The county’s misdemeanor cases “have gone through the roof” following neighbor Illinois’ legalization of marijuana, says Circuit Court Judge Stephanie Campbell.

“We just get inundated and then we get to the point where we’re out of attorneys,” said Campbell, a Republican. Officials pull help from elsewhere.

Fountain County, like the other 66 members of Indiana’s Public Defender Commission, receives partial state reimbursement for public defense on felony and child abuse cases. That’s in exchange for following standards on caseloads, pay, independence and more.

But the increasing cost of defense for misdemeanor cases

is each county’s own problem. Indiana hasn’t reimbursed for those services in nearly three decades.

That’s about to change. Legislators during the most recent session authorized a pilot for up to a dozen counties. The counties would comply with commission requirements and send in data; in return, they’d get back up to 40% of their spending on misdemeanor defense.

For the commission and supportive counties, the pilot is potentially a step toward

statewide reimbursement and a healthier public defense system.

Some lawmakers, however, have been openly critical of the pilot as a slippery slope into a pricey long-term budget commitment.

“It’s always been the commission’s (goal) to get that misdemeanor funding authority back. We’re already convinced it’s important,” said Andrew Cullen, the commission’s public policy director. “But the Legislature asked us to show them — in bottom line dollars and cents, and clear data — why it’s important.”



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

## Kiwanis scholar

The Dunkirk Kiwanis Club Scholarship went to Hayden Hardman during Jay County High School Honors Night on Monday. Pictured, Hardman accepts the honor from guidance counselor Kristin Millspaugh. Hardman also received the Spanish Award and Spencer G. Calvert Memorial Scholarship. He also earned an academic honors diploma.

## Trump fined for violating gag orders

By **MOLLY CRANE-NEWMAN** and **JOSEPHINE STRATMAN**  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — Donald Trump was held in criminal contempt and hit with \$9,000 in sanctions for repeated gag order violations — and warned he could wind up in jail — as his Manhattan hush money trial resumed Tuesday.

State Supreme Court Justice Juan Merchan reprimanded the ex-president after finding that nine out of 10 posts recently flagged by prosecutors, which referenced the jury and anticipated witnesses Michael Cohen and porn star Stormy Daniels breached a pretrial order prohibiting the ex-president from publicly commenting on individuals involved in the case.

Merchan didn’t buy Trump’s argument that sharing things other people said didn’t violate the order, finding there was “no doubt whatsoever” that his intent and purpose when reposting is “to communicate to his audience” his endorsement, Merchan wrote in an accompanying written order, saying he’ll consider putting Trump behind bars if there were further violations.

Before announcing his decision, Merchan threw Trump a bone by saying he’d let him attend his son Barron’s

high school graduation next month. That was about the only good news for the former president, who decried Merchan as “rigged” and “crooked” on his social media website amid a jam-packed day of testimony centering on the negotiations that preceded the hush money transactions at the heart of the case.

Later in the day, a midlevel New York appeals court rejected his request to freeze the trial while he attempts to fight several rulings by Merchan.

Prosecutors on Tuesday called Keith Davidson as their sixth witness. The lawyer counseled Daniels and Playboy model Karen McDougal as they considered coming forward with allegations about sexual relationships with Trump in the leadup to the 2016 election.

Davidson said his initial involvement in the hush money payoffs came months before the election with a friendly tip to his pal Dylan Howard, then editor-in-chief of the National Enquirer, regarding McDougal’s allegations of a lengthy affair with Trump shortly into his marriage to Melania.

After meeting with Davidson and McDougal in Los Angeles, the super-market tabloid struck a deal for \$150,000, with the understanding her claims would never hit the headlines.

### Deaths

**Randy Tinch**, 65, Portland  
**Katrina McGraw**, 38, rural Portland  
**Lucille Laux**, 85, Fort Recovery  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 72 degrees Tuesday. The low was 55.

There is a slight chance of showers tonight with a low in the lower 60s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with rain expected. More showers are likely in the evening.

See page 2 for an extended forecast.

### In review

The Portland Foundation is accepting applications for its summer grant cycle. Deadlines are July 11 for Women’s Giving Circle grants, June 12 for scholarships and June 27 for regular grants and teacher creativity mini grants. Applications are available at portlandfoundation.org. For more information, call (260) 726-4260.

### Correction

A recent story in The Commercial Review inaccurately stated the income limit amount for the upcoming owner-occupied rehabilitation program. A two-person household must make at or below \$50,500 to qualify.



# Capsule Reports

## Randy Tinch

April 18, 1959-April 29, 2024  
Randy Lee Tinch, age 65, of Portland, passed away on Monday, April 29, 2024, in IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie surrounded by his loved ones.



Tinch

He was born in Winchester, Indiana, on April 18, 1959, the son of Dorman Tinch and Frances Hipshire. He was married in 2003 to Lisa Kegerreis who survives.

Randy served in the U.S. Army and was a disabled American veteran. He attended the First

Church of Christ and was a staunch Donald Trump supporter. He was a loving and dedicated husband and grandfather. He had been a Portland resident for 21 years and loved being outdoors in the sun.

