The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

Lifetime LeMasters

Couple honored for decades of service

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Those who prefer to stay out of the spotlight can be the ones most deserving of praise.

Leland and Judy LeMaster were honored Saturday with The Spirit of Vicki Achievement Lifetime Award during the Jay County Community Awards at Spoke & Wheel Event Center.

Portland Fire Chief Mike Weitzel won Citizen of the Year, marking his second time to earn the achievement after his first award in the category for 2020. Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins also nabbed a second Dunkirk Community Commitment award, having previously won the accolade

Wheel & Spoke Antique Mall won the Business of the Year Award. (Under previous ownership, the antique mall won the Innovator of the Year Award in 2017.) Joyce/Dayton Corporation was honored as the industry of the year.

Jay County Development Corporation was among the new winners this year, taking home the Not-forprofit of the Year Award and drawing a standing ovation from the crowd.

Other new faces that also received recognition Saturday at the awards sponsored by Jay County Chamber of Commerce were:

•Small Community Commitment - Pennville Community Park Board

•Innovator of the Year Toddlertown Early Learning Center

•Young Professional of the Year - LeeAnn Miller •Community Group of

the Year - 2 Guys Pies



The Commercial Review/Bailev Cline

Leland and Judy LeMaster thank the community after receiving The Spirit of Vicki Lifetime Achievement award Saturday at the Jay County Community Awards at Spoke & Wheel Event Center in Portland. The LeMasters were honored for their years of volunteering, helping with Optimist clubs as well as launching the Mighty Marvel Optimist Club for residents with mental disabilities.

the lifetime achievement have contributed to our award for their time as volunteers with the Morning and Evening Optimist clubs. They also spearheaded Mighty Marvel Optimist Club, a group for local residents with mental disabili-

"Leland and Judy have made tremendous impact in our community through their countless hours of

community is priceless.'

Stewart noted the LeMasters prefer to stay "behind the scenes," but he encouraged their recognition Saturday.

"Their efforts do not go unnoticed, which is why they are nominated. Your community loves you," he added.

Leland LeMaster shared volunteering," said cham- his gratitude for Jay Counber board president Josh ty Chamber of Commerce Stewart while introducing and the community around them as finalists. "They him. Judy LeMaster since the beginning of tirelessly remain dedicated expressed thanks for 2016, was voted Citizen of to the youth of Jay County. receiving the award named the Year for his volunteer

the former Jay County Chamber of Commerce executive director who won the honor herself in 2016.

"It's truly an honor to receive this in Vicki's honor," said Judy LeMaster. "She was a great person, and Jay County is truly a place to raise your kids, and that's what we've taught ours — to give back to the community that you live in.

Weitzel, who has served The LeMasters earned The countless hours they after the late Vicki Tague, efforts and leadership in ing given a facelift to the

various roles. His community involvement includes work with Portland Main Street Connect and United Way of Jay County.

"Mike is an all-in, give-it-all-you-got person," said Ja-Mar TV, Appliances and Bedding owner Shauna Runkle. "He is stepping up because he wholeheartedly and truly cares about the people of Jay County."

Wheel & Spoke Antique Mall of Portland earned Business of the Year, hav-

The space. business' efforts have attracted new shoppers and visitors to Portland, noted chamber board member Valentine.

Joyce/Dayton took home the Industry of the Year Award. The company broke ground in April on a and doing what he can in nearly \$9 million project, many areas of the commu- marking the 11th expannity. He does all this sion of its manufacturing facility Portland. in Joyce/Dayton was also named to Indiana Chamber of Commerce's Best Places to Work in Manufacturing for 2023.

See **Honored** page 2

Commissioners stand by their actions

The Commercial Review

Jay County Commissioners stand by their actions.

Their legal representative says they have followed Indiana law and intend to defend a dispute of those actions if necessary.

Commissioners heard a prepared response Monday from county attorney Wes Schemenaur to the letter The Commercial Review submitted to them May 10.

They also agreed, per Schemenaur's request, to submit the response as a letter to the editor of the newspaper. (It will run in Thursday's print edition online and has already been posted online at thecr.com.)

The Commercial Review questioned the legality of discussing the county's proposed contract with Jay County Development Corporation during an "administrative" meeting May 2. President, editor and publisher of The Commercial Review Ray Cooney sent a letter to commissioners urging them to acknowledge that discussion of the proposed contract with Jay County Development Corporation at the administrative meeting was inappropriate and constituted a violation of Indiana's the statute as "only routine exercised or performed by its cussion of contracts in the

Attorney says contract discussion was 'well within their executive and administrative function'

that commissioners keep any future administrative meetings "routine activities that are reasonably related to the everyday internal management of the county" as required by Indiana Code 5-15-1.5.5(f).

If commissioners did not do so, The Commercial Review said it would file a formal complaint against Jay County Commissioners to the Office of the Public Access Counselor. The newspaper also printed an editorial Saturday relaying that information to the public.

On Monday, Schemenaur cited Indiana Code which allows county executives to meet without a 24-hour notice if the meeting is intended for "administrative

Open Door Law." It also urged activities that are reasonably related to the everyday internal management of the county or town, including conferring with, receiving information from, and making recommendations to staff members and other county or town officials or employees."

> (The section also states "administrative functions" do not include "taking final action on public business," "the exercise of legislative powers" or "awarding of or entering into contracts, or any other action creating an obligation or otherwise binding the county or

Schemenaur referred to Indiana Code 36-2-3.5-4(a), which states "all powers and duties of the county that are executive or functions," which are defined in administrative in nature shall be

executive, except to the extent statute, it could have clearly that these powers and duties are done so." expressly assigned to other elected officers." The subsection of that text, he added, includes the ability to "negotiate contracts for the county.'

This statute expressly makes the negotiation of contracts on behalf of the county an executive, or administrative, function," he said.

Schemenaur said municipal executives regularly negotiate and talk about the terms of contracts before they are brought to a public vote. He noted proposals are often amended and re-written multiple times before being brought to a public vote.

"The Open Door Law only expresses and prohibits the awarding or entering into contracts creating a binding obligation on the county in an administrative meeting," he said. "By prohibiting expressly awarding of a contract in such a session, the legislature clearly contemplated the contracts with the county would necessarily be discussed, otherwise there would be no need to include the express prohibition on voting in the statute. Likewise, if the legislature intended to prohibit dis-

Despite commissioner Rex Journay's email to Jay County Development Corporation representatives that used the word "decision," said Schemenaur, there was no vote taken on May 2 to award or deny a contract. He said discussion regarding a counterproposal to the contract with JCDC was "well within their executive and administrative function.'

He compared county commissioners' roles to those of a mayor, noting they routinely negotiate contracts prior to bringing them to a vote before the appropriate body. Those preliminary discussions are not always occurring while the public is present.

"The county commissioners are no different just because there are three executives instead of one," he added.

Schemenaur also said he took issue with The Commercial Review's demands, specifically addressing Cooney. He asserted The Commercial Review should have filed a complaint with the Indiana Public Access Counselor's Office immediately instead of waiting for a response from commissioners.

See Commissioners page 2

Deaths

Marvin Sills, 92, Portland Jeanette Grieshop, 90, Fort Recovery

Bruce Paxson, 62, Coldwater, Ohio Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 75 degrees Sunday. The low was 45.

Rain is expected tonight with a low in the mid 50s. Wednesday's forecast calls for mostly cloudy skies with a chance of showers and a high in the lower 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

The Portland Foundation will hold its annual meeting at 4:30 p.m. Wednesday at John Jay Center for Learning.

Portland Board of Works has also scheduled a meeting for 4 p.m. Wednesday in council chambers at Portland Fire Station for discussion of lease agreements for Community Resource Center.

Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of the Jay County baseball game against Delta.

Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls in the sectional track meet.

Friday — Coverage of The Portland Foundation's annual meeting.



Honored ...

Continued from page 1 poration was named Not-for-Profit of the Year for its commitment to "improving Jay County year over year," said chamber board member Zach Chenoweth. He noted its work with local entities in applying for grants, attracting and retaining industries, supporting local businesses and its efforts toward the Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI).

Jay County Development Corporation director executive Travis Richards, who won the Young Professional of the Year Award for 2022, asked for a show of hands from those who have been involved with JCDC or the other nominees for not-for-profit of the year, Jay County Drug Pre-

vention Coalition and The Port-Jay County Development Corland Foundation. Hands flew up across the room.

> "Look around. Community's a team sport. Nobody does it alone," he said. "JCDC can't do what we do without all of you (who) just raised your hands."

> The first Dunkirk mayor in decades to be re-elected, Robbins received the Dunkirk Community Commitment award for his dedication and work for his city. He has been pursuing projects for the benefit of Dunkirk's residents, with work wrapping up on a new stormwater project and hopes to begin master utility planning and other infrastructure improvements soon.

> Pennville Community Park Board's recognition with the Small Community Commitment

award came from its dedication to "keeping Pennville alive," said chamber board member Gentry Clark. That includes park board's efforts with hosting Pennville Soccer Club, Barbeque in the Park and bingo, offering discounted sports physicals and creating a Junior Park Board. The park board completed a five-year plan and has been securing funds for its park improvement project.

Toddlertown Early Learning Center of Portland opened its doors to the community in February. Owners Susan and Wade Kohler recognized a need for more child care in Jay County and took matters into their own hands, their nomination said. At 8,600 square feet, the center has space for up to 78 children.

Miller, the owner of Reclaim-

Sills

ing Design in Portland, won the for Citizen of the Year; Beauty Young Professional of the Year Award. Her passion for the job, as well as her style and helpfulness, are key components of what her customers enjoy most from her business, her nomination said. She is also involved with Main Street Connect and the Arts Place board of directors.

Emmet Betz, 10, Bennett Betz. 8, and mother Jenn Betz — 2 Guys Pies — were named Community Group of the Year. They started selling pies in June to raise money for families that have experienced a farming-related injury or death, having lost father and husband Andrew Betz eight years ago in a tractor accident.

Other finalists were Gary Stewart for Lifetime Achievement; Ray Cooney and Tami Vormohr Bar and Strohl Appliance and Electronics for Business of the Year; Ohio Valley Gas and Pennville Custom Cabinetry for Industry of the Year; Scott Nuttle and Rob Bechtel and Sculpt Fitness for Dunkirk Community Commitment; Bryant Park Board and Mark Leavell for Small Community Commitment; Blessing's Photography by Dawn Alicea, IU Health-Outpatient Behavioral Health Clinic and Paws and Claws Pet Care for Innovator of the Year; Gentry Clark, Klarisa Hemmelgarn and Tanner McClain for Young Professional of the Year; and Kids Purpose Project and Secret Families Christmas Charity of Jay County for Community Group of the

CR almanac

Wednesday 5/15	Thursday 5/16	Friday 5/17	Saturday 5/18	Sunday 5/19
71/50	75/58	75/56	79/59	80/61
There's a 30% chance of showers on Wednesday when skies will be partly sunny.	Thursday's forecast shows a chance of showers in the afternoon, with a higher chance at night.	thunderstorms	Saturday has a 40% chance of storms under mostly sunny skies.	There's a chance of showers Sun- day. Other- wise, mostly sunny.

Lotteries

Powerball

Estimated jackpot: \$47 million

Mega Millions

Estimated jackpot: \$363 million

Hoosier

Sunday Midday Daily Three: 4-8-4 Daily Four: 3-7-9-9 Evening Daily Three: 1-4-6 Daily Four: 3-5-0-0 Quick Draw: 1-9-16-17-23-25-27-30-31-33-42-51-52-

Estimated jackpot: \$367,000

Cash 5: 8-16-22-33-41

53-56-57-64-67-68-71

Ohio

Sunday Midday Pick 3: 5-4-2 Pick 4: 3-4-6-2 Pick 5: 6-9-6-6-4 Evening Pick 3: 2-6-7 Pick 4: 1-5-8-6 Pick 5: 3-4-8-5-1 Rolling Cash 5: 9-22-23-26-32

Estimated jackpot: \$167,000

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery

POET Biorefinin	12
Wheat	
Late May corn	

Portland

Corn	.4.69
June corn	
July corn	
0 612) 0 0 2 22 11 111111111111111111111111	

The Andersons Richland Townshin

Michalla I	JWIISIIIP
Corn	$4.\overline{64}$
June corn	4.59
Beans	12.15

June beans12.15 Wheat 6.48

wontpeller	
Corn	4.53
June corn	4.55
Beans	12.09
June beans	12.12
Wheat	6.44

Heartland

St. Anthony	
Corn	4.57
June corn	4.60
Beans	11.83
June beans	11.93
Wheat	6.23

In 1607, settlers of the born. Virginia Company of London established the first permanent English America at Jamestown, Virginia.

In 1643, Louis XIV became king of France at age 4.

In 1796, Edward Jenfirst vaccination against smallpox in Berkeley, Gloucestershire.

In 1804, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark started on their famous expedition to the Pacific coast. The trip was commissioned by President Thomas Jefferson.

In 1940, Holland surrendered to Germany during World War II.

In 1944, George Lucas, best know for directing Star Wars films, was

Citizen's calendar

7 p.m. — Pennville Board of Works, council

land.

ADM

i i odi tidild	
St. Anthony	
Corn	4.57
June corn	4.60
Beans	11.83
June beans	11.93
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Today in history

In 1948, David Ben-Gurion and the Jewish People's Council prosettlement in North claimed the establishment of the state of Israel.

In 2021, the team of Fullenkamp, Allysen Mara Pearson, Marie Nachtsheim and Abbie ner administered the Francis broke the 11year-old Fort Recovery High School record in the 4x100-meter relay with a time of 51.99 seconds as the Indians hosted the Midwest Athletic Conference Championships.

> In 2022, the Jay County High School baseball team swept a doubleheader against Fort Wayne South Side. Josh Dowlen scored the winning run in a 4-3 walk-off victory in game one.

—The CR

Obituaries

Marvin Sills

Dec. 27, 1931-May 12, 2024 Marvin Sills, age 92, a resident of Portland, passed away Sunday, May 12, 2024, at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center.

He was a lifelong Jay County farmer. He attended Fellowship Baptist Church in Portland. He was a vet-

eran of the Indiana National Guard and a member of Portland Elks Lodge and the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association.

Marvin Sills was born Dec. 27, 1931, in Hartford City, Indiana, the son of Hugh and

Velma (Johnson) Sills. He was married in 1954 to Donna Myers and she passed away in 2014. He then married Connie Kreischer in 2021 and she passed away in 2023.

Survivors include:

One son — Kevin Sills (Kim Hinshaw), Pennville, Indiana

Two daughters — Vickie Betz (husband: Gary), Portland, Indiana, and Cathy Murray, Rockingham, Virginia

Three sisters — Marjorie Willman, Miami, Florida, Gaytha Holloway, Warren, Indiana, and Londa Stewart (husband: Tom), Eaton, Indiana

Grandchildren — Justin Deaton (wife: Lauren), Andrew Betz deceased (wife: Jennifer), Danielle Engelbrecht (husband: Josh), Sarah McClure (husband: Shad), Andrea Fortman (husband: Jeff), Jasmine Link (husband: Tony), Quentin Hinshaw, Amanda James and Seth James.

Twenty-one great-grandchildren

Visitation for family and friends will be held from 10 a.m. to noon on Saturday at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at noon at the funeral Home on Saturday. Burial will follow in the Center Cemetery west of Portland.

