

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Mrs. P's passion



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Jane Prescott, pictured above, and Steve Prescott opened Mrs. P's Kitchen on March 9. The business offers baked goods, fudge, candy and other treats. Mrs. P's Kitchen also provides catering services.

Prescott's new bakery and candy shop in Portland is decorated with mementos from former students

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Jane Prescott has been a teacher by day and baker by night.

Known by her students as "Mrs. P," she decided the name of her newly established shop should reflect both her passions.

Jane Prescott and her husband, Steve, opened Mrs. P's Kitchen on March 9.

It's in the shop formerly occupied by Sharlette's Fudgery and Candies at 112 S. Meridian St., Portland.

Keeping with the fudge and candy business, Mrs. P's Kitchen offers eight to 10 flavors of fudge at any given time and a wide variety of bagged chocolates. Mrs. P's Kitchen creates bakery goods, serving everything from cookies and cupcakes to cinnamon rolls and doughnuts, as well as other treats. The business also offers catering services.

During the school year, Jane Prescott spent her mornings teaching first graders at East Elementary and her evenings at the shop.

"Teacher by day, baker by night," said Prescott, who previously taught at Redkey Elementary School.

Various mementos from former students over the years have trickled their way into her store — they include a "Joe Cool" Peanuts Snoopy figure near the register and a wooden pencil sign with her name written on it in the front window.

Baking is a stress-reliever for Prescott, who thrives on multitasking. She has been professionally baking for about a decade,

starting with selling baked goods at farmers markets with her youngest son, Hunter. "Cookies for College," as they called their stand, went toward Hunter's college expenses about seven or eight years ago.

She also worked with Bearcreek Farms for more than 20 years as an adult. Her service to the business dates back into her youth.

"I bussed my first table at, I don't know, maybe 10," she recalled.

See **Passion** page 2

Package of \$225 million in aid goes to Ukraine

By MICHELLE JAMRISKO and JORDAN FABIAN

Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service

President Joe Biden announced a new \$225 million aid package for Ukraine during a meeting with his counterpart, Volodymyr Zelenskyy, and pledged continued U.S. support as Kyiv looks to turn the tide in the war with Russia.

Biden said Friday part of the aid package would help Ukraine rebuild its electrical grid, which has been decimated by Russian attacks. It also includes ammunition that Ukrainian forces could use to strike targets inside Russia from the epicenter of fighting in Kharkiv, according to The Associated Press.

"I'm not going to walk away from you," Biden told Zelenskyy. "We're still in completely, thoroughly."

The contrite-sounding U.S. president apologized to the Ukrainian leader "for the weeks of not knowing" if more U.S. assistance would be approved when Republicans held up an aid package. "We got it done finally," Biden said.

Biden and Zelenskyy met in Paris where they are participating in ceremonies to mark the 80th anniversary of the D-Day landings, which helped the Allies reverse the momentum against Nazi Germany during World War II. Biden has used the events to highlight the need to sustain support for Kyiv, linking the war to the Allied effort to defeat Nazi Germany and preserve democracy eight decades ago.

Zelenskyy said their meeting in Paris was "very symbolic" and that "it's very important you stay with us," thanking Biden for the new aid package.

See **Aid** page 2

Ellspermann retiring

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

After eight years as president of Ivy Tech Community College of Indiana, Sue Ellspermann announced her impending retirement at a board of trustees meeting on Thursday.

Ellspermann, who has led the college since 2016, is Ivy Tech's ninth president — and the first woman to hold the position. She said she will officially step down at the end of her contract, which expires June 30, 2025.

In her explanation, Ellspermann told the Ivy Tech Board of Trustees she's expecting her 10th grandchild. Her husband, she added, "has already retired twice."

"The college has, over these last eight years, grown into an institution that is achieving record growth out-

comes and impact. Further, the college has exceptional leaders who are even more capable of shepherding our continued growth and service to Indiana, and talented, innovative faculty and staff committed to our mission, our students and our communities," she said. "So, that's why I know it is a good time — the right time — for a new leader. It's been an incredible honor, an honor of a lifetime to serve as Ivy Teto serve as Ivy Tech's president."