He will be sadly missed by his wife of 21 years Lisa; two children, Garry Horner (wife: Christina) of Redkey and Deborah Petty (husband: Jonathan Walsler) of Portland; grandchildren Colin Horner, Nevaeh Petty, Lillian Stephen and Kwynon Walsler; two brothers, Rex Tinch and Larry Schell; and sister Connie Robinson.

He was preceded in death by his mother Frances Smith.

Funeral services will be held

Friday, May 3, 2024, at 5 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Flint Redwine presiding. Visitation will be Friday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Memorials can be made to any veterans organization. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

## Katrina McGraw

Nov. 11, 1985-April 28, 2024  
Katrina "Katie" McGraw, age 38, a resident of rural Portland, passed away on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at her home in rural Portland.

Katie was born on Nov. 11, 1985, the daughter of Dave and Connie (Newton) McGraw. She attended Jay County High School.

Survivors include:

Her parents — Dave McGraw (wife: Cindy), Portland, Indiana, and Connie Keller, Portland, Indiana

Her grandparents — Bonnie LeMaster, Portland, Indiana, and Max and Charlene Blowers, Bryant, Indiana

Her siblings — Zachery McGraw (wife: Lauren), Union City, Indiana, and Christie Felger (husband: Joseph), Keystone, Indiana

Stepbrother — Brad Blowers (wife: Beth), Bryant, Indiana  
Ten nieces and nephews



McGraw

One great-nephew  
Several cousins  
Visitation will be held on Monday from 10 a.m. to noon at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at noon on Monday at the funeral home. Pastor Francis LeMaster will officiate and burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.

Condolences may be expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

**Lucille Marie (Timmerman) Laux**, Fort Recovery, died Monday. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10 a.m. Saturday at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church.

# CR almanac

Friday 5/3	Saturday 5/4	Sunday 5/5	Monday 5/6	Tuesday 5/7
<b>76/59</b>	<b>75/57</b>	<b>73/55</b>	<b>75/60</b>	<b>79/64</b>
Friday has a 70% chance of storms throughout the day. The high may be in the upper 70s.	Saturday's forecast shows a low chance of showers in the afternoon and evening.	Another low chance of rain under mostly sunny skies. The low may hit the mid 50s.	Partly sunny on Monday with a high around 74 degrees.	There's a chance of thunderstorms Tuesday under mostly cloudy skies.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$178 million	Evening Daily Three: 9-2-9 Daily Four: 8-3-9-7 Quick Draw: 4-5-15-16-17-18-24-26-33-48-53-56-59-60-62-63-68-73-76-79
<b>Mega Millions</b> 10-18-27-37-61 Mega Ball: 5 Megaplier: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$284 million	<b>Ohio</b> Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 4-0-5 Pick 4: 3-5-1-0 Pick 5: 1-5-0-7-7 Evening Pick 3: 0-7-7 Pick 4: 2-8-6-5 Pick 5: 1-8-0-3-2 Rolling Cash: 5-10-13-16-21 Estimated jackpot: \$160,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 0-9-0 Daily Four: 6-4-2-2 Quick Draw: 1-4-19-35-40-46-51-55-57-62-63-64-66-68-70-73-74-76-77-79	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.33 June corn .....4.37 Wheat .....4.88	June beans .....11.55 Wheat ..... 5.58
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.49 June corn .....4.49 July corn.....4.39	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.24 June corn .....4.28 Beans .....11.43 June beans .....11.52 Wheat .....5.55
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.39 June corn .....4.34 Beans .....11.53	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.32 June corn .....4.35 Beans .....11.28 June beans .....11.38 Wheat .....5.33

## Today in history

In 1536, King Henry VIII of England committed his wife Anne Boleyn to the Tower of London, charging her with adultery and incest. Boleyn, the second of Henry VIII's six wives, was later convicted and beheaded.

In 1611, the King James Version of the Bible was first published.

In 1973, Pat Medler won the 100-yard dash and 220 dash, earning half of the Portland High School boys track team's wins as it scored 63 points to defeat West Del (54) and Eastbrook (41).

In 1998, Fort Recovery High School crowned Phil Ranly and Nikki Roessner as its prom king and queen. Also, Abby Arnold and Pete May were crowned queen and king at the East Jay Junior High School spring dance.

In 2013, a reception at John Jay Center for Learning was held for a delegation from Taiwan to celebrate an educational partnership between Jay School Corporation, Ball State University and schools in Taiwan.

In 2022, the Jay County High School girls track team placed fourth at the Muncie Central Relays. Gabi Bilbrey set a new career-best in the discus at 120 feet even. She went on to be a state qualifier in the event.

—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Today**  
3 p.m. — Jay County Country Living Advisory Board, Jay County Country Living, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.  
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.  
5:30 p.m. — Portland Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

**Monday**  
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.  
7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.



Photo provided

## Showing respect

Mayors Jack Robbins (Dunkirk) and Jeff Westlake (Portland) signed proclamations declaring April 29 through May 4 as Respect for Law Week. Pictured from left are Optimist club members Kathy Jones, Linda Aker and Mike Aker, Westlake, Robbins, Optimist Sandy Rogers, Dunkirk Police Chief Dane Mumbower and Optimist Leland LeMaster.