Memorials may be directed to the Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association or Center Cemetery.

Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com.

Jeanette I. Grieshop Aug. 2, 1933-May 11, 2024

Jeanette Irene Grieshop, 90, of Fort Recovery, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at Kindred Hospital in Lima, Ohio.

She was born on Aug. 2, 1933, in Jay County, Indiana, to the late Daniel and Florence (Freund) Schindler.

In addition to her parents, Jeanette was preceded in death by her hus-





Jeanette is survived by her children, Catherine (Carl) Koesters of Fort Recovery, Theresa (Phillip) Hemmelgarn of Wapakoneta, Ohio, Sandra (Thomas) Spettel of Westerville, Ohio, Jeffrey (Dana) Grieshop of Coldwater, Ohio, Judith Wood of Fort Recovery, Alice (Rob) Gaerke of Fort Recovery, Lisa (Jerry) Krieg of Lima, Dale (Nikki) Grieshop of Lima, Scott (Lisa) Grieshop of Fort Recovery and Jaymi (Marty) Stammen of Fort Recovery; her 44 grandchildren; her 98 great-grandchildren; her sister, Donna Homan of Coldwater; and her in-laws, Louis (Charlene) Grieshop of Fort Recovery and Herbert (Janice) Grieshop of Celina.

Jeanette enjoyed spending time outdoors and especially tending to her gardens. She had a creative mindset and liked quilting and canning. Jeanette was a faithful woman and a was a member of Christ Chapel. She led many Bible groups and was a prayer warrior. But above all, Jeanette adored her family. She loved spending time with them and spoiling her grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Per Jeanette's request, there will be no public visitation.

The family invites you to join them for a public funeral service on Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at noon at Christ Chapel, 2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery, Ohio. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery.

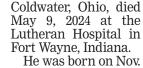
Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home is serving Jeanette's family.

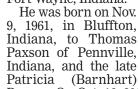
In lieu of flowers and gifts, memorial contributions may be given to the Fort Recovery Community Foundation, in care of the Grieshop Family Fund, P.O. Box 52, Fort Recovery, OH 45846. This fund will be used to assist local families in need.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

Bruce Paxson Nov. 9, 1961-May 9, 2024

Bruce Allen Paxson, age 62, of ing this very trying time.







Paxson. On Oct. 16, 2017, Bruce married Darlene Buehler and she survives in Coldwater.

The couple has five children between them and all were loved as their own: Jeremiah Paxson of Portland, Oregon, Joseph Paxson of Helena, Montana, Staush Homan of Coldwater, Cody Homan and fiance Nikki Mora of Burkettsville, Ohio, and Gina and Seth Hall of Celina, Ohio. Bruce has the following grandchildren: Jade Paxson, McKenna Lonsway, Chance Hall and Kennedy Homan, with addition grandchildren Cole, Mckaylyn and Maria Hall and Dieago and Chameron Mora. He is also survived by brothers Wade Paxson of Helena, Montana, Zachary Paxson of Colorado Springs, Colorado; and sister Jennifer Johnson of Helena, Montana; and in-laws Doug Buehler (Deb Buehler deseased) of St Henry, Ohio, Oaky and Deb (Buehler) Roberts Jr. of Portland, Indiana, and Mike and Deanna (Buehler) Reynolds of Murfreesboro, North Carolina.

Bruce was a 1981 graduate of Jay County High School. He joined the U.S. Army in 1981 and served for 17 years. During that time, Bruce served two tours of combat and completed 137 parachute drops before earning the honored distinction of becoming an Army Ranger. Above all, he loved the United States of America.

Bruce formerly worked for Cooper Farms as a truck driver. He always spoke fondly of the time he worked there and loved that group of people he worked with very much. Bruce's favorite pastime activities included anything or anywhere his wife Darlene was; she was the love of his life.

He will be deeply missed by his beloved doodle-dogs Shelby, Mr. Weenie and Rex. Bruce was also a Brother of the Freemasons.

Funeral Services will be held at 7 p.m. on Sunday, May 19, 2024, at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home in Coldwater. Friends may call from 3 to 7 p.m. on Sunday at the Hogenkamp Funeral Home in Coldwater. Condolences be may left

hogenkampfh.com. The family extends a thank you to all the staff of VA, Dupont Hospital, Lutheran Hospital and Stillwater Hospice for all of their support dur-

Update

Continued from page 1 He also alleged that because The Commercial Review sought an opinion from Britt outside the formal complaint process — it allows for a response to the complaint by the county, he noted, which has not yet occurred — that commissioners couldn't expect to receive a fair opportunity to respond to a formal complaint or impartial judgment of the facts. He accused The Commer-

cial Review of giving a "one-sided account" to the public access counselor and of its article impacting the May 7 primary election results. (Republican Duane Monroe picked up 67.7% of the vote against incumbent commissioner McGalliard.)

Schemenaur also noted the formal complaint process could result in a \$100 fine and, under some circumstances, result in awarding attorneys' fees to the prevailing party.

"As the county's legal counsel, I stand firm in the opinion that they did not violate the Open Door Law and that the meeting was not illegal, and if legal

county, the county will vigorously defend such a suit and will seek all appropriate remedies," he said.

prior to Schemenaur, commissioner president Chad igation.

action is taken against the Aker said, "Any meetings we have is done through our counsel."

Schemenaur noted the county will not give further Addressing the letter comment on the matter because of the threat of lit-



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Saturdays 10:00a-3:00p

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SERVICES

Today

Grieshop, Jeannette: noon, Christ Chapel, 2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery.

Minnich, John: 3 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Friday

West, William: 7 p.m.,

Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday Marvin: Sills, Williamson-Spencer and Penrod

merce St., Portland.

Funeral Home, 208 N. Com-

Sunday Paxson, Bruce: 7 p.m., Hogenkamp Funeral Home, 715 E. Main St., Coldwater, Ohio.

June 15

Weaver, Larry: 10:30 a.m., Akron Community Center, 815 Rural St., Akron, Indiana.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE

DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

Wednesday

Today

4 p.m. — Portland **Thursday** Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North, Portland.

Town Council, town hall,

105 N. Washington St.

6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.

4 p.m. — Portland

chambers, fire station,

1616 N. Franklin St., Port-

Cherish the time spent with old friends

By JAMES FULKS

God, karma, fate, what-

It's a devilishly nasty business for whomever is responsible.

On Tuesday, April 30, the blessing of a social media link provided me with some rather shocking yet urgent news.

An old U.S. Navy radar air traffic controller colleague, ironically one I had just recently found and reconnected with, was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer.

We hadn't physically



Philadelphia in July 1987.

Thankfully, I was able to track him down around Christmas time last year and send him a small token of my appreciation of our friendship that began 40 years ago.

The sad news came with

Dear

Abby

members were going to be visiting him May 1 and 2.

Getting more than two place at the same time is akin to herding cats, so I decided to drop everything and dash off in a hurry on the morning of May 1 to make the threeand-a-half-hour drive to see all three, including Dave.

I arrived a bit after 9 a.m., and for about three hours that day all of us were young again.

We all shared memories and recalled our years at seen each other since the one bright revelation. Two sea on a massive U.S. Navy day we parted ways in more of our former crew aircraft carrier together.

but having had its, friends in the past with of us to be in the same the same diagnosis, I could sense that he was

fading away.

A bit after noon, the other two who met us there all had their lives to return to, one to Atlanta via Cleveland and one to the northwestern suburbs of the greater Chicagoland metro area.

We said our goodbyes, exchanged contact information and took a few photos before I pointed the hood of the car back southward to Indiana.

Dave.

I honestly thought he

had a few weeks. A mere two days passed, and as I arose on a Sunday, the message came.

