

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Plans change for solar project

Work on Rose Gold is now slated to start in summer 2027

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Plans have been adjusted to meet setbacks with a solar project coming to rural Dunkirk.

Jay County Commissioners approved an amendment Monday to the economic development agreement with Leeward Renewable Energy for Rose Gold Solar.

A 150-megawatt solar facility, Rose Gold Solar is planned for about 1,430 acres of land north of Dunkirk. Leeward Renewable Energy received approval from county officials in 2021 and 2022 for various legal requirements, including a tax abatement, road use agreement, decommissioning plan and economic development agreement.

Plans originally called for the nearly \$173 million project to begin construction in late 2022. Delays with PJM Interconnection — it's the regional transmission organization that coordinates wholesale electricity movement across 13 states and the District of Columbia — Leeward Renewable Energy's timeline has shifted.

The company is now estimated to start construction by June 30, 2027, with the work to be completed by the end of 2028. Jay County Council approved the timeline amendment at its meeting May 8.

Leeward will give \$1.95 million to the county in economic development payments over a four-year period after the facility begins generating electricity. The project is expected to result in an additional \$68.1 million in assessed value.

Commissioners also decided to apply the county's health insurance refund to its employees premiums.

As part of the agreement with Physicians Health Plan, the county received a 40% refund — \$42,884.99 — because employees' claims so far this year have totaled less than their premiums. County auditor Emily Franks suggested the commissioners could keep the extra funding or pay it forward to employees. Crunching the numbers, Franks said the funding could be used to ensure that employees would not have to pay a premium on their health plan for four months or the funding could be used to reduce employees' premium rates by 42% for the remainder of this year's agreement.

Commissioners agreed to the rate reduction, which goes through the end of November. (The plan is annually renewed at that time.)

See **Plans** page 5

Ahead of the rain

A farmer runs a disc harrow through a field Tuesday morning at the southeast corner of the intersection of county roads 400 East and 100 North. Time to get in the field could be limited this week as the forecast called for rain later in the day Tuesday, with rain showers today, light rain showers Thursday, thunderstorms possible Friday and light rain Saturday.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Robbins addresses blighted properties

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city has been working on cleaning up some properties.

Mayor Jack Robbins is hoping to do more.

Robbins provided a brief report Monday to Dunkirk City Council regarding efforts to clean up properties.

The mayor indicated that city employees mowed eight properties Friday. He said they started

work on about a dozen more Monday.

Robbins said blighted properties are a problem in the city and he is working on plans to clean them up.

"It just seems like Dunkirk has got a bunch of them right now," he said. "And it's not only the weeds. There's nobody living there. They're un-rentable. We just need to do something."

He told council members Jesse Bivens, Christy Curts, Dan

Watson, Donna Revolt and Randy Murphy he will work with city attorney Wes Schemenaur and other county officials to address the issue.

"I don't know what the answer is, but I'm getting an awful lot of complaints," Robbins said.

He added that out-of-town property owners seem to be an issue.

Bivens also reported the results of testing wells that have been out of service for a decade

or more. He said Well No. 3, which was drilled in 1981 and has been out of service since 2002, can pump 200 gallons per minute. Meanwhile, Well No. 2, which has been out of service since 2014, came in at 40 gallons per minute.

The well testing was part of the city considering its options for providing greater water capacity to attract new housing and industry.

See **Addresses** page 5



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Flag for the Fallen

Addi Evitts holds up a small Honor and Remember flag Saturday morning at the Indiana Run for the Fallen stop in honor of Private Robert Leon McKinley, Specialist Justin Lee Mundy and Lance Cpl. Olivia L. Kustes. The run started its second day at Portland's Freedom Park and ended in Anderson. It was slated to finish with the Anderson to Indianapolis on Sunday.

Study indicates prices are high

State's hospitals dismiss analysis

By WHITNEY DOWNARD

Indiana Capital Chronicle

indianacapitalchronicle.com

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun — the Republican nominee for Indiana governor — made a surprise appearance at the National Healthcare Price Transparency Conference Monday, earning recognition for his work on health care price transparency on the federal level.

Conference emcee Gloria Sachdev, the president and CEO of Employers' Forum of Indiana, presented both Braun and fellow U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders of Vermont with

an award recognizing them as "Champions of Healthcare Price Transparency." The two, at opposite ends of the political spectrum, worked together on a measure to tackle transparency for hospital and insurer pricing.

"This is reforming the system, not more government spending on it," Braun said. "I'll keep pushing hard for the five months or so that I've got left (in Congress). Hopefully we'll see that maybe cascade further. If not — and if I'm successful in November (s general election) — I'm going to be the most entrepreneurial governor the country's ever seen on fixing health care."

Braun's appearance coincided with the release of the latest hospital prices study by the RAND Corp., a think tank, which found Indiana's hospital prices were 8th-highest in the nation.

See **Indicates** page 5

Deaths

Clarel Montgomery, 84, rural Portland
Bernadine Wolford, 95, Brownsburg
Russell McCord, 81, Fort Wayne
Alice Whitacre, 72, Portland
 Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 79 degrees Monday. The low was 59.
 Tonight's low will be in the lower 50s with winds gusting up to 20 miles per hour. Skies will be mostly sunny early Saturday with clouds and a chance of showers in the afternoon. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County High School will present its production of Disney's "High School Musical" at 7 p.m. Friday and Saturday at 2 p.m. Sunday in the school's auditorium. Tickets, which are \$7, can be purchased in advance from a cast member or in the JCHS office. They will be available at the door.

Coming up

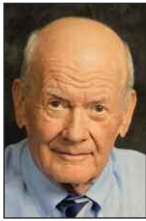
Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls track team at the sectional meet.
Friday — Coverage of The Portland Foundation's annual meeting.
Saturday — Coverage of Thursday's Redkey Town Council meeting.



Obituaries

Clarel Montgomery

July 2, 1939-May 12, 2024
Clarel R. Montgomery, age 84, former rural Bryant resident passed away on Sunday, May 12, 2024, at Christian Care Retirement Center in Bluffton. He was born in Hartford City, Indiana, on July 2, 1939, the son of George and Ruth (Axe) Montgomery. Clarel was a farmer, retiring in 2003. He was married to Phyllis Kay Myers on June 27, 1981, who survives.



Montgomery

Clarel was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Shrine, Scottish Rite and Lions Club. Clarel graduated from Bryant High School.

Funeral services will be Wednesday, May 15, at 3 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Chris Kruchkow presiding. Burial will be in the Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Wednesday from 1 to 3 p.m. at Baird-Freeman.

Memorials can be made to Stillwater Hospice and Jay County 4-H.

Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Bernadine Wolford

May 30, 1928-May 12, 2024
Bernadine Eileen Wolford, age 95, a former resident of Portland, passed away on Sunday, May 12, 2024, at Life Journey Hospice in Avon, Indiana. She was a current resident of Brownsburg, Indiana.



Wolford

Bernadine was born on May 30, 1928, in Elwood, Indiana, the daughter of Darrell and Golda (Simpson) Maitlen. She married Max Wolford on Nov. 29, 1954, and he passed away on May 21, 2002.

Bernadine worked for many years in the Jay County Clerk's Office and the Assessor's Office, where she retired from in 2006. She attended West Walnut Church of Christ when she lived in Portland and has most

recently been attending Connection Pointe Christian Church in Brownsburg.