## Project ...

Continued from page 1  
Temporary stops signs will be placed at the intersection of Meridian and Water streets, making it a four-way stop, with other intersections involved becoming two-way stops with traffic free-flowing along Meridian Street. (Temporary "buzz strips" have been placed along Meridian Street at each intersection in an effort to encourage drivers to slow down.)

INDOT is also in the process of putting a new deck and guardrails on the Indiana 67 bridge over the Salamonie River between county road 125 South and Indiana 26. A temporary traffic signal has been installed within the area just south of Jay County High School reduced to one lane.

Just south of Jay County, INDOT is replacing the U.S. 27 bridge over the Mississinewa River between Indiana 28 and Randolph County road 850 North. And in Delaware County, Indiana 67 is closed from the Indiana 28/Indiana 67 split to Mississinewa Avenue (Indiana 167) for an INDOT project to demolish and rebuild a bridge over the Mississinewa River.

## Felony arrests

**Sexual misconduct**  
A Jay County Jail correctional officer was arrested Tuesday for sexual misconduct by a service provider with detainee. William B. Bentz, 35, 2267 S. U.S. 27, Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony. He was released on a \$10,000 bond from the jail.

Bentz, who has worked for the department since 2023, is the second correctional officer this year to be accused of sexual misconduct with an inmate.

(John Richard Norris was charged in Jay Circuit Court on Feb. 21 with the same crime.)

**Probation violation**  
A Portland man was arrested Tuesday for violating his probation. Robert L. Rivers, 36, 510 E. Race St., was found guilty in Jay Circuit Court of battery resulting in bodily injury to a public safety official, a Level 5 felony, as well as domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction with three years suspended. A petition alleging he violated the conditions of his probation was filed in court Monday.

Rivers was being held without bond in Jay County Jail.

### SERVICES

**Today**  
**Twigg**, Ronald: 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

**Friday**  
**Mock**, Richard: 1 p.m., Wilson Shook Funeral Home, 317 N. Main St., Dunkirk.  
**Tinch**, Randy: 5 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

**Saturday**  
**Laux**, Lucille: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpsburg Road, Fort Recovery.  
**Branscum**, Wanda: noon, Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

**Monday**  
**McGraw**, Katrina: noon, Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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Muselman Wellness Pavilion/Swiss Village, Inc.  
1201 Emmental Drive, Berne, IN 46711  
Or email: [brianae@swissvillage.org](mailto:brianae@swissvillage.org)

## Character Counts

Students were recently selected from each classroom at East Elementary for exhibiting all six character counts traits — responsibility, caring, respect, trustworthiness, citizenship and fairness — all school year. Pictured above are kindergarteners (front row) Pedro Navarro, Lillian Ingram and Quinn Alt, and (back row) Kenadee Poole, Avery Jutte, Rowan Ingram and Mabel Leonhard.



Photo provided

# Spouse struggling to leave cheating wife

DEAR ABBY: After 10 years of being with my wife, including eight years of marriage, I accidentally discovered she was having affairs online. She put me through weeks of lies, denial, minimizing and obfuscating before finally giving me full disclosure. At this point, I'll never know if I can believe her after her seven years of off-and-on cheating with one main partner and two others. Even if I were to believe she's remorseful and has changed, it's hard to live with what's already happened.

It's been 15 months. I can't get past the pain of the betrayal and the feeling that she didn't love or respect me for most of our relationship. In addition, there are images I can't get out of my head. I want to leave, but finances and young children

**Dear Abby**



make it complicated. Also, my wife will cry, get dramatic and make me feel bad, telling me she will just go to a homeless shelter. I don't know if she's purposely trying to make me feel guilty or what. Please help. — LIVING IN PAIN IN OREGON

**DEAR LIVING: OF COURSE your wife is trying to make you feel guilty! The best defense is a strong offense. She didn't lie to you once — your entire marriage has**

**been a continuous lie. Are you even sure the children are yours and not one of her lovers'?**

**Talk to a lawyer NOW. (While you're at it, make an appointment to be tested for STDs.) If you are the father of any of those children, file for full custody. Where your wife lives after that is up to her. (Perhaps one of her lovers will take her in, which will spare your feelings of undeserved guilt for protecting yourself.)**

.....  
**DEAR ABBY:** I have been independent from my family for 25 years. I have always lived a few hours' drive from them. (I now live an hour away from my mother and three hours from my sister and her family.) For every occasion over those 25

years, I have always visited them — spending time, money on gas, putting thousands of miles on my car and sometimes taking time off from work. Never has anyone visited me, other than once when my sister was passing through and wanted to have lunch.

I have invited my family countless times, but there's always an excuse. Often, it's that my place is too small to accommodate them or that I have a roommate. I'm expected to spend my resources visiting them or go broke to have a place that can accommodate them. I am reminded of this lopsided situation every time my roommate's family visits multiple times per year. They stay in hotels.