Dave was gone, peacefully, surrounded by his family at home — the home I had just visited him in three days earlier.

I certainly had a few items planned for that Thursday, but now using that oh-so-clear 20/20 hindsight, I am so glad I chose the drive to Michigan that day.

Thursday through Sun-I knew it would be the day is the twinkle of an friend.

Dave was in good spir- last time I would ever see eye, time-wise, but those three hours in Dave's living room are a treasure that is priceless beyond any amount of compensation.

Deposits into our memory bank are far exceeding in value than any deposit we will ever make in a financial institution. I found that point to be crystal clear on a beautiful sunny Michigan day in

Fair winds and following seas, Dave.

It was an honor to know you, serve our country together and call you

Son is a doormat to cheating, abusive wife

DEAR ABBY: Our daughterin-law is morally corrupt, egotistical and narcissistic. For almost a year she has been blatant about having an affair and has abused and disrespected our son and two of her three daughters. She has taken innumerable vacations over the years without our son. When they are together at home, she constantly puts him down and psychologically abuses him, usually in front of his younger daughters.

She tries to meet her boyfriend whenever possible. Usually, she sends him a text and then goes "shopping." If my son is around to watch the kids, she'll just leave. If she's home, she has long phone conversations with the boyfriend, even NESOTA though the children are present.

what's happening, as she has told her dad as much. The funny

thing is, his wife thinks no one knows what's going on when we all know what's going on. All we can do is encourage our son to get a lawyer. That's probably just what she wants, so she can make him the bad guy. Thanks for any suggestion you might have. — MYSTIFIED IN MIN-

MYSTIFIED: I DEAR ABBY: My husband **DEAR** The oldest daughter knows understand why, as a caring and I have traveled many times only five of us now. I don't want Los Angeles, CA 90069.

parent, you are upset about with two other couples who are to cause friction between us, the treatment your son has been receiving. But until he is willing to admit to himself that his marriage is irretrievably damaged, nothing will

Support him emotionally and tell him to talk to an attorney about what his options and responsibilities would be if he chose to divorce his wife. What's happening now is not good for his children, which is why he might want to ask for custody. He doesn't have to file papers, but it may educate him about what to do (and expect) next. The rest is up to him.

dear friends. My husband recently passed away, but I plan to continue traveling with them. We've traditionally split expenses such as condo and car rentals equally, with each couple paying one third.

We now have our first trip planned since my husband's passing. We're planning to rent a three-bedroom condo and a vehicle large enough to accommodate all of us and our luggage. They assumed I would pay one-third of the condo expense, since I'll have my own bedroom. I'm fine with that.

My question is regarding the rental car. We haven't discussed how we'll split the cost, but I ed by her mother, Pauline think it would be fair to split the Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at car five ways, since there are DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440,

and I'd appreciate your thoughts on how the car rental cost should be split and how I should approach discussing this. UNCERTAIN TRAVELER

UNCERTAIN: DEAR Because your situation has changed, I don't think it would be inappropriate to raise the subject of splitting the cost of the car rental five ways. These are longtime friends, and your point is valid. Mention it the next time the trip is discussed.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was found-

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as MOUS — Will meet at 7 space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com.

Today

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOV-ERY 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 time. 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 wel-

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased 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 Fellowship Nazarene Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-

ALCOHOLICS ANONYp.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-

Wednesday

WEDNESDAY MORN-ING 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

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

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

COMMUNITY REIN-FORCEMENT AND FAMI-LY TRAINING — A nonconfrontational, evidencebased 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 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 - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faithbased recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday

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

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addition 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 RECOV-ERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

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

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

support group for parents, friends and relatives who

FAMILY have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Ran-tion Support Team recovdolph Hospital, Winches- ery support group meets ter, in community room 1. at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each

Friday

RECOVERY PAST SERVICES -- Peer AddicFriday at the Jay County **Drug Prevention Coalition** office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-

Advertise your business or activities in our Summer Festival **Special Section** with distribution in 4 newspapers! The Commercial Review (Portland) The News-Gazette (Winchester) The News Times (Hartford City) The News and Sun (Dunkirk)

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Big business card (3x3.5) - **\$100**

Business card (2x2) - \$60

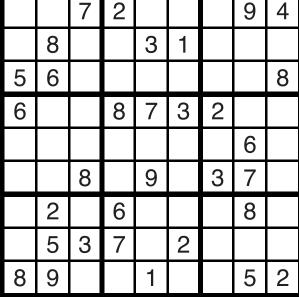
Space for color ads is limited and will be on a

first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for Ads is May 15, 2024

(260) 726-8141

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com

Sudoku



Level: Beginner

Saturday's Solution

The objective is to fill a nine-by nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-1 8 6 three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only 9 2 4 one time each.

FORGET-ME-NOT - A

Judan Judo thankful for support

To the editor:

We at Judan Judo would like to thank all the sponsors who helped make the 2024 Indiana State Judo Championships a success.

The tournament was held at Jay County Junior-Senior High School. The support of our local businesses and individuals allowed us to use a pooling and scoring system that is being used by USA Judo. It also gave us the ability to be a National Referee evaluation site. With your support we continue to be one of the premiere tournaments in the Midwest.

Letters to the Editor

Platinum sponsors: Buffalo Wings and Rings, Boundary Bash, Clear Choice Chiropractic, George Family Dentistry, Jay County Visitor and Tourism Bureau, Masters Insurance, Michael Vanover Wells County Commissioner, Schmit Chiropractic Offices, The Fort Nutri-

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sponsors: Sports, Farmers State Bank, Jay County Beverage, Jay County REMC, MJS Mortuaries, Pennville Custom Cabinetry and True Value Hardware

Additionally, we would like to

tion, Tyson Foods Inc. and Vore Jeep RAM, Ja-Mar TV, Appliacknowledge the Jay School Welding ance & Bedding, Jay County Corporation, The Commercial Review, Jay County Wrestling Club, Dr. Taylor Brackman and lastly all our Judo families and friends that came together and gave of their time, sponsorships and donations.

We truly appreciate all that you do for Judan Judo. Without the support of these individuals and businesses, we would be unable to continue to serve and encourage the youth of Jay County.

Vickie Daniels **Brad Daniels** Judan Judo

Applying shouldn't be so complicated

Bloomberg Opinion

everyone, earning a degree still offers a pathway to success for many Americans. Yet each year, hundreds of thousands of lowincome, college-ready students never actually enroll, partly because the application process prioritizes administrative busywork over academics. Policymakers should work to make it simpler.

Applying to college typically involves selecting from among hundreds of schools, verifying course requirements, submitting standardized test scores, requesting letters of recommendation and providing household financial data. Most students start the process months, even years, before the deadline for submission. More than 1,000 colleges use the Common App — a template for basic information — but applicants often must submit additional material, such as personal essays, tailored to each school.

According to a 2023 poll, 62% of students describe the experience as "very or somewhat challenging." More than 60% of Black, Latino and Asian students say it's more stressful than any other academic activity, 20 points higher than for White students; among would-be first-generation college students, only half say they managed to gather to apply, compared to 74% of those with college-edu-

cated parents.

Partly due to these challenges, large numbers of those qualified for college never end up applying. A study of 1.2 million students with Common App accounts found that about 25% of them started but didn't complete any of their applications. Students from poor and less educated families were more likely to be "non-submitters" than their wealthier peers, despite having comparable academic credentials. Overall, as many as 1 million students who begin the application process never finish it.

Should this be of concern? Some students surely neglect to submit their applications due to laziness or procrastination. Others change their minds. Highly selective colleges also have an interest in making the process as demanding as possible to screen unserious candidates.