Under her leadership, she helped Ivy Tech bolster its career development services and launch the first Industry 4.0 associate degree. She also led the development of Ivy Tech's new strategic plan, which focuses on better preparing students to meet Indiana's skilled workforce needs.

In a Thursday interview with the Indiana Capital Chronicle, Ellspermann cited those efforts as some her proudest.

See **Retiring** page 2



Ivy Tech Community College

Ivy Tech Community College President Sue Ellspermann has announced her intention to retire. Ellspermann, who has led the college since 2016, is Ivy Tech's ninth president — and the first woman to hold the position.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 79 degrees Friday. The low was 59.

Skies will be mostly cloudy Saturday with a high in the upper 70s.

Tonight's low will be around 60 with a 30% chance of showers and winds gusting to 20

miles per hour. Skies will be mostly sunny Sunday with a high in the upper 70s and a 20% chance of rain. Expect a low in the mid 50s followed by mostly sunny skies Monday with a high in the lower 70s.

For an extended forecast, see page 2.

Correction

There was an error in a story in Thursday's newspaper regarding an upcoming event. Portland Elks will host a fundraiser for Jayland Partners, which will include a Flag Day Ceremony, on Friday at Good-Rich Brewery. The fundraiser will run from 5 to 9 p.m. with the Flag Day Ceremony at 6 p.m.

Coming up

Tuesday — Results from the FRHS baseball team at the state finals.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.

Thursday — Results from the Portland Rockets' game against the Muncie Chiefs.



Passion ...

Continued from page 1
Former store owners Sharlette and Ron Cole passed the keys over to the Prescotts on March 1. They had served treats to the community from the space along Meridian Street near the Community Resource Center for two decades.

A Bluffton native, Jane Prescott has lived in Portland for about 35 years. Something had always drawn her to the corner where Sharlette's Fudgery and Candies stood.

She knew Sharlette Cole, having purchased items from time

to time at the fudgery. When she learned the Coles had been considering selling their business, the wheels started turning.

"(Steve and I) did a lot of soul searching, and we decided it could be something that we could do together as we get older," she said.

Given her background, Jane Prescott's focus for the shop has shifted to offering more types of baked goods alongside the fudge and candy goodies.

"That's really my first love," she said.

Other items in stock at her

store include jams, jellies, mustards, sauces, pretzels and granola, drink, dip and cheeseball mixes. She mentioned plans Friday to start selling pickles, noodles and glass bottled sodas next week and hopes to begin offering to-go breakfast and lunch meals this summer. Prescott wants to keep a rotating stock of different items.

"I like to keep it fresh and new," she said. "I think that's important."

She's also been catering meals and treats for events, including dinner for the Jay County Community Awards on

May 11 and various graduation parties this week.

Now that school is out for the summer, the store's hours are 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays. If folks notice the lights are on and decide to stop by, she added, just knock.

With Prescott taking over the business, Sharlette Cole planned to spend her newly found free time gardening and traveling. She hoped to visit her son, daughter-in-law and grandson in Syracuse more often.

Prescott took her turn as the

student Feb. 29 when she and Cole made a batch of fudge together during Cole's last day at the shop. Cole spoke confidently about the decision to pass the baton to Prescott.

"I couldn't ask for a better person to have come in here," said Cole. "She's just as particular as I am, and she makes things look really great. She's creative, you know, she's already got the background for baking her cupcakes and catering and everything. She's the perfect one that I can walk away and know all my customers and corporate orders will be taken care of."

CR almanac

Sunday 6/9	Monday 6/10	Tuesday 6/11	Wednesday 6/12	Thursday 6/13
75/55	72/49	76/56	81/60	88/66
Mostly sunny skies are in the forecast for Sunday, when the high will be in the upper 70s.	Another day of mostly sunny skies Monday, with a low at night in the 40s.	Mostly sunny skies are expected Tuesday. The low is in the mid to upper 50s.	Wednesday's weather looks to be mostly sunny when the high will be in the low 80s.	Sunny skies are expected Thursday when the high will be in the upper 80s.