I'm not confrontational. I love my family, but I feel some

boundaries need to be established. Am I unreasonable? If not, do you have any suggestions? — ALL ON ME IN FLORIDA

**DEAR ALL: If it is not practical to continue traveling to visit your relatives, stop doing it. Do not stop inviting them to visit you, however, and when you do, tell them you know they would be more comfortable staying in a nearby hotel or motel, which is what your roommate's family has been doing for years.**

.....  
*Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.*

## Community Calendar

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

### Today

**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.

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

**FORGET-ME-NOT** — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

### Friday

**DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY** — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday

of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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

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

**CINNCINNATUS LEAGUE** — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, May 3, at the Harmony Café in Portland.

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

**ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS** — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West

Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

**DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY** — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

**MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER** — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is museumofthesoldier.com.

**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.

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Wednesday's Solution

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

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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**FRHS graduation**  
Friday, May 17 - CR\*

**Summer festivals**  
Wednesday, May 22 - UNIV\*

**Randolph County graduation**  
Thursday, May 23 - N-G\*

**JCHS graduation**  
Wednesday, May 29 - CR/NS\*

**Blackford graduation**  
Wednesday, May 29 - NT\*

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\*UNIV = appears in all Graphic Printing Newspapers, CR = The Commercial Review, NG = The News-Gazette, NT = The News Times, NS = The News and Sun

# Reporting is becoming more diverse

By MORTON J. MARCUS

On or before May 7, Hoosiers will vote for congressional candidates appearing on the November ballots. Those selected will represent our nine districts until the first week of 2027.

What do they know of us? In fact, what do we know of us?

For example, the total population of Indiana grew by 4.5% between 2012 and 2022. From Congressional District 2 (South Bend and Elkhart) in the north central part of the state to as far south and east as Congressional District 6 (Columbus and Richmond), population growth exceeded 5%.

In Congressional District 1 (northwest Indiana) and most of southern Indiana (Congressional Districts 8 and 9) growth

## Eye on the Pie



was in the 4% range. However, in Congressional District 7 (the northern two-thirds of Marion County) population growth was only 1.6%. Differences in population growth often mean serious challenges for housing and local businesses.

Those data mask other population differences. Five of our nine Congressional Districts lost population under the age of 18. Congressional District 7

lost 6.9% of its young persons while neighboring Congressional District 6 (Winchester to Columbus) gained 7.7% in that age group. But school buildings aren't built to be moved.

At the other end of the age distribution, the population 65 and older grew by 30%, led at 38% by Congressional District 5 (Kokomo and Marion south to the Trendy Trio of Carmel, Fishers and Westfield). Congressional District 6, by contrast, had but a 16% growth in that age group.

The state's Hispanic population grew by 125,600 (31%), with less than 40% of that growth represented by Mexicans, 20% Puerto Ricans and Cubans, and the balance from other Hispanic or Latino areas.

In percentage terms, Congressional District 3 (Portland to Fort Wayne and LaGrange) had the lowest increase at 21%, while Congressional District 6 more than doubled its Hispanic population (up 144%).

The Hispanic population includes persons of all racial groupings. When they are removed and only non-Hispanic persons are considered, we see a 97,000 decline in the white alone Hoosier population. This number terrifies white nationalists. What they miss is this "loss" was offset by the 169,000 persons reporting they were of some other race alone or of two or more races.

Congressional Districts 6 and 7 had declines in the white alone classification of 57,000 and 61,000, respectively, not off-

set by increases in the more diverse groups mentioned above. Congressional Districts 1, 2 and 4 did have such offsets; the remaining Congressional Districts 3, 5, 8 and 9 all had increases in the white alone group but with equal or greater increases in the more diverse groups.

That's what's happening. More people are reporting a wider range of racial ancestry than previously. As genealogy becomes more fashionable, occupying a prominent time slot on public TV, more people are aware of and ready to identify the complexity of our origins.

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

# Sending troops is a dangerous idea

Los Angeles Times

Tribune News Service

On Wednesday during a visit to Columbia University, House Speaker Mike Johnson warned that if the wave of protests against Israel's U.S.-funded war in Gaza on college campuses, including UCLA and USC, is not contained quickly, "there is an appropriate time for the National Guard. We have to bring order to these campuses."

How troubling that the man who is the third in line to the presidency seems to think that it's OK to silence largely peaceful student protests by sending in armed troops.

It's a terrible idea, with a deadly history in the U.S. It was the Ohio National Guard that killed four unarmed students and wounded nine others at a rally against the Vietnam War at Kent State University in 1970. Since then, there have been uncountable examples of armed responses to nonviolent activities ending with innocent people getting hurt or killed.

Sens. Tom Cotton, R-Arkansas, and Josh Hawley, R-Missouri, have called on President Joe Biden to deploy the National Guard to quash pro-Palestinian protests. Republican state lawmakers in New York want Gov. Kathy Hochul to deploy the National Guard to Columbia University. And more than two dozen Republican senators signed a letter urging the Biden administration to "restore order to campuses" by using federal law enforcement, prosecution and deportation against "the outbreak of anti-Semitic, pro-terrorist mobs."