Yet 56% of the country's 15 million undergraduates attend four-year institutions that admit at least n't guarantee success, but 75% of applicants, effectively meaning that anyone who meets minimal academic standards gets in. Some of these schools still big step forward.

Although college isn't for Letters to the Editor

ask students to itemize their extracurricular activities, list years of work experiences, and submit essays and personal statements, even though the vast majority are admitted on their transcripts alone.

It's reasonable to expect students to put effort into their applications. But for less selective schools, requiring all this added material serves little academic purpose; in fact, it's counterproductive. diminishes the importance

of objective criteria like test scores in favor of "holistic" measures that overwhelmingly benefit wealthier candidates. It wastes taxpayer money because public colleges end up employing vast numbers of administrators to review applications, resources that would be better spent on actual instruction. Worse, superfluous requirements can deter otherwise qualified candidates from applying.

would help. Over the past decade, 10 states have started guaranteeing admission to qualified students to certain schools before they apply, based on their test all the material necessary scores and grade-point averages. Idaho's program has increased enrollment by 7%. A similar effort by Common App has expanded to 28 states; it proactively notifies students of admission and requires a simplified application to confirm their acceptance. One study found that lowincome students received such offers were more likely to submit at least one application than those who didn't.

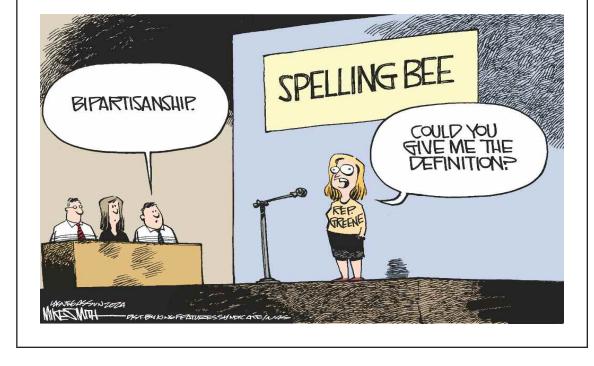
degrees. colleges on the true costs of attendance.

cation obstacles would be a

Streamlining the process

Policymakers should encourage more colleges to participate in these programs and to track how many of those admitted ultimately enroll and earn Participation from flagship public universities should be prioritized, which would ensure that more low-income high achievers can get financial and academic support. The federal government can help by notifying house-holds of their eligibility for financial aid when they file tax returns and requiring greater transparency from

A college education doesstudents deserve a fair chance to obtain one. Removing needless appli-



Primary had too much, too many

By NIKI KELLY Indiana Capital Chronicle

indianacapitalchronicle.com

Election night might have been more of a whimper than a blowout, but digging into Tuesday's results reveals some key takeaways for both voters and politicos.

After hundreds of candidates, thousands of votes and millions in spending, here are my three lessons:

The Benjamins

Money has corrupted the system, and we might never be able to go back. Sorry to start on a depressing note, but every conversation I had about races in the past month always ended up at money. And speaking with voters on Tuesday, Hoosiers hate that it has taken over elections.

The Citizens United ruling in 2010 changed the dynamics forever, allowing unlimited "independent" election spending by corporations and labor unions. A few months later, a lower court used that case to strike down limits on the size of contributions to groups that support candidates without donating to them directly.

And that brought us super PACs, a beefed-up version of political action committees. Unlike their brethren, super PACs are prohibited from donating directly to political candidates and cannot coordinate with a campaign but both can raise and spend unlimited sums, as detailed by the nonprofit OpenSecrets, which tracks election spending.

These groups poured millions into Indiana races this year and often are behind the most misleading or downright false election ads. And vet the candidates who benefit from the attacks turn a blind eye. The PACs are supposed to be run independently. But I suspect their behavior would change if the candidates they're helping denounced their actions more

And self-funding of campaigns is also becoming much more common. Candidate after candidate this primary dipped into their own pockets to fund their campaigns. And their pockets are much deeper than mine.

Brad Chambers loaned his campaign \$10 million in the GOP gubernatorial race. That's a staggering

amount of money. Or consider Jefferson Shreve in Indiana's 6th Congressional District. He loaned his campaign \$4.5 million and it appeared to seal his win. Just months before that he bankrolled 93% of his unsuccessful mayoral campaign with \$13.5 million in conpreliminary support.

Kelly

Niki



tributions to himself, according to the Indianapolis Star.

So much for a candidate building a wide swath of support from citizens. But I do want to credit Lt. Gov. Suzanne Crouch for doing just that. She isn't a wealthy businesswoman. Instead, she has spent her life serving in public office and her campaign was funded by supporters who believed in her vision.

Haley effect

Indiana — and national news outlets — are buzzing with the fact that Nikki Haley managed to snag one in five GOP presidential votes here. And that's even though she dropped out two months ago.

It's hard to tell without serious data crunching, but one of two things may have happened.

Occam's razor tells you the simplest explanation is probably the right one. Some Republicans just don't like Donald Trump. I know a few who voted exactly that way. The other option is that Democrats

and independents took Republican ballots to vote in the governor's race for a more moderate candidate. There was even an advertising campaign pushing it. I also know a few people who did this.

Nick Roberts, a Democrat Indianapolis City-County Councilor, did some initial analysis that seems to back up the latter.

He used precinct-level data that was available on the Indiana Secretary of State's site to do some math. While counties are still reporting, he looked at 2,527 precincts to create a correlation graph.

Overall, he found that Haley's support was extremely predictive (a 67% correlation) to Chambers' support. In fact, there are about 75 precincts around the state that they both won. For both candidates, heavily-Democrat Marion County was their best county in the state, with Chambers winning it outright as his only coun-

Again, more analysis is needed. But that theory seems to have some

Too many candidates

I freely acknowledge that this take will seem antithetical to encouraging civic involvement in the state. But there were a number of key races that just had too many candi-

The governor's race is a perfect example, with six Republicans lining up. There is a fine line between having no options and too many. By having six, debates were less helpful and the campaigns themselves were less substantive.

At the Indiana Capital Chronicle, a simple four-part questionnaire on a specific topic (with responses limited to 150 words) ballooned to thousands of words when each candidate weighed in. An hour-long forum meant each candidate had only a few minutes to appeal to voters — often creating more questions than answers.

At least three of those candidates probably should have taken themselves out of the equation.

I will forever wonder if Crouch or Chambers or Eric Doden, for instance, could have tightened that race against U.S. Sen. Mike Braun if other candidates had dropped out. If the polling wasn't so clearly in his favor, he might have been forced to be more specific on issues and even make significant policy proposals.

And if it'd been a one-on-one or a three-person race? Who knows how much more competitive and less fractured the vote might have been.

The crowded primaries weren't limited to the governor's race. On the U.S. House side, there were 63 candidates running across nine House seats. That's an average of seven per race — but some actually had 10 candidates. How is a voter supposed to educate themselves adequately on that many candidates to make an informed choice?

Regardless, a nominee who came through with 30% of a vote isn't particularly inspiring, especially when you remember that less than onethird of registered voters even bothered to cast a ballot. When you consider the above, it's no wonder that most of Indiana stayed home on Tuesday.

Kelly is editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle and has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

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

The Commercial Review

US PS 125820

to edit for content and clarity.

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Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. **TONIA HARDY**

RAY COONEY President, editor and publisher

Business manager

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VOLUME 151-NUMBER 10 **TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024**

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Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call

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Sixty years

Jay County Humane Society treasurer Mindy Weaver and Jay County Chamber of Commerce executive director Tabby Sprunger stand together chamber while board member Nick Lyons takes their photo Saturday. The nonprofit organization, which now serves as the county's contracted animal control service, celebrated 60th business its anniversary.

Commission approves I&M increase

The Indiana Regulatory Commission recently approved a rate settlement agreement with Indiana Michigan Power, which subsequently released details of its Powering Our Future Plan.