Survivors include:
Daughter — Beth Ann Byrum, Virginia Beach, Virginia

Daughter-in-law — Loreen Wolford, Brownsburg, Indiana
Grandchildren — Haley Wolford, Mallory Schoonveld (husband: Noah) and James Byrum IV

Several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews

She was preceded in death by her husband, Max Wolford; her son, Todd Wolford; a son-in-law, James (Jimmy) Byrum III; and a brother, Darrell Maitlen.

Visitation will be held on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will follow at 1 p.m. on Friday at the funeral home. Burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland.

Memorials may be directed to West Walnut Church of Christ in Portland.

Condolences may be

expressed at williamson-spencer.com.

Russell McCord

Russell E. McCord, 81, passed away on Saturday, May 11, 2024, in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Born in Chillicothe, Ohio, Russell was a son of the late Russell E. McCord Sr. and Ona (Maughmer) McCord.



McCord

Russell served our country proudly in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War. He attended Fort Wayne Bible College. He worked in quality control at General Electric where he worked for 36 years, prior to his retirement.

He was a member of Fellowship Missionary Church and SPOOM (Society for the Preservation of Old Mills).

He is survived by his wife Marilyn Towell-McCord; brother Philip (Jo) Buchanan; five nephews; one niece; 15 step-nephews and step-nieces; sisters-in-law Wanda Ballard and

Margo Lane; and brother-in-law Harold Towell.

Russell was preceded in death by his brothers Tom and Mackie; and brothers-in-law John and Charles Towell.

Service is 11 a.m. Friday, May 17, 2024, at Golden Years Homestead Chapel, 3136 Goeglein Road, with calling one hour prior.

Private burial will be in Gravel Hill Cemetery, Bryant, Indiana.

FairHaven Funeral Home and Cremation Services is handling arrangements.

Alice Whitacre, Portland, Oct. 7, 1951-May 12, 2024. Services will be at 7 p.m. Thursday at Williamson Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland.

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

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

CR almanac

Thursday 5/16	Friday 5/17	Saturday 5/18	Sunday 5/19	Monday 5/20
76/61	74/59	77/60	82/58	78/62
There's a slight chance of rain on Thursday under mostly sunny skies.	Friday's forecast shows a 70% chance of showers and thunderstorms. The low may hit the upper 50s.	Saturday also has a chance of rain and thunderstorms, with a high near 77.	Another chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly sunny, with a high of 82.	More rain is on the horizon for Monday, when the high will be in the upper 70s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 5-14-29-38-66 Power Ball: 1 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$59 million	Daily Four: 5-3-8-6 Quick Draw: 3-10-13-16-17-19-26-30-33-34-39-46-60-64-68-69-70-71-75-80 Cash 5: 7-14-24-33-37 Estimated jackpot: \$386,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$363 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 8-8-4 Pick 4: 2-7-5-9 Pick 5: 9-0-5-5-8 Evening Pick 3: 1-9-5 Pick 4: 9-2-7-0 Pick 5: 0-8-2-2-2 Rolling Cash: 12-17-18-24-36 Estimated jackpot: \$200,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 2-6-7 Daily Four: 6-6-8-7 Quick Draw: 2-3-4-7-22-25-30-32-39-40-41-47-53-54-55-58-69-72-78-79 Evening Daily Three: 4-7-7	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.58 Late May corn4.58 Wheat5.60	June beans12.04 Wheat 6.30
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.63 June corn4.68 July corn.....4.58	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.47 June corn4.49 Beans11.99 June beans12.02 Wheat6.27
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.58 June corn4.53 Beans12.04	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.51 June corn4.54 Beans11.72 June beans11.82 Wheat6.05

Today in history

In 1718, James Puckle developed the first patented machine gun. Named after its creator, the Puckle Gun was designed to be used with two bullet types: round or square.

In 2021, Ron Freeman was honored as the first winner of The Spirit of Vicki Lifetime Achievement Award during the Jay County Community

Awards. The award was renamed in honor of Vicki Tague, the long-time chamber director who died in 2019.

In 2022, Jay County High School closed its production of the musical "All Shook Up," featuring the music of Elvis Presley. Elsría Goodman and Caleb Darnell played the lead roles.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 10th North, Portland.	Fire Department, 1616 N. Franklin St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, council chambers, Portland	Thursday 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.

Felony court news

Battery

Three people were sentenced to serve time for committing battery.

Kayla E. Hart was found guilty in Jay Superior Court of a Level 6 felony for battery on a person less than 14 years old, a Class A misdemeanor for criminal trespassing and a Class B misdemeanor for battery. She was sentenced to 730 days in Indiana Department of Correction. Hart was assessed \$189 in court costs.

Michael P. Riddell, 42, 2017 E. Harvard Ave.,

Muncie, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to battery resulting in bodily injury, a Class A misdemeanor. He was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but 150 days suspended and given 104 days credit for time served. Riddell was assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of his plea agreement, his charge was lessened from a Level 6 felony.

Chelsea R. Hummer (formerly known as Chelsea R. Johnson), 36, 1412 South Monroe St., Hartford City, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior

Court to battery against a public safety official. She was sentenced to 730 days in Jay County Jail with all but four days suspended and given four days credit for time served. Hummer was assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of her plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for resisting law enforcement was dismissed.

Nonsupport

Several people were sentenced to serve time for nonsupport of a dependent child.

Benjamin N. Richman, 43, 3682 W. 300 North, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 730 days in Jay County Jail with all but 146 days suspended and given 146 days credit for time served. Richman was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay \$13,857.89 in restitution to Brenda Reed.

Angela Costello, 36, 4265 W. 600 North, Bryant, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 6 felony.

See page 5

Felony arrests

Performing before minor

A Portland man was arrested Friday for performing sexual conduct in the presence of a minor.

John Clem, 73, 604 S. Western St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony.

He was being held on a \$3,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

Drunk driving

A man was arrested Saturday for drunk driving.

Jesus Velazquez, 41, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for operating a vehicle while intoxicated.

He was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

Nonsupport

A Dunkirk man was arrested Monday for nonsupport of a dependent child.

Nicholas C. Folkerth, 34, 317 W. Pleasant St., is charged in Jay Superior Court with a Level 6 felony.

He was being held on \$1,000 in bonds in Jay County Jail.

Capsule Reports

Lost control

Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland teen drove off county road 400 North and into a woods about 7:03 p.m. Monday.

Gabe A. Pinkerton, 17, was driving his 200 Ford Ranger west on the road just west of county road 250 West. He told police he looked away from the road to change his radio and drove off the north side of the road. He said he must have mistaken the brakes for the accelerator, causing

him to drive through a ditch. He overcorrected and avoided crashing into a tree on the north side of the road but then went off the south side of the road into a wooded area, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report.

Pinkerton's vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

Vehicle collision

A Portland man complained of head pain after he drove into the back of a

semi truck at the intersection of Indiana 26 and State Line Road about 3:49 p.m. Friday.

Rios Floridalma, 25, was stopped at the intersection headed south on State Line Road, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. He drove forward and struck the trailer of a westbound 2024 Volvo truck on Indiana 26 driven by 52-year-old Cody L. Smith of Rexburg, Idaho.

Floridalma was cited for driving without a license and driving without insur-

ance. The vehicle he was driving was towed, with damage estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000.

The Volvo is registered to James H. Clark and Son of Salt Lake City, Utah.

SERVICES

Wednesday

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

Thursday

McCord, Russell: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Friday

McCord, Russell: 11 a.m., Golden Years Homestead Chapel, 3136 Goeglein Road, Fort Wayne.

Wolford, Bernadine: 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

West, William: 7 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Saturday

Sills, Marvin: noon, Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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.