Never mind that they are unfairly assigning racist motives to thousands of people protesting the killing of more than 34,000 Palestinian people, most of them women and children. It's clear that these Republican politicians are less concerned with the wave of antiwar protests than using them for their own political ends.

Johnson also threatened to use his power as speaker to punish colleges that don't eject protesters by withholding federal education funding. "If these campuses cannot get control of this problem, they do not deserve taxpayer dollars."

This kind of tough talk

## Guest Editorial

*How troubling that the man who is the third in line to the presidency seems to think that it's OK to silence largely peaceful student protests by sending in armed troops.*

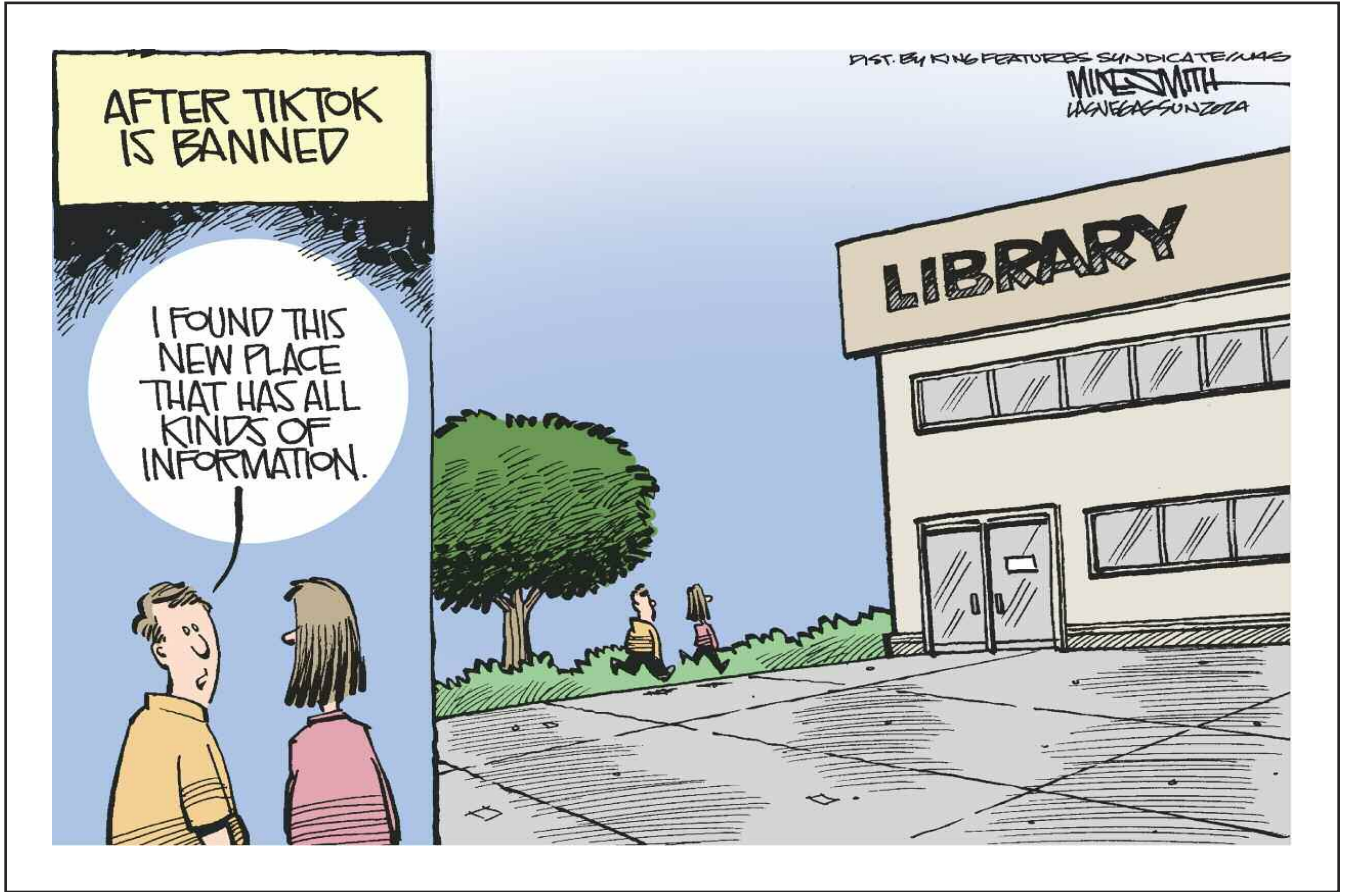
is especially rich coming from a man who has shown no interest in cracking down on the most serious threat to our democracy: President Trump's lies, and his supporters' use of violence to try to prevent the peaceful transfer of power.

To the contrary, Johnson played a key role in helping Trump try to overturn the election. He has suggested the Jan. 6 insurrectionists who participated in the attack on the Capitol were innocent people who "just happened to be walking through the building" and wanted to blur their faces from video so they could not be charged with crimes.

It seems that his send-in-the-troops mentality applies only to some Americans.