The settlement calls for a twophase increase — \$4.20 this month and an additional \$4.27 in January — for the average residential customer. Bills will go up to \$174.83 on average from the current \$166.36.

I&M was approved for a total increase of \$61.8 million, a little more than half of the \$116.4 million the company originally

requested.
"With the recent decision from the IURC, Indiana Michigan Power will continue its current work to provide safe, reliable power to our customers while increasing the resiliency of the grid for the future," I&M president and chief operating officer Steve Baker said in a press release. "Through continuous collaboration with a number of stakeholders, we collectively reached a settlement we feel serves the best interests of our customers."

I&M said it will use the increase for \$550 million in grid resiliency improvements including upgrading 15 substations, replacing 24 miles of power lines and more than 2,800 poles, and installing technology upgrades.

Reception set

open house for Deborah Cole-

The event is scheduled for 4:30

Business roundup

Camino Real, 220 W. Lincoln Ave. Portland. Coleman has worked for the extension office for 44

Fairs scheduled

The United States Postal Service will host a series of job fairs across the state later this month.

In-person job fairs will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, May 30, at various locations, including post offices at 215 W. Main St., Berne, and 116 S. Main St., Lynn.

Applications will also be available online at usps.com/careers.

Book drive set

A bank with local branches will hold a drive in an effort to help improve financial literacy.

First Financial Bank's book drive is scheduled for May 6 through 24 at various area locations.

The bank will accept donations of books at its locations at:

•112 N. Meridian St., Portland •211 W. Pearl St., Union City •101 W. Washington St., Hartford City

Following the drive, books will Jay County's Purdue Extenbe delivered to area schools, sion office will hold a retirement libraries and non-profit organizations in the community.

"This will be a fun drive for everyone involved, and we're to 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 21, at El looking forward to filling every

First Financial chief corporate responsibility officer Roddell McCullough in a press release. "Reading and financial literacy often go hand in hand, so this is an opportunity to team up with the community to help our neighbors improve their financial wellbeing.'

A list of recommended books on finance will be available in each financial center. First Financial also offers tools and resources at bankatfirst.com.

Training scheduled

ServSafe training will be held monthly at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland through June.

Training sessions are scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesdays May 21 and June 18. The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne ill-

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Reorganizing leadership

NextEra Energy last week announced that Kirk Crews will become its new executive vice president and chief risk officer.

Crews has served as NextEra's executive vice president of finance and chief financial officer in March 2022. He has been with the company since 2016.

Brian Bolser, who spent nearly 25 years at Goldman Sachs, has been named to succeed Crews.

"Having successfully served in a number of critical roles across Kernersville News of North Car-

one of these book bins," said our business, Kirk is uniquely qualified to take on his new position," said NextEra chairman and CEO John Ketchum in a press release. "His deep financial acumen and leadership skills will enable Kirk to provide significant leverage to our business as we pursue our strategic objec-

> "I'm also very pleased to welcome Brian to NextEra Energy. He is a strong leader ...'

Agreement reached

Ardagh Glass Packaging-Europe last week announced that it has entered into an electricity power purchase agreement with Sunnic Lighthouse GmbH.

Sunnic Lighthouse will provide solar energy for Ardagh's NextGen Furnace Obernkirchen, Germany. The facility is switching from 90% gas and 10% electricity for its energy to 80% renewable and 20% gas. "Securing long-term renew-

able electricity for our NextGen Furnace is key to decarbonising glass production," said Ardagh that we can reach as many qualithe press release. "This PPA will also take AGP-Europe another step closer to meeting our goal of transitioning to 100% renewable electricity by 2030."

Ardagh operates glass packaging facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

Paxton purchases

Paxton Media Group, which owns several Indiana newspapers, recently purchased the

olina from Meredith Owensby Harrell.

Paxton owns 13 Indiana newspapers, including The Courier-Times (New Castle), Huntington Herald-Press and Connersville News-Examiner. Carter/Owensby-Harrell families had owned the publication since its founding in 1938.

Meetings scheduled The Indiana Office of Energy

Development will host a series of meetings as part of the process of planning, designing and implementing a federally funded home energy rebate program.

The office will be seeking public input on the rebate, for which implementation is planned for the fall.

In-person meetings will be held at four locations around the state in May and June. Meetings include 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 11, in Indianapolis, and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 25, in Fort Wayne. (Specific locations have not yet been announced.)

"We are seeking engagement with Hoosiers across the state so Europe CEO Martin petersson in fied applicants as possible when these programs are made available," said Ryan Hadley, executive director of the Indiana Office of Energy Development. 'Input is a critical element to ensure we develop a robust and well-run program.'

A virtual closing session will be held at 6:30 p.m. June 27.

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share? Emailnews@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

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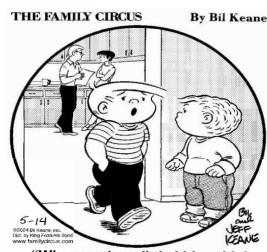
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"When you're a little kid nothin' is any of your business."

Peanuts

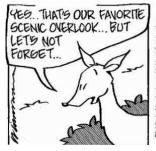


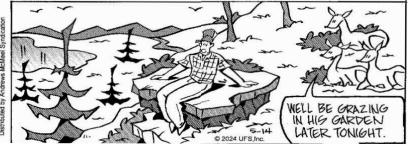






Rose is Rose





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Hi and Lois





Between Friends







Blondie

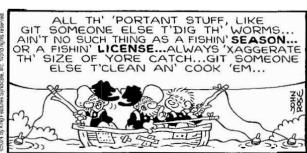




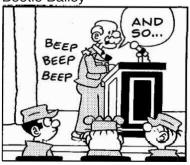


Snuffy Smith





Beetle Bailey







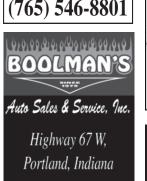
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Contract By Steve Becker

The Texas transfer

tions that prevent him from

employing natural bids. When this point threatens to be reached, a

player is best advised to choose his conventions carefully.

One of the artificial bids that has

become popular in recent years is the Texas Transfer, which is used in

response to a one- or two-notrump opening bid. If responder jumps directly to four diamonds, he is ask

ing opener to bid four hearts, while

he is asking opener to bid four spades. (In the latter case especially, there is a real danger that one player or the other may forget he is playing Texas, with disastrous con-

playing Texas, with disastrous consequences.)

Today's deal from a national team-of-four event demonstrates the advantage of Texas, which is to have the opening lead come into the stronger hand rather than through it. At the first table, the bidding followed traditional lines: INT-3♥-3NT-6♥, and East led the ten of spades. After this lead, there was no way for declarer to make the slam, and he went down one.

the slam, and he went down one.

At the second table, the North-

South pair was playing Texas and so reached six hearts with South as declarer. With West on lead against

the slam, it was impossible to defeat the contract, and South chalked up

an easy 1,430 points.

responder jumps to four hearts,

Both sides vulnerable NORTH Q6 ♥KQ10983 AJ3 EAST ♠ 10 9 8 3 ♥ A 2 ♠ 8 6 5 3 ♣Q 10 4 SOUTH

South dealer.

The bidding:
West ♣K 65 North East 1 NT 4 ♥ 4 NT 6 ♥ Pass

Generally speaking, the majority of players are opposed to most artificial bidding conventions. They prefer to use more natural methods wherein if their partner bids spades he has spades, if he bids hearts he has hearts, and so on. has hearts, and so on. But as a player becomes more experienced, he may be tempted to

add new conventions to his arsenal. And if he is by nature gadget-minded, he might soon find himself weighed down by a host of conven-

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Tomorrow: The one and only chance.