Lotteries

Hoosier
Midday
Daily Three: 1-3-6
Daily Four: 5-4-2-7
Quick Draw: 7-11-13-15-19-25-27-29-33-36-42-48-50-53-57-60-65-66-71-74

Pick 5: 6-9-8-1-1
Evening
Rolling Cash: 22-26-28-31-37
Jackpot: \$206,000

Powerball
Estimated jackpot: \$206 million

Ohio
Midday
Pick 3: 2-0-7
Pick 4: 8-9-3-2

Mega Millions
Estimated jackpot: \$20 million

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery
Corn.....4.42
July corn.....4.42
Wheat5.18

POET Biorefining Portland
Corn.....4.44
July corn.....4.39
Oct. corn4.42

The Andersons Richland Township
Corn4.34
July corn.....4.34
Beans11.71

July beans11.67
Wheat5.88

ADM Montpelier
Corn.....4.27
July corn.....4.29
Beans11.69
July beans11.63
Wheat5.87

Heartland St. Anthony
Corn.....4.39
July corn.....4.39
Beans11.44
July beans11.49
Wheat6.68

Today in history

In 452, Attila the Hun invaded Italy.

In 632, Muhammad, the founder of Islam, died in Medina in what is now Saudi Arabia.

In 1191, King Richard I joined the Crusaders in Acre in what is now Israel.

In 1789, James Madison introduced a proposed Bill of Rights in the U.S. House of Representatives.

In 1867, American architect Frank Lloyd Wright was born in Richland Center, Wisconsin.

In 2006, Jay County Plan Commission discussed proposed regulations for confined feeding operations following a comprehensive study that was completed in 2005.

In 2012, the Jay County High School boys golf team shot 354 to finish 11th out of 12 teams in the regional tournament at The Players Club in Yorktown.

In 2013, the Portland Rockets returned home from a seven-game road trip to sweep a doubleheader with wins of 8-4 and 12-1 in five innings over Brandt Harley.

In 2022, Jay County Council gave county clerk Jon Eads the go-ahead to include an additional \$90,000 into his 2023 budget for the purchase of additional voting equipment.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

Monday
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
1 p.m. — Jay County Personnel Committee, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board of Trustees, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St.
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building,

131 S. Main St.
7 p.m. — Fort Recovery Park Board, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

Wednesday
1 p.m. — Jay County Sheriff's Merit Board, training room, sheriff's office, 224 W. Water St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
4:15 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.
6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.

Retiring ...

Continued from page 1

She also pointed to the college's new flat-rate tuition model for those who enroll in more than 12 credits worth of classes, as well as a program providing free textbooks to students for required courses.

"All of the improvements we've made ... what we're doing is hand in glove with the Indiana Economic Development Corporation to help recruit SK Hynix and Samsung and so on to Indiana," she said. "It's a privilege to do the skills training, the degrees, that they need to have a successful workforce."

Ellspermann said further building out Ivy Tech's skills training options and providing Hoosier adult learners access to "the credentials of value that our employers want" will be top-of-list for her successor.

Prior to leading Ivy Tech, Ellspermann served as a state representative from 2010 to 2012 for District 74, which encompasses multiple counties in rural southwest Indiana.

As a legislator, Ellspermann served on commerce and labor committees and co-authored the state's right-to-work law "that has

since attracted robust economic development to Indiana," according to her Ivy Tech biography.

She was later lieutenant governor under former Gov. Mike Pence. In that role, Ellspermann served as vice chair of the Indiana Career Council and the Indiana State Workforce Investment Board.

She resigned before the completion of her term in March 2016 to become president of Ivy Tech. Pence ultimately appointed now-Gov. Eric Holcomb to serve out the remainder of her term.

Aside from politics, Ellspermann was previously the founding director of the Center of Applied Research and Economic Development at the University of Southern Indiana from 2006 to 2012.

Earlier in her career, she held operations and engineering positions at Frito-Lay, Michelin Tire Corporation and General Motors.

Currently, Ellspermann chairs the Central Indiana Corporate Partnership Board of Directors and serves on the Governor's Workforce Cabinet, Indiana Chamber, Indy Chamber, Applied Research Institute, Strada Education Foundation and Center for Leadership Development boards. Her corporate board service includes

OneAmerica, German American Bancorp and OFS.