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Author hosted

Fort Recovery Public Library recently hosted author Kimberly Nixon. She has written two historical fiction novels based on the life of her grandmother, who received a felony conviction for train robbery in Tennessee in the 1940s. Pictured at right are community members who attended the discussion with Nixon, who is pictured kneeling in the front row on the right.



Photo provided

Brownie recipe comes with its own warning

DEAR ABBY: I have read that you have a sweet tooth. I do, too. That's why I'm interested in your recipe booklets, particularly if you have included dessert recipes. Which ones do you particularly love? — LOVES IT SWEET IN ANNAPOLIS, MD

DEAR LOVES: That's a tough question. It's hard to choose just one recipe because I do have a sweet tooth as well as "a bit" of an addiction to chocolate, which is more information than you asked for.

The following recipe is one I have enjoyed many times and also have made as gifts for friends. It yields 4 1/2 dozen brownies (depending upon how large one decides to portion them out), and they freeze well. Warning: The first time I tasted them, they triggered a binge. After consuming

my third brownie, I was ashamed to go back to the dessert table, so I sneaked to the kitchen and begged for the recipe. This recipe is included in my cookbooklet set, which, in addition to desserts, includes many other delicious crowd-pleasing recipes for entertaining. To order it, send your name and address, plus check or money order for \$16 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mt. Morris, IL 61054-0447. Ship-



Dear Abby

ping and handling are included in the price.

If you are a serious chocolate lover, this recipe will make your toes curl, and that's a promise. I hope you will enjoy them as much as I have.

REGENCY BROWNIES
1 cup butter (2 sticks)
4 ounces bittersweet chocolate
2 cups sugar
4 eggs
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 teaspoon salt
2 cups chopped walnuts
1 teaspoon vanilla
FROSTING
1 cup heavy cream
8 ounces bittersweet chocolate, finely chopped
Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Line the bottom of an 18-by-12-by-2 (or 1)-inch baking pan with parchment paper and

spray generously with butter-flavored cooking spray.

In the top of a double boiler, over medium heat, melt butter and 4 ounces chocolate. Reserve.

In a large bowl, beat sugar and eggs until fluffy. Add flour and salt, mixing well. Add chocolate mixture, blending thoroughly. Stir in nuts and vanilla.

Pour into prepared baking pan. (Batter should be about 1/2-inch thick, not more.) Bake for 35 to 40 minutes, or until top is crisp and toothpick inserted in center comes out clean. Cool before pouring frosting over the top.

For the frosting: Bring cream to a boil, stirring constantly. Place chopped chocolate in a medium bowl; pour boiling cream over the chocolate and stir to blend well.

Spread thin layer of warm frosting over top of brownies in pan. When cool, cut into 2-inch squares.

DEAR ABBY: I don't know how to respond when someone I know socially says they have just come from a political event for a candidate I detest and can't believe this person would favor. I don't discuss politics, so why anyone mentions something like this disturbs me. I don't want to say, "That's nice," and have them think I approve, but I don't want to show my disgust and provoke an argument. Any ideas? — DISCREET GUY IN THE SOUTH

DEAR GUY: If you prefer to avoid the subject of politics, just say, "What ELSE are you doing these days?" Smile when you say it and it shouldn't be offensive.

Community Calendar

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

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

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

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

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected

by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIGANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday
STITCH AND CHATTER QUILT CLUB

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

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

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

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

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

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

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
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.

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.

CININNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, May 17, at the Harmony Café in Portland.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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The INSIDE Scoop

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Day was a success despite weather

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from May 18, 2006. Jack writes about a cold, chilly day at a baseball game. This wasn't unusual. I teased him enough about his early season baseball adventures that he wrote a column about it years later.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Sometimes, tradition trumps common sense. That was the case on Sunday. For several years, when Mother's Day rolled around, we tried to take in a baseball game. Sometimes, it was the Indianapolis Indians. Sometimes, it was the Fort Wayne Wizards. Every time, it was fun. There were some chilly afternoons, but the sun shined on us most of the time. This year, the sun has been on sabbatical. After a marvelous April, we've tumbled into some

Back in the Saddle



sort of meteorological Twilight Zone that's sent us rummaging through winter clothes to find fleece when we'd much rather be wearing shorts and sandals. But tradition is tradition. And, sometimes tradition trumps common sense. On Saturday, we talked about it, watching through the window panes as a steady drizzle soaked Indiana and Ohio, peering at the outdoor thermometer stuck in the 40s and 50s. And we decided — in what will probably go down in family history as a mental vapor lock

— that we should go to a game anyway. Forget about the weather. Tough it out. The Wizards apparently felt the same way. They played a full game Saturday in spite of some of the least inviting May weather in memory. So when Mother's Day rolled around, we decided to go for it. Some concessions were made for the conditions. I wore a long-sleeve T-shirt, topped by a sweatshirt, which was topped, in turn, by a windbreaker. Connie and Sally made similar decisions. All of us took umbrellas. We set out at noon. In the rain, of course. It was sprinkling when we woke up. It was drizzling as we had breakfast. And the thermometer was paralyzed in the 40s when we left. But we went anyway, and we felt good about it.

"Have we lost our minds?" I asked, somewhere between Bryant and Berne. The wipers were going, and the clouds were a sea of gray. They assured me that we hadn't. I hoped they were right, and I got a bit of reassurance when we pulled into the parking lot. There were other cars. There were other baseball fans crazy enough to go out on a cold, drizzly day to catch a game. At least we weren't alone in our bad judgment. Our seats were great. (I guess they ought to be when the weather's that lousy.) By the time we got settled, the rain was reduced to a sprinkle again. The usher had wiped off our seats, and things looked pretty rosy, though we had the hoods up on our windbreakers. A couple of innings later, we

broke out the umbrellas. There were no fans behind us — for several rows — so we weren't worried about blocking anyone's view. But umbrella wrangling can be a difficult art, and it took awhile to reach a consensus on whose was where. In fact, I'm not sure we ever completely sorted that out. Just the same — wet and cold and dueling with umbrellas — it was a wonderful Mother's Day. As to the ballgame, that's another story. The Wizards lost, but the team's management was so appreciative of the small crowd of hardy fools who had showed up that they gave us a free ticket for later in the season. With luck, we'll be able to leave the fleece, the sweatshirts, the windbreakers, and the umbrellas behind next time.

Amid the chaos, frat bros step up

Boston Herald
Tribune News Service

College fraternities often make the news for hazings gone wrong, raising the ire of neighbors for loud parties and general boozey shenanigans. But amid the vitriol in play on college campuses, some frat bros are stepping up for values in short supply. After a video appearing to show a white student making monkey noises at a Black student during a pro-Palestinian protest at the University of Mississippi went viral last week, the Phi Delta Theta fraternity announced Sunday that the heckler had been kicked out of its organization.

Guest Editorial

That's how you do it. The frat grasped the difference between free speech and racism, and was quick to take action.

As reported, the fraternity statement read: "Phi Delta Theta General Headquarters is aware of the video regarding the student protest at the University of Mississippi. The racist actions in the video were those of an individual and are antithetical to the values of Phi Delta Theta and the Mississippi Alpha chapter. The responsible individual was removed from membership on Friday, May 3."

That's how you do it. No bleats about "context," no playing the victim, no tepid tsks about bad behavior while the perpetrator avoids consequence. The frat grasped the difference between free speech and racism, and was quick to take action.

If only college faculty and presidents had such backbone when it comes to antisemitism.