CRYPTOQUIP

ZW ZKNELDC'Y ENLCNKY ARPNC NDELKFN PTN VLRZPLE

VZPH PQAWAEC, PTNH QAGEC

JN CAGJEZDF CGJEZD.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: NOTEWORTHY AMERICAN WRITER WHO WAS VERY FOND OF FRUIT PRESERVED IN SYRUP: TRUMAN COMPOTE.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: F equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

CRODO	WORD	by Lugene Snejjer				
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Pacers blow out depleted Knicks in game 4

By KRISTIAN WINFIELD

New York Daily News Tribune News Service

INDIANAPOLIS — This is the kind of game tape you burn and never speak of again.

It's the kind of game that forced Tom Thibodeau— in unprecedented fashion — to wave the white flag with 2:32 left in the third quarter of the Knicks' Game 4 blowout loss to the Indiana Pacers on Sunday.

Jalen Brunson, when healthy, appeared in every fourth quarter the Knicks played this season except one, when the Knicks entered the last period of their April 11 victory over the Boston Celtics up 29 points.

Brunson watched from the sidelines as his Knicks coughed up their lead in the final period and left victory.

He watched from the sidelines, again, as the Pacers steamrolled his Knicks for a 121-89 victory to tie the series at two games apiece. The Knicks, who had not lost a game by more than 24 points this season, never came within

28 points of the Pacers in the second half.

Thibodeau pulled Brunson, who had 18 points on 6of-17 shooting through 31 minutes, and subbed in Shake Milton, the midseason acquisition who hadn't logged a minute on-court since April 4. Shortly after, at the 44-second mark of the third period, he pulled starting guard Donte DiVincenzo and subbed in DaQuan Jeffries, who had only logged 46 total minutes on the season.

Josh Hart's night ended at the 8:17 mark of the third quarter, and Thibodeau pulled Isaiah Hartenstein with 6:54 left before ultimately calling it quits by sending the league's leading playoff scorer to the bench with under three minutes to go in the third.

And at the top of the Boston with a nine-point fourth quarter, Thibodeau pulled the plug on Precious Achiuwa, opting to ride third-string center Jericho Sims the rest of the way.

Thibodeau likely would have pulled Miles McBride, too, if he had another set of legs to throw on the court. He didn't.

It's the state of a Knicks

TNS/Getty Images/Dylan Buell

Donte DiVincenzo (0) of the New York Knicks shoots the ball against Pascal Siakam (43) of the Indiana Pacers during the first quarter in Game 4 of the Eastern Conference Second Round Playoffs at Gainbridge Fieldhouse on Sunday, May 12, 2024, in Indianapolis.

team wearing thin against Anunoby had not pronine-to-10 players deep.

The Knicks were already without Julius Randle (shoulder), Bojan Bog-(ankle) danovic and Mitchell Robinson (ankle) before OG Anunoby left the second half of Game 2 with a left hamstring strain.

a Pacers team running gressed past pool work to running on-court. He is unlikely to clear the benchmarks necessary to play in Game 5 back at Madison Square Garden on Tuesday.

The Pacers blew the Knicks out of the water with a 34-14 first quarter. then outscored the Knicks, As of Sunday afternoon, 35-27, in the second. The the first half tied for fourth-fewest scored in any half this season.

As for Brunson, it's been a year-and-a-half since the last time he watched from the sidelines in defeat: the Knicks' Nov. 13, 2022blowout loss to the Oklahoma City Thunder, who led by 16 at the end of the third quarter before Thibodeau rode Immanuel Quickley for the duration of the fourth.

The Knicks were down 16 in the first quarter on Sunday, and dead legs against an energetic Pacers team were to blame.

Brunson finished with 18 points but no other Knicks starter scored more than eight. After scoring 14 points in Game 1, Alec Burks scored another 20 off the bench on 5-of-11 shooting from the field.

McBride added another 16 points on 6-of-17 shooting from the field, but it wasn't enough to put a dent in the offensive onslaught the Pacers hung on the Knicks on Sunday.

Now, the Knicks have some time: Sunday's game tipped off at 3:30 p.m., and Game 5 back in New York

Knicks' 41 points scored in doesn't start until 8 p.m. on Tuesday night.

While Anunoby's status remains unclear — if not outright unlikely — the core Knicks will welcome the additional hours of rest they can use to recover from a heavy workload

to start the playoffs. for example, Hart, logged 42 or more minutes in eight consecutive playoff games before his day ended with 24 minutes on

Sunday. DiVincenzo also logged four straight games with 44 or more minutes before an early hook in Game 4.

The Pacers out-rebounded the Knicks, 52-43, and recorded 31 assists to New York's 18.

The Pacers initially listed All-Star point guard Tyrese Haliburton as questionable with three different ailments, but Haliburton finished with 20 points, six rebounds and five assists. Six different Pacers scored in double figures, including former Knicks forward Obi Toppin (14 points, 6-of-11 shooting) and McConnell, who doubledoubled with 15 points and

Simpson

Continued from page 8 "SEC, man, we play against the biggest and the baddest," Simpson said. "A bunch of those guys went in the first round. Played against (LSU wide receiver and No. 6 pick Malik) Nabers for three years, (LSU quarterback and No. 2 pick) Jayden Daniels, all of those guys. Playing against them, playing against guys on my team just prepared me the right way. I feel

like it's the best conference. It's

the closest thing to the NFL.

safety and playing those five just going to translate, that's just back until No. 151, when they rookie minicamp from Friday years at Auburn has really molded me into a great player. I just felt like it was time for me to take it to the next level and just continue to do what I've been doing."

Simpson started his Auburn career as a cornerback, but he played safety in 2023.

"I got switched by my coaches," Simpson said, "but it was because they knew I was a versatile guy and they felt as if I

who I am, that's what I do. I'm chose Missouri safety Jaylon just a DB. I'm not one defined defensive back. Corner, safety, nickel — I can play all of them." Indianapolis lists Simpson as

a cornerback on its roster. "He's got some versatility

where he can play corner, nickel, safety," Colts general manager Chris Ballard said. "He's played a lot of games in the SEC." The Colts were expected to

was the guy that could have address their secondary in the "But starting at corner and played multiple positions. That's draft, but didn't take a defensive

Carlies. But Indianapolis plans to convert Carlies to linebacker. Simpson came aboard at the 164th selection, and the Colts picked Marshall cornerback Micah Abraham at No. 201.

"They really like me at the free (safety) spot," Simpson said of his pre-draft meetings with Indianapolis. "They like my range, athleticism. ... But whatever they need me to do, I will do it, and I will be productive at it."

The Colts are holding their million.

through Sunday.

10 assists off the bench.

'Been away from the game for a little bit," Simpson said. "I'm just ready to get to work and just continue to show why I feel like I was one of the best in this draft, so I've got a lot to prove still, so just ready to get to work in Indy." Indianapolis announced on

Thursday night that five of its draft picks had signed their first NFL contracts, including Simpson. Simpson signed a four-year contract worth a reported \$4.317

Roundup

Continued from page 8 Trinidad also earned the win, despite giving up five earned runs on 10

Offense silenced

couldn't secure the win on Saturday as the Heritage

Brady Richmon domi- coming on Richmond's

Heritage (16-2, 4-0 ACAC) by striking out 10 Jay County batters and only allowing two hits.

Ryne Goldsworthy and Leighton Brown collected the only hits for Jay County (11-10, 4-2 ACAC), but Jay County baseball team couldn't get anything going in either instance.

Only two of Heritage's Patriots shut JCHS out 7-0. runs were earned, both

nated on the mound for double in the second inning.

> HHS also scored two runs in the fifth inning and three in the sixth.

> Zedrian Vazquez suffered the loss after tossing four innings. He gave up four runs on three hits and one walk.

Pats take two

LAPEL — The Jay

took two out of three matches between Friday and Saturday.