Part of living in a free society is accepting the right of others to speak out and protest, even when you don't agree with them.

How someone in power responds to 1st Amendment rights being exercised in criticism of the government says a lot about what they value. Republicans' eagerness to deploy armed troops to quash peaceful protests suggests that they don't really believe in free speech after all.



# Ban on noncompetes is a victory

By BETSEY STEVENSON

Bloomberg Opinion

Tribune News Service

It's easy to understand why the U.S. Chamber of Commerce is so upset about the Federal Trade Commission's decision to ban noncompete agreements. The problem for businesses is not that they will lose trade secrets or valuable investments in workers to competitors. It's that they just lost bargaining power to workers — and that's exactly what the FTC intended.

Despite the common perception that noncompete agreements are relevant only for employees who possess critical trade secrets, the reality is that they are often imposed across various industries on a wide spectrum of workers, many of whom do not handle any sensitive information. It's also the case that most hiring in the US involves people leaving one job for another — which is a critical factor shaping the dynamism of the labor market.

To see why noncompetes matter, it's important to understand the value of the right to quit one job and take another. The question is, who should hold that right?

When parties can negotiate without cost and rights are clearly defined, noted the Nobel laureate Ronald Coase more than half a century ago, they will reach agreements that lead to economically efficient outcomes. With the FTC's ban, the bargaining power shifts from employers to workers: Employers must make more competitive counteroffers to retain talent.

Previously, if you were governed by a noncompete agreement, you theoretically could pay your employer to let you out of it. Now, according to Coase's theory, even though the number of workers switching jobs might not change, the ban will have a distributional effect: Workers hold more bargaining power, and therefore could end up with higher wages.

Some might ask: Wouldn't workers simply have negotiated higher wages

## Betsey Stevenson



to compensate them for signing noncompete agreements in the first place? If this is true, then a ban on noncompetes would have little effect on wages. The evidence, however, suggests that most workers do not do this type of forward-looking negotiation. In fact, many workers sign noncompete agreements without realizing that they are not legally enforceable in their state.

Workers often face significant challenges in negotiating terms, especially when they lack information about their options and the job market. The process of understanding and negotiating over noncompete agreements can be particularly daunting without legal assistance, leading to a negotiation that is cheaper for — and therefore favors — employers.

Moreover, noncompete clauses exploit behavioral biases that lead workers to underestimate their future cost. Some workers may even be ready to start a new job when the noncompete agreement is shown to them. In the comments received by the FTC, many workers noted that they weren't aware of such clauses until the last minute.

These arguments imply that banning noncompetes might be important not just for higher wages, but for greater labor competition as workers become more mobile and make more employment transitions. Research suggests that noncompete agreements can restrict economic activity and personal career growth. And it's not just labor market competition that is reduced. By restricting labor supply, existing businesses can prevent new competitors from entering their markets and driving down

prices for consumers.

Supporters of noncompetes argue that they are necessary to protect business secrets and justify investments in employee training. But existing laws already protect confidential information. And businesses can adopt alternative strategies such as training repayment agreements, which are more directly tied to the specific investments made in employees. Finally, Coase's work shows that there is no difference in these outcomes if the payments are made to retain workers, as businesses can offer to pay workers not to take jobs with competitors.

The FTC's ban on noncompete agreements will help enhance labor market efficiency and economic growth. The U.S. needs a competitive economy to stay strong in the global marketplace. And that requires workers who are able to take their skills where they are most valued — and new businesses that have access to the full talent of the U.S. labor force.

In most other advanced economies, workers have rights to keep a job. The U.S. does not require employers to give reasons for terminating workers, provide performance improvement plans before terminating a worker, a sufficient paid notice period.

The argument against those policies is that they would make it hard for the U.S. to have a dynamic labor market. But the same logic applies to noncompete agreements: If it should be easy for employers to fire workers, then it should also be easy for employees to quit. And that requires workers to have the right to take a better job. By allowing workers to move freely to roles where they are most valued, the FTC is fostering a competitive and fair labor market.

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Stevenson is a professor of public policy and economics at the University of Michigan. She was on the president's Council of Economic Advisers and was chief economist at the U.S. Department of Labor.

# The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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**Peanuts**

**Rose is Rose**

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**Hi and Lois**

**Between Friends**

**Blondie**

**Snuffy Smith**

**Beetle Bailey**

**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Pinpoint defense**

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ Q J 10  
 ♥ 9 5  
 ♦ J 9 7 2  
 ♣ 9 4 3 2

**EAST**  
 ♠ K 9 8 5 4 3  
 ♥ 6  
 ♦ A K 8  
 ♣ A K 10

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ A 7 6  
 ♥ K Q J 10 7 3  
 ♦ 6 5 4  
 ♣ 5

The bidding: North 1♣ East 1♥ South 3♥ West Pass Dble

Opening lead — two of spades.

**Precise defensive play** is the hallmark of all top partnerships. Today's deal, from the 1988 Blue Ribbon Pairs, shows the stuff of which sound defensive play is made. The East-West pair was Marty Bergen and Larry Cohen, who won the grueling six-session contest.