This comes on the heels of Pi Kappa Phi brothers protecting the American flag during a pro-Palestinian demonstration at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill earlier this month.

There, demonstrators had replaced the U.S. flag on the campus' main quad with a Palestinian flag. Members of the UNC Chapel Hill chapter of the Pi Kappa Phi fraternity intervened to prevent the American flag from touching the ground, coming under both verbal and physical attacks as they held it up, as Newsweek reported. As with most events these days, it was caught on video, which went viral.

The student rebel cosplayers shouting "Death to America," antisemitic slurs, and slogans from the far-left anti-Israel playbook

have been burning American flags, not protecting them.

No wonder: A Gallup poll taken last summer found pride in being American is lowest among those 18-34. Only 18% of those aged 18-34 said they were "extremely proud" to be American.

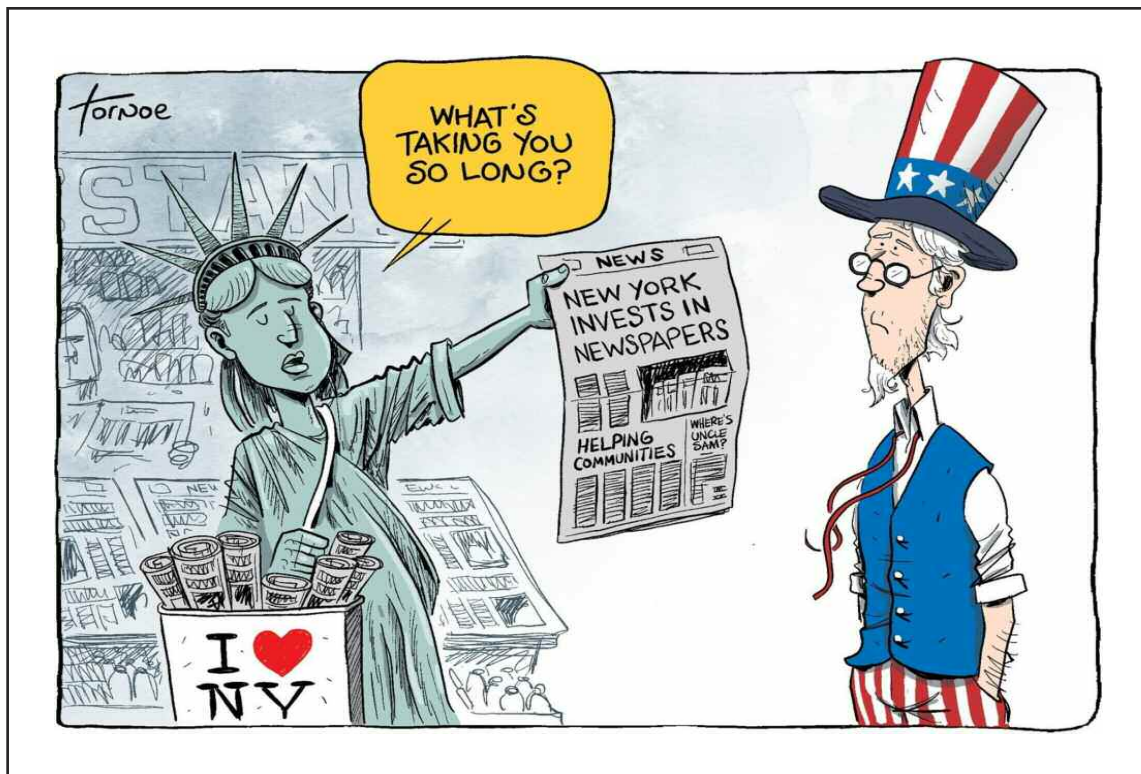
We can see that on campuses across the country. It's a sad and shameful statistic and bodes ill for our future. One bright note: another Gallup poll taken in February found that 18-to-29-year-old women are now 15 percentage points more likely to identify as liberal than men in the same group. That gap is five times larger than it was in 2000.

Mainstream media has been keen to paint conservatives, particularly Trump voters, as ill-educated rubes. That's harder to do when conservative young men share the same campus with liberal, left-voting women.

The young frat brothers who called out racism among their members and acted quickly to weed out the offender, and those who saw the American flag as something to be protected and did something about it won't solve the chaos sweeping our campuses.

But they do stand in stark contrast to the weak, ineffective responses we've seen to antisemitic, anti-Israel and anti-American words and actions.

Joe Biden would be wise to remember; these young people vote, too.



Teacher morale crash is here

By PAUL DIPERNA and COLYN RITTER
Tribune News Service



Paul DiPerna and Colyn Ritter



If you follow education policy at all, you've probably heard about the looming "Fiscal Cliff." As pandemic-era federal support runs out, school districts that used temporary funding to create permanent initiatives are going to fall over it.

But American K-12 education appears to be in the midst of an immediate and menacing development: A teacher morale crash.

What do we mean by that? Recent research tells us the appeal of the teaching profession and job satisfaction of teachers have been declining for years. In a new Annenberg working paper, "The Rise and Fall of the Teaching Profession," Matthew Kraft and Melissa Lyon show stagnant teacher wages, higher costs of postsecondary education and teacher preparation, perceived losses of professional autonomy and job security are some of the factors that likely have contributed to the modern decline of teacher disengagement and dissatisfaction. Their analysis is crucial for understanding the severity of the situation and underscores the urgent need for substantial changes.

More recent survey data show accelerated crashing in the past 12 months. According to the most recent teacher survey by EdChoice/Morning Consult, only 39% of teachers feel K-12 education is on the right track in their local school district, the lowest level observed in four years. Teachers' views

of K-12 education at the state and national levels are similarly grim, with only 26% and 19% feeling that it is heading in the right direction, respectively. Furthermore, only 15% of teachers said they would recommend the teaching profession to friends or family members, also at the lowest level in four years.

Late last year, Gallup surveyed teachers and the findings followed the distressing pattern. Only one-third of teachers felt engaged in their work, a sharp decline from previous years. Nearly 40% said they felt frequently burned out. One stark example of this disillusionment manifested dramatically last summer in Garfield Heights, Ohio, where approx. one-third of teachers resigned en masse ahead of the current school year.

Reasons for burnout and frustration have emerged in various surveys. EdChoice's survey shows 47% of teachers say student misbehaviors in their classrooms are more frequent this year compared to last year. According to a Pew survey of public school teachers, 67% said they don't have enough influence over disciplinary practices at their school.

To tackle these interconnected challenges, it is vital to tackle these issues in a

three-pronged approach. First, policymakers can encourage more decentralized decision-making by revamping policies for more teacher freedom and reducing bureaucratic red tape. Second, school leaders would be wise to foster a culture of trust with teachers by valuing their skillsets and expertise, providing more opportunities to be more involved in curriculum decisions and other school decision-making processes. And finally, reducing bureaucratic constraints and granting greater control over teaching methods and assessments will also restore teachers' sense of professional agency and dignity.

America's K-12 education ecosystem must evolve to meet today's workforce dynamics by offering more flexible and varied career pathways for teachers. This approach could accommodate personal and professional growth stages, making the teaching profession more sustainable and attractive.

Hopeful developments are beginning to appear on the horizon. One is the emergence and growth of microschoools, often launched by former teachers looking to create more intimate and responsive learning environments. According to a recent report from the National

Microschooling Center, 48% of prospective microschool founders, as well as 38% of current microschool founders, are currently licensed educators. A few other positive developments are the broader appeal and higher visibility of differentiated teacher pay, hybrid schooling, and tutoring. The latter has been a hot topic lately because of the growing body of research showing positive impacts on enormous challenges like student absenteeism and learning loss.