The Patriots (7-5) won their home match against Richmond on Friday 3-2, with wins coming from Bailey and No. 1 doubles Maggie Dillon and No. 2 match. doubles duo Zion

Henneaux were defeated. Jay County split at the Lapel Invitational. It beat

the host Bulldogs 3-2 to on took it out 4-1.

Brenna Haines, Brenna bles teams secured the victory over Lapel. Baiduo Meredith Dirksen ley swept Emma Man-Sophia Sprunger. ning in the No. 2 singles

Dirksen and Sprunger Rai 3-6, 6-4, 10-7.

County girls tennis team Beiswanger and Lucie needed a tiebreaker and a third set to beat Emily Gooding and Ava Leiter 6-7 (7-9), 6-2, 6-2.

Beiswanger and Henstart the day before Mari- neaux needed a tiebreaker, but not a third set in Bailey and both dou- their 6-4, 7-6 (7-4) victory over Sophia McCrory and Layla Stohler. They also claimed the only win over Marion, as they beat Lilla Fisher and Ravleen

Sports on tap

Local schedule

TodayJay County — Girls track sectional at Delta – 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Blackford – 5 p.m.; Boys golf vs. Woodlan – 5:30 p.m.; Softball at Frankton – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high golf vs. Monroe Central – 5 p.m.; Junior high baseball vs. Delta – 5:30 p.m.; Junior

high softball vs. Blackford – 5:30 p.m.; Softball vs. Blackford – 5:30 p.m.; Fort Recovery — Baseball sectional opener vs. Waynesfield-Goshen – 5:30 p.m.; Softball district opener vs. Coldwater at Bath – 6 p.m.; JV baseball at Shawnee - 5 p.m.

Wednesday

Jay County — Girls tennis sectional – 5 p.m. Fort Recovery -Track district prelims at Spencerville - 4 p.m.

TV sports

3 p.m. — Premier League: Manchester City at Tottenham Hotspur (USA) 7 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Boston Bruins at Flori-

da Panthers (ESPN)
7:30 p.m. — WNBA: Indiana Fever at Connecticut Sun (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Indiana Pacers at New York Knicks (ESPN2)

9:30 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Vancouver Canucks at Edmonton Oilers (ESPN)

9:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Arizona

Diamondbacks (Bally Indiana)

10 p.m. — WNBA: Phoenix Mercury at Las

Wednesday

1 p.m. — NBA draft combine (ESPN2)

3 p.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United

zona Diamondbacks (Bally Indiana)

at Boston Celtics (TNT)

8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Colorado Avalanche

9 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Los Angeles Angels (Bally Indiana)

at Oklahoma City Thunder (TNT)

Local notes

JCC outing set

The 22nd iteration of the annual J. Gordan Meeker Golf Tournament will be held May 17 at Portland Golf Club.

Registration for the event will begin at 11 a.m. with a shotgun start at noon. The late Lee Newman will be this year's hon-

oree for the outing. To register online, visit www.JayCC.org.

For more information, email Kcook@jaycc.org or Amuhlenkamp@jaycc.org.

Outing scheduled The annual City of Portland Mayor's Golf OutRegistration for the event will be held from 11 a.m. until 11:45 a.m. on the day of the outing. A meal will also be provided for the fourperson teams at this time. Registration is limit ed to the first 20 teams and must be completed by June 10 and submitted to 321 N. Meridi an St., emailing mayorsoffice@thecityofport

land.net or calling (260) 726-9395. Golfing will begin with a shotgun start at noon. Those interested can also sponsor the event. It cost \$150 to sponsor a hole, \$200 to sponsor a team and a meal or \$300 for to sponsor a team, a meal and hole sponsorship.

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com

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www.thecr.com Page 8 **The Commercial Review**



Drea Perez of Barnett's swings for a hit during his team's Portland Junior League game Saturday against Cook's Nursery. Portland Junior League celebrated its opening day of the season Saturday.

POET opens PJL with a pair of wins

League is officially underway, and POET Bioprocessing is starting off

on the right foot.
POET Bioprocessing started the 2024 season with a pair of wins in Portland Junior League Rookie baseball on Saturday over Pioneer Packaging (20-7) and Williams Auto Parts (9-6).

Seven players notched three hits in the 20-7 clobbering of Pioneer Packaging, while three players added two. Corbin Hutzler stood out with two triples and a single.

Nolan Homan led POET's offense in the second game. He smashed four hits, including two doubles and a triple. Four more players had multihit games, including Hutzler (two doubles and a single) and Harvey Hemmelgarn (a double and two singles).

Brett Huntsman led Williams Auto Parts with a triple, a double and two singles. He also received support from Thobe Keller with three base hits. Wyatt Fennig and Carson Dailey both collected two hits as well.

Hirschy leads

Trey Hirschy powered the offense for Cooks Nursery in its 16-2 win over Barnetts on Saturday's Portland Junior League Rookie baseball.

Youth roundup

Hirschy was one of five players with three hits for Cooks Nursery. He had home runs in the first and second innings, while doubling in the third.

Kayden Alberson, Kolby Armstrong, Steven Robbins and Duke Steed collected three hits apiece as well. Alberson smashed two triples and a double, while Armstrong had one of each.

Barnetts got a bulk of its offense from Micah Davis, who had two hits and scored both runs. Aiden May also had two hits.

FCC wins

FCC won its first game of the season on Saturday 12-3 in Portland Junior League Minor softball.

Gabbi Miller provided the offensive highlight, with an inside-the-park home run down the foul line.

Audrey Miller controlled the game for FCC from the circle, striking out multiple batters in the nine-run victory.

Jaylin Simpson eager for NFL

Colts rookie wants to play 'the best of the best'

By MARK INABINETT

Tribune News Service

Former Auburn defensive back Jaylin Simpson should be happy with the Indianapolis Colts' 2024 schedule. Although the Colts' NFL slate for his rookie season has not been announced, UMass and Samford won't be on

"I just like playing against the best of the best," Simpson said. "In college, especially like SEC teams, you kind of play against smallerleague teams before you get to SEC play. I personally didn't like that. I wanted the big games — the Georgias, the LSUs, the Alabamas. That's when the stars come out, the big plays, the big moments, and you really get to see who rises to the light. And I feel like I always did

"That's every team in the NFL. Every team got guys. I'm just all about competing, having fun and putting on a show. That's what the SEC is about, that's what I'm about, and that's what I'm going to continue to be."

Simpson joined the Colts in the fifth round of the NFL Draft on April 25. After five seasons at Auburn, Simpson said he felt prepared to make the transition to the NFL.

See **Simpson** page 7

Jay softball sweeps Woodlan

blowouts, but the Patriots continue to win.

The Jay County High School softball team picked up a pair of victories over the Woodlan Warriors on Saturday to remain undefeated in May and extend its winning streak to seven games.

The 7-3 defeat of the Warriors acted as a makeup game from April 27 that got canceled for field conditions. The Patriots' 7-5 victory in the second game was just an added

The Patriots (12-4, 3-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) got started on the right foot as Jaelynn Lykins blasted a two-run home run as part of a three-run first inning.

A bulk of the first game's offense came from the top four in the JCHS order as Morgan Missicano collected three runs and three

Jay County roundup

hits, while Mallory Winner, Riah Champ and Lykins had two RBIs each.

Winner manned the circle in game one, only allowing one earned run over seven innings.

Jay County needed three runs in the sixth inning to take down the Warriors (12-6, 3-1 ACAC) in the second

game. Back-to-back doubles by Champ and Jozey Shimp gave the Patriots runners with no outs. A Mady Fraley single plated Champ to tie the game at 5-5. Two pitches later, Carlie Trinidad delivered a double to center field to take a two-run lead.

See Roundup page 7



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