Ellspermann holds doctorate and masters degrees from the University of Louisville in Industrial Engineering, as well as a bachelor's from Purdue University in Industrial Engineering.

"I've never worked at a place like this. Ivy Tech is really special. The culture is great. The people work hard, and the focus is on doing the right thing — to serve our students and our community," she said Thursday. "It's been so much fun for me to watch new employees fall in love, and truly fall in love, with Ivy Tech. I know, because I fell in love eight years ago."

"I hope that by announcing the year out, this provides the board plenty of time to complete an exceptional presidential search," Ellspermann continued. "Together, we will have and create a smooth other transition, and we can use this year to further elevate the college, our campuses and our programs."

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

Aid ...

Continued from page 1

Ukraine is facing a renewed Russian offensive and stepped-up air attacks on its cities as Moscow capitalizes on the months-long delay in new U.S. aid that left Kyiv facing weapons shortages.

The U.S. and other nations have stepped up their negotiations to secure an agreement on how to utilize seized Russian assets to provide as much as \$50 billion in critical financing for Ukraine — funds that will help shield the country from political shifts in allied nations.

Biden is also allowing Ukraine to strike some military targets within Russia using U.S.-provided weapons, a move he long resisted over fears that it could draw other countries into the war. In an interview Thursday, Biden sought to characterize the move as limited in scope to certain Russian targets across the border, saying that the U.S. was not "authorizing strikes on Moscow, on the Kremlin."

Biden is also set to meet Zelenskyy next week on the sidelines of the Group of Seven summit in Italy, but he will not be attending an upcoming peace summit in Switzerland, a decision that has rankled the Ukrainian leader. Biden has a previously scheduled high-dollar political fundraiser in Los Angeles featuring former President Barack Obama and Hollywood stars

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George Clooney and Julia Roberts.
National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan and Vice Presidential Kamala Harris will attend the summit instead. Zelenskyy said Friday he was "thankful" for the U.S. delegation's participation.

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June 15
Weaver, Larry: 10:30 a.m., Akron Community Center, 815 Rural St., Akron, Indiana.

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Program increases food access

By MEGAN ULU-LANI BOYANTON

The Denver Post
Tribune News Service

BOULDER, Colo. — A slice of the nearly \$29 million that Boulder collected during the first six and a half years of a voter-passed soda tax has provided low-income residents with extra money to buy fresh produce from local businesses.

It's one of many ways the city has directed revenue from that unusual tax to a range of programs focused on improving health equity in the community.

Maria Fraire, one of nearly 1,500 people across 370 families now enrolled in the Fruit & Veg Boulder program, has relied on the monthly stipend to sustain her vegan diet, typically shopping at Whole Foods. She's been part of the initiative for about a year, receiving the maximum \$80 per month toward produce purchases for her family.

"My breakfast is vegetables; my lunch is vegetables," she said in Spanish. Originally from Zacatecas, Mexico, Fraire has lived in Boulder for almost 25 years.

Because of how expensive fresh produce can be, she said, "For me, (the program) helps a lot."

Fruit & Veg Boulder is part of a broader Boulder County program that also serves Longmont residents. Enrollees must meet low-income thresholds; for a family of four, the household's annual adjusted gross income should fall under \$55,500. Residents of those cities can participate if they do not otherwise qualify for two federal food aid programs that assist low-income families and women who are pregnant or have young children.

The produce program fills a gap by helping, in part, undocumented immigrants and mixed immigration status families, or households with both U.S. citizens and

people without legal status. Program participants buy produce using paper coupons. Households made up of one or two people receive \$40 per month, while those with three or more people get \$80 per month.

The funding for Boulder's part of the program comes mostly from the city's sugar-sweetened beverage tax revenue, awarded by its Health Equity Fund, while Longmont draws on other funding sources. Boulder became one of the nation's few cities to tax sugary drinks after its ballot measure passed with 54% of the vote in the 2016 election. Other cities with soda taxes include Seattle, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

The tax, which took effect in July 2017, collects a 2-cent excise tax per ounce from distributors of sweetened beverages, such as soda and energy drinks. The ballot measure dictated that tax revenue would go toward health promotion, wellness programs and chronic disease prevention.