The teacher morale crash is right in front of us. Current and prospective teachers alike appear turned off or burnt out by what they see happening in K-12 education today, in both public and private sectors. During Teacher Appreciation Week, we celebrate educators, and the best way to do that is to listen to them, report their concerns, and identify opportunities for lifting morale. It is essential for states, districts, and schools to repair and overhaul the professional environment and incentives for teachers. We must ensure they have the trust, respect, and opportunities necessary to thrive and fulfill their mission to educate the next generation.

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DiPerna is the vice president of research and innovation at EdChoice, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit, nonpartisan organization working to advance educational freedom and choice for all students as a pathway to successful lives and a stronger society. Ritter is a Senior Research Associate there.

The Commercial Review



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VOLUME 151—NUMBER 11
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

www.thecr.com

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

We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer; signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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Indicates ...

Continued from page 1
Also on Monday, the Employers' Forum of Indiana launched Sage Transparency 2.0, a dashboard providing cost breakdowns and revenue information for hospitals.

The Indianapolis conference drew nearly 200 in-person attendees and dozens more online, with speakers like entrepreneur and venture capitalist Mark Cuban, national accountant experts, state legislators and patient advocates. The forum, which hosts the conference, seeks to improve health care transparency, prices and quality with an emphasis on the value for employers.

Indiana's hospital lobbying organization continued to push back against the RAND analysis, pointing to its own data on thin — or even negative — hospital margins and saying the study's data provided a "distorted" view of prices in Indiana.

"We've been rather consistent (with criticism) about the RAND reports in that they are presented, I think, without the proper context and usually with an agenda," Indiana Hospital Association President Brian Tabor told the Capital Chronicle. "When you look at the totality of what employers spend for medical services and health care services with our hospitals and health systems, you have to take into account that we have massive subsidies and financial losses associated with providing physicians."

Tabor said the study didn't include the entirety of spending on hospital and health system services, which would actually put Indiana in the middle of states in terms of costs nationwide.

He also said Monday's presentations "(beat) up on hospitals, particu-



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

U.S. Sen. Mike Braun, right, addresses attendees at a transparency conference on Monday after Employers' Forum of Indiana CEO and President Gloria Sachdev, left, honors him with an award recognizing his federal transparency efforts. Braun is also the Republican nominee in the race to succeed Gov. Eric Holcomb.

larly health systems," without providing solutions or acknowledging the full context of Indiana's low Medicaid reimbursement rates.

The biggest takeaway from the RAND study was that employers paid, on average, two-and-a-half times more than Medicare prices — a federally set number that is supposed to be close to a "breakeven" number for providers giving care.

But Chris Whaley, one of the RAND researchers and a professor at Brown University, noted that there is a lot of variation between states and within states but Indiana's prices still ranked high even when compared with its neighbors. For example, Michigan's prices compared to Medicare hovered below 200% while

Indiana was closer to 300%, on average.

"(We) collectively spend about \$1.5 trillion on health care, with the largest chunk of the pie — half a trillion dollars — going towards hospitals," Whaley said. "... hospital care, over the last few decades, has increased ... by over 200%."

Whaley said the purpose of the study was to give employers information on prices negotiated on their behalf. The analysis then compares prices at more than 4,000 hospitals and 4,000 ambulatory surgical centers with Medicare.

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This story was edited for length. To read the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Plans ...

Continued from page 1

Also Monday, commissioners heard from Jay County Development Corporation board president Angela Paxson and executive director Travis Richards. Paxson confirmed the group had received commissioners' list of points to consider regarding a contract for 2024 — JCDC met May 8 to discuss the topic — and noted the organization's executive committee will review the requests and provide a recommendation to the board.

Commissioner president Chad Aker said they don't expect all their requests to be approved and described the document as a part of the negotiation process.

"This is something that has gotten blown way out of proportion, and I think it's time to bury the hatchet on this and both start working together," he said.

Also, commissioners approved an agreement with LifeWorks Counseling and Wellness of Portland.

The business will offer anonymous counseling services to first responders working for the county as needed. Services are \$140 for the initial intake session, with 50-minute sessions at \$75 and 90-minute sessions at \$125. Aker noted the local service costs less than the county's previous provider, wellness company Mindbase.

Commissioners agreed to pay for the service out of their budget.

In other business, commissioners Brian McCalliard, Rex Journay and Aker:

•Tabled discussion on a contract with regional workforce development group Eastern Indiana Works for being a part of economic growth region 6, which would include Blackford, Delaware, Fayette, Henry, Randolph, Rush, Union and Wayne counties. County attorney Wes Schemenaur noted the contract could open up the county to a liability. Commissioners agreed to hold off on a decision until they could review a previous contract from the group.

•OK'd purchasing another Western Star truck from Stoops of Fort Wayne to be delivered in 2025. The vehicle priced at \$134,510 with a five-year

extended warranty and other additions matched the same price commissioners agreed to for a truck in April for Jay County Highway Department. A representative from Stoops noted plans to roll out a new engine in 2026 — Environmental Protection Agency is setting a new standard in 2027 for diesel emissions — and suggested commissioners either purchase one of the limited supplies of trucks before the change over or hold off purchasing a new truck for at least a year.

•Approved the following: an annual pass-through agreement with LifeStream Services totaling around \$1.2 million for transportation services in East Central Indiana; to pay B&D \$54,856 for repairs to the building currently being used to store salt at Jay County Highway Department; a \$17,747.21 claim from Municipal Emergency Services for Jay County Sheriff's Department; \$7,844 from Skymax Containers for a new container at the highway department; an annual request of \$5,000 in economic development income tax (EDIT) funds for Jay County 4th of July Committee; a \$3,500 claim for Portland Rockets; a \$3,250 contract and a \$250 monthly fee with Bug Free Pest Control to treat Jay County Country Living (bed bugs were discovered in two residents' rooms); and a \$2,483.98 from Dell Marketing for laptops at the sheriff's department.

•Discussed purchasing flooring for Jay County Country Living from Geneva resident John Hilty, with commissioners approving the purchase — it was originally \$18,825 before a decision to upgrade the flooring type — pending insurance approval. The facility received a \$43,320 reimbursable grant from the Indiana Residential Care Assistance Program and plans to do renovations with the dollars, which must be spent by June 30.

•Heard an update from John Hemmelgarn of Jay/Portland Building and Planning. Hemmelgarn noted 50 permits were issued between January and April, with three new home permits and six commercial use permits.

Addresses ...

Continued from page 1

During the Jan. 8 council meeting, Tim Hill of well-drilling contractor Peerless Midwest of Mishawaka, indicated that the city's options for new wells are limited because most of the city is built over rock. The more suitable areas for wells are further away and would require either running a water main to the city's treatment plant or having a small plant on site, both of which he said would be costly.

Robbins said after the meeting that the city could look at bringing Well No. 3 back into service. (Water superintendent Brock Farmer previously said he would like to see the city add 300 gallons per minute to its current capacity.)

The council also heard an update from community coordinator Nate Kimball regarding the upcoming owner-occupied rehabilitation program.

Applications for the

program will be open from May 28 through June 28. They will be available in the auditor's office at Jay County Courthouse, Kimball's office at the Community Resource Center in Portland, Redkey Town Hall and Dunkirk's city building. Applications will also be available to print at jay-county.net.