Cohen, West, elected to leave in Bergen's reopening double of three hearts for penalties. Since East-West could make three trump — worth 600 points — anything less than a three-trick set would have yielded an unsatisfactory result.

Cohen began by leading his singleton spade, on which Bergen played the three. This conveyed the message that he had an entry in clubs, the lower-ranking of the two remaining suits (aside from spades and the trump suit).

After the ten of spades held, declarer led a heart to his king, which Cohen ducked. When South next led a heart toward the nine, Cohen went up with the ace, revealing that he had no other high hearts and was therefore interested in obtaining ruffs.

Cohen returned a club to the king, and Bergen, allowing for the possibility that declarer might have dealt a singleton club, returned the nine of spades for West to ruff, calling for a diamond return. So after ruffing, Cohen switched to a diamond and obtained a second spade ruff. The defenders still had two more diamond tricks coming, so declarer wound up with only six tricks, giving Bergen-Cohen a top score of plus 800.

If the defense had slipped anywhere along the way — for example, if West had tried to reach East with a second club lead — South would have escaped for down two, giving East-West a very poor result.

**5-2**

**CRYPTOQUIP**

R O X L W W J E M R U Z E M L E L  
 Y X O V T U U X F X O T C I M E E T Y C E  
 L U J E O C V E R U L E T D V . E M X J

DLZX CY XFXOJEMRUI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AFTER THAT GUY PUT ON HIS COMPLETE GRIZZLY COSTUME FOR HALLOWEEN, HE WAS BEAR-LY RECOGNIZABLE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Lost traction  
 5 Scale abbr.  
 8 "Shoo!"  
 12 Margarita garnish  
 13 Bit of physics  
 14 Sea predator  
 15 Human rights lawyer  
 Clooney  
 16 Eastern "way"  
 17 Waikiki's island  
 18 Costa Rica neighbor  
 20 Easter head-wear  
 22 Kyoto currency  
 23 Cariou of Broadway  
 24 Folder features  
 27 Surname of Judas  
 32 Knightly address  
 33 Fair-hiring letters  
 34 Mess up  
 35 Offer

**DOWN**

1 High-five suffix  
 2 Peru's capital  
 3 One-named super-model  
 4 Post-pones  
 5 Recited prayers  
 6 Feathery neck-piece  
 7 Elitist  
 8 Oklahoma native  
 9 Partners of nooks  
 10 Dull pain  
 11 Lacking slack  
 19 Yours truly

**21 Slangy**  
**24 Recipe** abbr.  
**25 Put on TV**  
**26 Dessert squares**  
**28 Salty expanse**  
**29 Ant groups**  
**30 British singer** Rita  
**31 Capote nick-name**  
**36 Outlaw-chasing groups**  
**37 Tic-tac-toe win**  
**38 Roast hosts**  
**41 "Greetings!"**  
**42 Woodland grazer**  
**43 Dog's bowlful**  
**44 Lunch hour**  
**46 Avenue liners**  
**47 Thin cut**  
**48 Old salts**  
**51 Buddy**

**Solution time: 24 mins.**

HALT	ONS	SHAD			
AMIS	HEY	PACE			
HOMETOWN	ETTE				
ARETE	CENTER				
SASS	FDR				
ACHE	LIFT	ITS			
ROI	KUNIS	CIA			
ANG	REEF	OKAY			
HBO	WIRY				
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# Sports

## Patriots beat MCHS

By ANDREW BALKO  
The Commercial Review

The Patriots haven't gotten off to the start they wanted.

The doubles teams were itching for wins, especially the No. 2 duo.

Everyone secured a victory other than the Patriots' season leader in wins.

The Jay County High School girls tennis team cruised to the first three victories and fought to earn a fourth to beat the Muncie Central Bearcats 4-1 Tuesday.

"It feels really nice," JCHS coach Andrea Garringer said. "I saw a lot of improvements especially from the doubles. I saw a lot more talking and better placement of the ball. I saw a lot of good net play from No. 2."

The No. 2 doubles pair of Zion Beiswanger and Chloe Ruiz was searching for a win. Their last victory came on April 15 in a match at Winchester.

The duo got off to the start they needed, beating Muncie Central's duo of Clarissa Jones and Grace Walker 6-4 in the first set. An early three-game deficit resulted in the pair dropping the second 6-3 to force a tiebreaker.

Beiswanger and Ruiz jumped on top of the Bearcats quickly in the super tiebreaker and deciding set by putting together a 5-2 run. Jones and Walker didn't back down as a trio of volleys, a forehand by Beiswanger that hit the net and a short forehand by Walker that bounced twice gave the MCHS pair the advantage at 6-5.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School senior Maggie Dillon hits a forehand in the No. 3 singles match against Muncie Central's Andrea Lopez during Tuesday's 4-1 victory.

After that, the Patriots went on a run of their own. Ruiz broke the dry spell with a well-placed backhand that Jones couldn't handle to get the run started.