The amount of soda tax revenue dedicated to the Fruit & Veg Boulder program sometimes varies, but it is receiving \$298,000 in 2024 — the same as last year, said Elizabeth Crowe, deputy director of Boulder's Housing and Human Services Department.

The program has received additional money from the city's allocations in the federal, pandemic-era American Rescue Plan Act: \$55,000 this year and \$88,000 last year. The extra money was used to help reduce the program's active waitlist, Crowe said.

"We need this access"

The overwhelming demand for the program is spurred in part by Boulder's high cost of living. To make a living wage in Boulder County, an adult with no children would need to earn \$26.36 per hour at their job, according to a liv-

ing wage calculator produced by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. For a parent with two children, it's \$65.26 per hour — several times the \$14.42 minimum wage in Boulder and Longmont, though the county's minimum wage in unincorporated areas is slightly higher.

"There are many people who are struggling to get by and to make it in Boulder County," said Amelia Hulbert, who leads Boulder County Public Health's Healthy Eating, Active Living team.

In Boulder, Fruit & Veg program enrollees can frequent the Boulder Farmers Market and eight participating grocery stores, including King Soopers and Whole Foods Market.

Organizations that connect families with the program are seeing the impact on their community, though gaps in access still remain.

Elena Aranda is the co-director of El Centro Amistad, a nonprofit that supports the county's Latino community. She attended an event at the Boulder Farmers Market last week, sitting in the shade as market goers ambled along 13th Street, reusable bags on their arms.

"You don't see our community coming here," Aranda said, "because it's not affordable."

But because of the Boulder program, participants with coupons in hand are starting to feel welcome in the space, Aranda said. "We need this access, especially for children," she added.

Still, Jorge De Santiago, El Centro Amistad co-director, said the program can serve only a "very small percentage of the families who really need the support."

Because he doesn't foresee demand shrinking, De Santiago would like the program to expand throughout the rest of the county.

Family friend feels excluded

DEAR ABBY: I have been friends for 20 years with a kind and caring woman, "Brenda." We always shared life moments, until recently. I thought of her children as my own. Her son got married (not in a formal or traditional wedding) and didn't want anyone there except his parents, siblings and a few friends. I was hurt that I wasn't included, since Brenda always integrated herself into my life even when I may not have wanted her to.

That son and his wife are now having a baby. At first, Brenda told us to "save the date" for a couple's shower. Then the wife's parents chose a venue that holds a limited number of guests, so none of Brenda's friends were invited. (They both come from big families and the expectant parents invited a lot of their friends.)

Brenda said she feels terrible and will have something else for us to celebrate another time. Or, if people can't come, she will then go to the "B list." I'm trying to be understanding, but I'm so hurt and insulted I no longer want to be a part of this. I told her how I felt, and we dropped it.

I don't want to end a friendship over it, but I am harboring ill feelings. I couldn't even fathom celebrating something without her, and I am deeply disappointed she isn't fighting for me. Brenda doesn't want to make waves with the "new" in-laws and her kids. I don't want to give a gift or share in future events as a "B lister." How do I get over this slight and not hold it against her or her children? — SORE IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR SORE: Here's how: Understand the pecking order in that family. The mother-to-be and her parents are in control, NOT BRENDA, who I'm sure is embarrassed as heck by what's happening. Her dear friends were excluded from

Dear Abby



the wedding, and now this. Forgive Brenda, refuse any invitation in which you are expected to give gifts to her daughter-in-law, go on with your life and stop making this all about you.

DEAR ABBY: I am a gay man who lost my domestic partner five years ago. My neighbor is a single father of a 12-year-old son. When I first met him, he told me he once had a domestic partner. He talks openly about his personal life (he was married to a woman before living with his son's mother).

He does small jobs at my house, and I have taken him and his son out to dinner. He writes messages to me about three times a week, and he told me he plans to have me to dinner soon. He treats me kindly. I think he may be interested in me, but I don't want to be presumptuous.