Mostly funded through a \$1 million grant through the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs (OCRA) for the county's participation in the Hoosier Enduring Legacy Program (HELP), the program will help residents pay for home improvements such as replacing a roof, water heater or heating, ventilation and air conditioning unit, doing electrical work or making a home more accessible. Applications will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis.

In other business:
•Council congratulated Robbins on winning the Dunkirk Community Commitment Award at Saturday's Jay County Community Awards dinner and ceremony.

•Revolt reported that work is continuing on the walking trail at Dunkirk City Park. The project, being handled by Brooks Construction of Fort Wayne, is expected to be complete by the end of May.

•Council canceled its regular meeting scheduled for May 25, which is Memorial Day. Its next meeting will be June 10.

•Robbins asked about the status of vacating the alley west of Mt. Tabor Community Church, 216 W. Pleasant St., which the council approved in February. Schemenaur said he would look into it.

•Council learned former Redkey clerk-treasurer Mary Eley has been hired as Dunkirk's deputy

clerk. She will start in that role on Monday.

•Bivens said he is working on getting a quote for a new front door for the city building. Robbins got one quote but had been having difficulty getting a second.

•Council approved the following sponsorships: \$250 for the West Jay Optimist Club fishing derby; \$200 for the West Jay Optimist Club Joe Doyle Memorial Golf Outing; \$100 for the Dunkirk Kiwanis golf outing; and \$100 for Jay County 4-H.

•Farmer thanked Revolt for providing city workers with refreshments while they worked on a recent water main break. Watson thanked all city employees who were involved in fixing the water main.

•Murphy noted that repairs to the street department's truck are complete. It needed multiple valves replaced at a cost of about \$2,100.

•Council paid claims totaling \$1,633,998.60.

Felony court news

Continued from page 2

She was sentenced to 730 days in Indiana Department of Correction with all but 116 days suspended and given credit for time served. Costello was assessed \$189 in court costs.

Charlene E. Leist-Herald, 55, pleaded in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to 730 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given 166 days credit for time served. Leist-Herald

was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay \$7,635.16 in restitution to Jason Ferguson.

Seth Chaffins, 38, 6246 W. Indiana 18, Bryant, pleaded in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 730 days in Jay County Jail with all but 180 days suspended and given 118 days credit for time served. Chaffins was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay \$18,944.75 in restitution to Brandy Feldhake.

Common nuisance

A Portland man was sentenced to jail for maintaining a common nuisance.

Dillion W. Stolz, 32, 5211 N. 350 East, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail and given 142 days credit for time served. Stolz was assessed \$189 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for pos-

session of methamphetamine, a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia were dismissed.

Theft

Two women were sentenced to prison for theft.

Bethany J. Howard, 32, 128 W. Third St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sen-

tenced to 450 days in Indiana Department of Correction, fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of her plea agreement, a Class C misdemeanor for criminal trespassing was dismissed.

Raven N. Howard, 26, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. She was sentenced to Indiana Department of Correction for four days and given four days credit. Howard was assessed \$189 in court costs.

Randolph County graduation

Thursday, May 23 - N-G*

JCHS graduation

Wednesday, May 29 - CR/NS*

Blackford graduation

Wednesday, May 29 - NT*

Senior Citizens

Wednesday, June 19 - UNIV*

Jay County Fair

Wednesday, July 3 - CR/NS*

Marching Patriots

Wednesday, July 10 - CR/NS*

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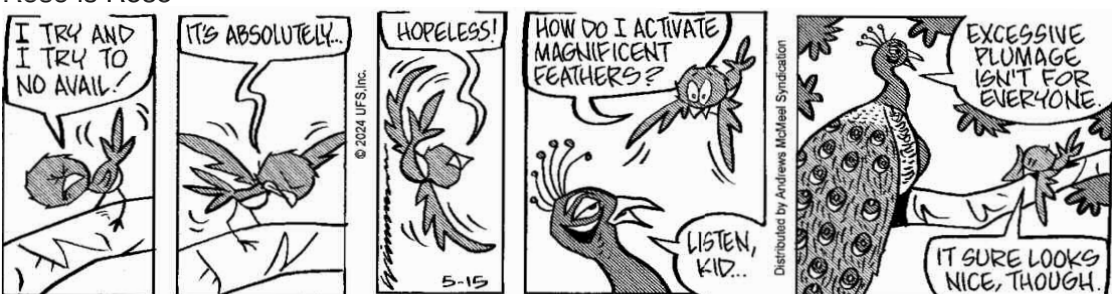
THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The one and only chance

East dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: ♠K 52, ♥Q 74, ♦K Q 9, ♣J 10 6 3. WEST: ♠10 7 3, ♥J 8 3 2, ♦J 10 7 6 4, ♣4. EAST: ♠Q J 6, ♥A 10 9 6 5, ♦A 8 2, ♣K 7. SOUTH: ♠A 9 8 4, ♥K, ♦5 3, ♣A Q 9 8 5 2.

diamond. True, you might also lose a trump trick, but you should discount that possibility because East almost surely has the king of clubs for his opening bid.

Despite this dim outlook, though, you should try to visualize a lie of the opposing cards that might give you a chance for the contract. It can't be right to just give up without a fight.

This brings you to the conclusion that while there is practically no chance that West could hold the ace of diamonds, there is a chance that he might have the J-10 of that suit.

Accordingly, you discard a spade on the heart queen at trick two and lead the jack of clubs from dummy. When the jack wins, you continue with a trump to the ace and then lead a diamond toward the K-Q-9.

After West follows low, you insert the nine, hoping it will force East's ace. Luckily, this long shot comes through, and you later discard a spade on one of dummy's high diamonds to make your game.

Note that even if dummy's nine loses to the ten or jack, you still go down only one. A second diamond lead later will force out the ace, allowing you to avoid a spade loser.

Tomorrow: The art of conversation. ©2024 King Features Syndicate Inc.

5-15 CRYPTOQUIP

Q X V L F X V M H E B V D U Y D O V P X N G U N D G F T H L M V N L F X V M E O ' G J V D Y K N I G I T J G G , N F Q J G J K N M G F V B U Y D Q J D P . Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF IRELAND'S LEADERS OPTED TO ENLARGE THE CAPITAL CITY TWOFOLD, THEY WOULD BE DOUBLING DUBLIN. Today's Cryptoquip Clue: E equals Y

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 28 First half of an LP of peace, 30 Poke -tung, 36 Prison chief, 4 Upper body, 5 Cranial cavity, 6 Carolina college, 7 Run off, 8 Wind, 9 Novelist, 10 MSNBC rival, 12 - Vader, 14 Scraps, 15 Still, 16 Born abroad?, 17 Two-tone cookies, 18 Tramcar filler, 19 Failed at-bats, 20 Pooch, 21 Answers an Evite, 23 Flooded, 25 Erte's style, 26 Texter's "As I see it", 27 "Unh-unh". DOWN: 2 Unwanted breakout, 3 Assemble anew, 4 King of China, 21 Kingdom, 22 Unstressed vowel sounds, 23 "So be it", 24 Hypotheticals, 25 "CSI" evidence, 26 Terse denial, 28 Lebanon's neighbor, 29 Capri, to a local, 30 "Last Supper" figure, 31 Antiquing aid, 32 Automation, for short, 34 "- boy!", 35 Med. plan options.

Solution time: 23 mins. A crossword grid with letters filled in for the crossword puzzle.

Yesterday's answer 5-15. A crossword grid with numbers indicating starting positions for the previous day's puzzle.

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Silence ...