A double fault by Walker tied things up at 7-7. She then had a forehand that sailed long to give the Patriot pair the lead. Ruiz placed a volley that couldn't be reached to get match point

and Jones didn't handle Beiswanger's serve, giving Jay County the point for at 6-4, 3-6, 10-7.

"It should really help their confidence," Garringer said. "I switched Zion in a match for Lucie (Henneaux on April 22) but they weren't ready to play together. So I put Zion back and I think it motivated her to play a lot harder."

See Patriots page 7

## Errors keep JC perfect in ACAC

Things looked as if the Patriots were going to drop their first Allen County Athletic Conference game of the season, but a couple of mistakes in the sixth left the door open.

A three-run sixth inning secured the Jay County High School baseball team a 4-2 lead on Tuesday before Zedrian Vazquez ended the South Adams Starfires' chances of a comeback.

Tailing 2-1 entering the sixth, Jackson Edwards and Drew Schemenaur both reached base on errors to lead off. A groundout and an intentional walk to Parker Nichols set up bases loaded for Ryne Goldsworthy. The senior sent a line drive to center field to give the Patriots (9-6, 3-0 ACAC) the lead.

Nichols later scored on a dropped third strike and an error by catcher Luke Bauman.

The Starfires (5-6, 0-2 ACAC) needed two runs in the top of the seventh inning to extend the game, but Vazquez didn't allow them to pass. He gave up a double and a walk, but didn't allow any runs to score before he recorded three outs to secure the complete game. He struck out 13 batters in the appearance while only allowing the two runs.

### Bats stymied

Two runs in the top of the seventh inning handed the Jay County softball team a 3-1 loss to the South Adams Starfires, as the Patriots struggled to find offense all night.

With the game tied at 1-1 in the top of the sev-

### Jay County roundup

enth, Mackenzie Neuenschwander led off with a double against Mallor Winner. An error by second baseman Carley Trinidad and an intentional walk loaded the bases for the Starfires (10-1, 2-0 ACAC).

Shea Alberson delivered what would be the winning blow as she singled to left field to score two runs.

Addie Baker kept Jay County's bats quiet all night, only allowing three hits. Jaelynn Lykins was the only Patriot in the top five spots to secure a hit, while Mady Fraley and Hallie Schwieterman claimed the other two.

Winner suffered the loss with three runs (two earned) in the complete game.

The Patriots (5-4, 0-2 ACAC) have now lost three straight and will look to right the ship tonight and secure their first ACAC win at Bluffton.

### Triple winners

WOODBURN — The Jay County track teams both split with the Woodlan Warriors and Southern Wells Raiders on Tuesday.

The girls gathered 71.5 points to dominate the Raiders (6.5) and narrowly fall to Woodlan (78).

The boys' 62 points got outdone by the Warriors (73) but was more than enough to defeat Southern Wells (26).

See Roundup page 7

## Tribe spikers move to DVII in '24

There will be a new look to the postseason for the Indian spikers next year.

On Tuesday, the OHSAA announced the divisional assignments for fall sports in the 2024-25 **FRHS roundup** athletic

season, making major changes to one of the Fort Recovery High School athletic teams.

OHSAA has expanded volleyball from just four divisions to seven to match football. With the change the FRHS volleyball team bumps down to DVII for the 2024-25 season.

Other Midwest Athletic Conference teams in DVII include Coldwater, Parkway, St. Henry, New Bremen, Marion Local and Minster. St. Henry eliminated the Indians in the district opener in the 2023-24 season.

All of Fort Recovery's other fall sports will remain in their previous divisions.

Like volleyball, football will stay in DVII and play in the northwest region.

Boys and girls cross country and boys golf will all remain in the lowest division for their respective sports, that being DIII.

Girls golf is also in the lowest division, at the DII level.

### Offense drives

NEW KNOXVILLE, Ohio — The Fort Recovery baseball team's bats came alive early in a 13-1 beating of the New Knoxville Rangers on Tuesday.

The Indians (6-6, 3-3 Midwest Athletic Conference) jumped on top with a six-run first inning. Caden Homan and Gavin Faller both singled in the inning to drive in runs, walks by Alex Gaerke and Troy Homan pushed runs across the plate and the final score came on a sacrifice fly by Reece Wendel.

Five more runs in the third inning put the game out of reach for the Rangers (5-11, 0-8 MAC). Runs got driven in again by Wendel, Caden Homan, Faller and Troy Homan.

Alex Dues earned the victory while only needing to toss two innings.

### Grisez powers

ANNA, Ohio — Nine unanswered runs over the first five innings did the trick for Fort Recovery's softball team in a 9-3 win against the Anna Rockets on Tuesday.

A one-out home run by Ava Grisez scored the first run of the game for the Indians (7-10). They added to it with one run in the second and fourth before exploding for six in the fifth inning.

The first three batters of the inning reached base before Kylie Post pushed two across the plate on an error by Anna's center fielder. Cali Wendel's single and Grisez's double pushed the other three runs across the plate.

The Rockets (7-12) tested Britney Tebbe, who pitched in relief, but could only manage three runs over the final two innings.

Jenna Homan secured the win with five innings pitched, in which she only gave up four hits and two walks.

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