Continued from page 8
Wyatt Foster, a pinch runner for Sommers, reached home on the next at bat as Delta third baseman Campbell Light threw the ball away.
At that point, Wilburn had enough and pulled his team into a huddle outside the dugout to talk about the poor start.
“One thing that we always talk about is not ‘riding the roller coaster’ and that’s something our team typically does,” Wilburn said. “We have a really laid back group ... sometimes it’s good and they don’t let the moment get too big for them but sometimes they don’t bring it enough like they should.”
“I just talked to them like, ‘Hey, quit riding the roller coaster. We can’t

only get up for the big games and the big moments, these ones matter too and count just as much.”
“I was frustrated with that because we talked about that before the game. ... They responded well and got a couple of big swings, some guys drove in some runs and took the pressure off a little bit.”
Hits didn’t immediately come in the fourth inning, but the message was received. After Cody Rowles recorded two outs and allowed two runners to reach base on a walk and a hit-by-pitch, Light connected with a ball that went to deep left field. Aiden Phillips failed to get under the ball and missed when he tried to jump and catch it, allow-

ing both runners to score.
Delta finally got its first hit of the game in the fifth inning as Cline led off with a single up the middle. Later, Kaeb Stebins smacked a single through the right side of the infield to plate Cline and tie the game.
The Patriots moved to their bullpen with A.J. Myers, who struck out the first batter he faced. He couldn’t hold the fort down for long as Lane Norton delivered an RBI single to left field that gave Delta its first lead.
Delta piled on four more runs in the sixth inning on a triple by Cline, a single by Ritchie, and errors by Ryne Goldsworthy and Schemanour.
The Patriots may get an opportunity to try to

exact some revenge on the Eagles, as both teams compete in the IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 hosted by Yorktown. They start on opposite sides of the bracket in the semifinals before a potential matchup in the championship game.
Farr wants his team to just move forward from the recent losses and get back to playing winning baseball during this final week of the regular season.
“We’ve just got to get to work and come back at it,” Farr said. “There’s a possibility that we’ll see these guys down the road, so we’re going to get after it. We aren’t going to hang our heads or anything like that ... we can’t sit and stew on it too long.”



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County right fielder Leighton Brown fields a ball during the fifth inning of the Patriots’ 8-4 loss at Delta Monday. The single drove in the tying run for the Eagles.

Roundup ...

Continued from page 8
All-MAC announced
Four members of the Fort Recovery softball team received all Midwest Athletic Conference honors on Monday.
The Indians (12-12) had one representative on the First Team All-MAC that ended up being 17 players deep. Emma Will received the spot after leading FRHS in batting average (.382), on base percentage (.411), hits (34), runs (34) and triples (2).
Both Jenna Homan and Ella Schoen got named to the second team. They followed Will in batting average, sporting .381 and .375, respectively. They both led FRHS with eight doubles and Homan filled the role of the Indians’ primary pitcher, eating up 109 innings with a 4.37 ERA.

Ava Grisez was listed as an honorable mention. The junior earned the fourth-best batting average of .345 while leading the Indians with three home runs and 22 RBIs.
Shimp doubles
MONROEVILLE — A two-out double by Zoey Shimp propelled the Jay County softball team to a 3-2 victory on Monday against the Heritage Patriots.
JCHS got its first run in the second inning off of a sacrifice fly by Carley Trinidad.
The first two Jay County (13-4, 4-2 Allen County Athletic Conference) batters struck out to begin the third. Following up the outs, Riah Champ and Jaelynn Lykins reached base on a walk and a single, respectively.

With two outs, Shimp watched the first two pitches before blasting a double to right field to get the runs home.
Heritage (8-8, 3-2 ACAC) answered with two runs in the bottom of the third, but they couldn’t tie the game up over the final four frames. Runs scored on a Danica Fuller double and an Abriyah James single.
Mallory Winner held on for Jay County in the circle. She went the distance, striking out four batters without issuing a walk. She gave up two runs on nine hits.
Tribe dominates
FORT RECOVERY — The Fort Recovery baseball team dominated the Spencerville Bearcats 11-1 in an added game Monday.

The Indians (9-11) didn’t get their offense going right away, but rattled off five runs in the fourth inning to take a commanding 6-0 lead. They tacked on three more in the fifth and two in the sixth to end the game early by the mercy rule.
Riggs Tobe had the strongest day at the plate with three RBIs, two runs, two hits and two walks. He also walked off the game against the Bearcats (3-19) with a bases loaded walk.
Spencerville’s only run came in the top of the fifth inning on a single by Cooper Chapman.
Reece Evers secured the win by tossing five innings for Fort Recovery, while striking out seven Bearcats. He surrendered six hits and one walk, while only allowing one run.

Hines leads
MUNCIE — The Jay County Junior High golf team edged past Daleville 238-240 in the first nine-hole match it played this year on Monday at Crestview Golf Club.
Karson Hines led the Patriots with 42 strokes. He only parred the first hole, but shot bogeys on the third, fourth, sixth and eighth holes.
Camden Buckland wasn’t far behind with a score of 48. Buckland shot par twice in the match on holes No. 2 and 9.
Tying for the third best score, Tobe Swartzentruber and Bailey Towel both had 48s.
Because Daleville calculated all five scores to come to the team score, Crystal Swartzentruber’s 55 strokes came into play for the Patriots’ victory.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Girls tennis sectional vs. Randolph Southern — 5 p.m.
Fort Recovery — Track district prelims at Spencerville — 4 p.m.
Thursday
Jay County — Boys Track sectional at Delta — 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. Belmont — 5 p.m.; Softball at Huntington North — 5:30 p.m.; Junior high baseball vs. McCullouch — 5:30 p.m.

TV sports

Today
1 p.m. — NBA draft combine (ESPN2)
3 p.m. — Premier League: Newcastle United at Manchester United (USA)
3:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Arizona Diamondbacks (Bally Indiana)
7 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Cleveland Cavaliers at Boston Celtics (TNT)
8 p.m. — NHL playoffs: Colorado Avalanche at Dallas Stars (ESPN)
9 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Los Angeles Angels (Bally Indiana)
9:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Dallas

Mavericks at Oklahoma City Thunder (TNT)

Thursday
11 a.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN2)
12 p.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN)
1 p.m. — PGA Championship: Valhalla Golf Club (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NHL playoffs: New York Rangers at Carolina Hurricanes (TNT)
8:30 p.m. — NBA playoffs: Denver Nuggets at Minnesota Timberwolves

(ESPN)
10:10 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Los Angeles Dodgers (Bally Indiana)

Local notes

JCC outing set
The 22nd iteration of the annual J. Jordan 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 honoree 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 Outing has been scheduled for Friday, June 14, at Portland Golf Club.
Registration 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 four-person teams at this time. Registration is limited to the first 20 teams and must be completed by June 10 and submitted to 321 N. Meridian St., emailing mayorsoffice@thecityof-portland.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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Accepting consignments every evening that week from 4pm-8pm and all day Thursday, May 30th/Friday, May 31st from 7am-8pm. Call 260-589-2743 Leave message to consign horses. Auctioneers John P. Troyer AU10900141 Also with J. S. Auctions AU10700049</p>	<p>PUBLIC AUCTION SATURDAY May 18th, 2024 TIME 10:00 A.M. LOCATED: 7052 W 350 S. Dunkirk IN Open House: Sunday May 5th 1-3pm or for private showing phone auctioneers. REAL ESTATE 2 Bedroom, 2 full bath, Ranch style home containing 1320 sq feet of finished living area. Central air. 30x64 and 24x40 Pole Barns. 14x20 3 sided building. Utility shed. TRACTOR – VEHICLES – ENGINES – SHOP TOOLS Allis’ Chalmers 5030 with 430 loader with 1326 hours. ’93 Dodge Dakota V6 engine. 1976 350 Chevy Engine 4 bolt main with transfer case. Ford 390 big block Engine with C-6 trans. ’85 Chevy 350 Engine with 400 turbo trans. Troybilt and Huskee rear tine tillers. Stihl battery operated weed eater. Magna Force 5 horse power twin stage air compressor. 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Sports

Eagles silence Patriots

Schemenaur picks up two hits as Jay County struggles with the sticks against Delta

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

MUNCIE — The Eagles and Patriots played sloppy out of the gate.

Over the first four innings, five runs scored and none of them were earned.

A pep talk got the Eagles out of their funk, allowing them to take over the game.

Jay County High School's baseball team had a 3-0 lead but things began to unravel in the fourth inning after Delta coach Devin Wilburn laid into his team, inspiring the Eagles to clean up their act and get the bat on the ball as they came back to hand the Patriots an 8-4 loss Monday.

Jay County (11-11) was looking good early. Despite only one hit through the first four innings — a single to left field by Drew Schemenaur — it developed a 3-0 lead.

Schemenaur earned the only hits for JCHS in the contest, slashing singles in the first and seventh innings. He also had one of two RBIs, the other coming from Parker Nichols.

"We just haven't been hitting the ball all of late in the last few games," JCHS coach Todd Farr said. "If you're not hitting the ball, you're not going to win very many ball games."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School left fielder Jackson Edwards lays out for a fly ball in the fifth inning against the Delta Eagles on Monday. The ball just dropped in for a base hit to drive in a run and extend the lead to two runs. Delta beat JCHS 8-4 in the game.

The Eagles (13-8) committed five errors over the first half of the game to allow the Patriots to score. Kaeb Stebbins threw a leadoff walk to

Jackson Edwards before Schemenaur's hit put two runners on base.

Back-to-back errors by Zane Cline at second base and Gavin Case in right

field allowed the runs to score.

The third run crossed as the result of a trio of errors in the fourth inning. Ryne Goldswor-

thy initially reached base by an error on Everett Linn at shortstop. Two batters later, Kade Sommers hit a ground ball to shortstop that could have

Box score					
Delta Eagles vs. Jay County Patriots					
Jay County (11-11)					
	ab	r	h	bi	
Edwards cf	2	1	0	0	
Schemenaur c	4	0	2	1	
Jetmore cr	0	1	0	0	
SMyers ss	3	0	0	0	
Nichols 3b	4	0	0	1	
Goldsworthy 1b	2	0	0	0	
Phillips lf	3	0	0	0	
Sommers dh	3	0	0	0	
Foster pr	0	1	0	0	
Brown rf	3	0	0	0	
Rowles p	3	1	0	0	
Totals	27	4	2	2	
Delta (13-8)					
	ab	r	h	bi	
Light 3b	2	0	0	0	
Linn ss	4	1	0	0	
Cline 2b	3	2	1	0	
Stroble 2b	0	0	0	0	
Roach 1b	4	0	0	0	
Williams pr	0	1	0	0	
Case rf	2	2	0	0	
Stebbins p	4	0	1	1	
Ritchie cf	2	1	1	1	
Norton c	2	0	1	1	
Neal lf	2	1	0	0	
Phillips lf	0	0	0	0	
Totals	25	8	5	4	
Jay County	200	100	1	4	
Delta	000	224	X	8	
LOB — Jay County 6, Delta 12. 3B — Delta 1 (Roach). SB — Delta 2 (Ritchie, Neal).					
IP H R ER BB SO					
Jay County					
Rowles	4.1	2	4	2	4
A.J. Myers	0.2	2	4	1	2
Nichols	1	1	0	0	1
Delta					
Stebbins	7	2	4	0	6

Patriots draw Rebels

ALEXANDRIA — The Patriots now know their sectional opponents and it's the one team they have yet to play.

The ISHAA announced the girls tennis sectional matchups on Monday evening and the Jay County High School girls tennis team drew the Randolph Southern Rebels in the Sectional 53 hosted by Jay County.

The Patriots (7-6) and Rebels will square off today at 5 p.m. on one court as the Winchester Falcons take on the Union City Indians in the other semifinal.

JCHS previously beat Winchester and Union City 4-1 in both matchups. The match against Randolph Southern on May 7 got canceled due to weather concerns.

The championship match will take place at 5 p.m. on Thursday.

Jay County also fell to the Alexandria-Monroe Tigers 3-2 in the regular season finale.

Local roundup

Brenna Bailey and Maggie Dillon dominated the No. 2 and 3 singles matches for JCHS. Dillon swept her opponent, while Bailey only surrendered one game for a 6-1, 6-0 victory.

Zion Beiswanger and Lucie Henneaux forced a third set, but ultimately fell in the No. 2 doubles contest 6-2, 2-6, 6-1.

Meredith Dirksen and Sophia Sprunger also dropped their No. 1 doubles match 6-1, 6-4.

Brenna Hanies fell as the only singles player to not secure a win. She slipped up 7-5, 6-3 in the No. 1 singles contest.

See Roundup page 7

Wings and Rings picks up first win

Joyce Dayton and Wings and Rings had no shortage of offense in the season opener for the two teams. The latter just happened to produce a few extra runs.

Wings and Rings came out on top of Joyce Dayton 11-9 on Monday in Portland Junior League Rookie softball.

Three players went 3-for-3 at the plate for Wings and Rings. Skye Ingram eventually scored after all three hits, while Hayden Guggenbiller came around twice. Kinslee Kavy was the other player with three hits.

Charlie Taylor had the only extra base hit for Wings and Rings with a double.

Adalyn Overla led Joyce Dayton's offense with four hits and four runs. Four more players contributed three hits, including Annabelle Wiggins who scored twice as well.

Offense overwhelms

Cooks Nursery's offense was too much for Pak-A-Sak, leading to a 17-8 victory in Portland Junior

Youth roundup

League Rookie baseball on Monday.

Four players notched four hits for Cooks Nursery, while two more added three. Kayden Alberson, Kolby Armstrong, Trey Hirschey and Brantley Sager were the four players with four hits.

Hirschey and Alberson provided the power for Cooks Nursery with three extra-base hits each. Hirschey smashed two doubles and a triple, while Alberson added three doubles.

Ricky Heitkamp put together the best day at the plate for Pak-A-Sak, going 3-for-3.

Five players had two hits, including Cage Reynolds, who drove in four runs.

Day leads

Crossroads started its season with a 10-5 win over Fisher Meats on Monday in

Portland Junior League Rookie softball play.

Six players had multiple hits for Crossroads. Paisley Day had two of the strongest plate appearances with a home run and a double. Kierstyn White also hit a home run, while adding a single.

Kynlee Homan also had an extra-base hit with a triple and a single. The only double was hit by Lilah Hudson.

Day, Homan and Kendall Snow all pitched for Crossroads in the victory.

The Rock wins

The Rock narrowly escaped with a 7-5 victory over FCC on Monday night in Portland Junior League Rookie softball.

Ellie Wiggins and Adalee Rigby both went 2-for-2 with an extra-base hit. Wiggins hit a triple and scored two runs, while Rigby touched home plate once and hit a double.

Emma McGill also smacked a double and drove in a pair of runs.

Emalee Aker, Carsyn Guggenbiller and Maggie Westgerdes all scored a run, and added two stolen bases each as well.

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