If I'm misinterpreting the situation, I would be satisfied with being friends and good neighbors. But I would like to find out if he wants to pursue a relationship. What would you recommend I do? — INTERESTED IN TEXAS

DEAR INTERESTED: I recommend you stand pat. Be his friend and a good neighbor until he makes a move that clearly indicates he would like more. That way you won't burn any bridges.

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

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Sunday at The Rock Church, 1605 N.

Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

JAY COUNTY DRUG PREVENTION COALITION — Will meet at noon the second Monday of each month at Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E Walnut St, Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m.

each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

DIABETES SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 3 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at Mercer Health in Coldwater, Ohio.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30

to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland.

PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.

NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday 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.

REDISCOVERING JOY — The support group of widows and widowers meets at 6:30 p.m. on the second Monday of each month at R & R Fabrications, 601 E. Washington St., St. Henry, Ohio. For more information, email rediscoveringjoy@yahoo.com.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday's Solution

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

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

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Swiss Village

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Swiss Village is now seeking a Full-Time employee to work 24 hours/week as a Transportation Coordinator and 16 hours/week as a Residential Activities Assistant. Hours will be M-W 8am-4:30pm in Transportation and Th/Fri 8am-4:30pm in Residential Activities with flexibility for transportation and activities on evening and weekend hours as needs arise. Responsibilities include providing high quality transportation for Swiss Village residents utilizing Swiss Village designated vehicles and keeping a log of transportation provided. Additionally, this position will be responsible for assisting with the implementation of recreation services and programs for Swiss Village residents. This position requires an active Indiana For-Hire Endorsement or willingness to obtain upon hire and the ability to pass the Indiana DOT physical. This position also requires CPR certification or the willingness to become CPR certified within 6 months of hire. The successful candidate must have the physical ability to push wheelchairs, be flexible, and must have a clean driving record.

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Investigators should be proactive

The Columbian (Vancouver, Washington) Tribune News Service

Are we ready for the next pandemic?

That question should be central to the congressional Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic. Instead, some members spent more than three hours Monday lobbying accusations at Dr. Anthony Fauci and hoping something would stick.

Fauci was director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases from 1984 to 2022. As such, he was at the forefront of assessing COVID-19 and developing policies to reduce the impact when a previously unknown disease arrived in the United States.

In the wake of that, he has become a target for far-right elected officials and for a variety of conspiracy theories. Joe Kent,

Guest Editorial

who is running for Congress from Southwest Washington, has said Fauci should be charged with murder to hold him "accountable" for the "scam that is COVID." Others have expressed similar sentiments.

So, when Fauci appeared in a public hearing before the committee this week — after testifying behind closed doors for 14 hours in January — it was no surprise that Republican lawmakers made claims he dismissed as "simply preposterous."

And it was no surprise that some of them repeated accusa-

tions that have been thoroughly debunked. Truth and evidence, apparently, are not necessary when scoring political points or formulating sound bites to share on social media. For example, Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene, R-Ga., said Fauci should be jailed; according to The Washington Post, she missed seven of the committee's 10 previous meetings.

Meanwhile, a renewal of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness and Response Act, which was introduced last year, has stalled in Congress. The purpose of the act, according to the Health and Human Services Department, is "to improve the nation's public health and medical preparedness and response capabilities for emergencies, whether deliberate, accidental, or natural."

The impact of failing to pre-

pare was evident when COVID arrived in 2020. Two years earlier, President Donald Trump had eliminated the federal response team tasked with preparing for a pandemic, reportedly as a cost-cutting measure. In the early days of the pandemic, Trump insisted that the virus would "disappear"; he also suggested the possibility of killing it by infusing light or disinfectant into the body.

More than 1 million deaths in the U.S. have been attributed to COVID.

Despite that failure, congressional Republicans are approaching the matter with the same lack of seriousness, focusing instead on conspiracy theories. It is reminiscent of a Trump initiative to find voter fraud following his election in 2016; a commission was convened with great fanfare, but quietly and quickly disbanded after failing to uncover wide-

spread irregularities. It also is akin to efforts in the current Congress to impeach President Joe Biden; after failing to find any "high crimes and misdemeanors," that effort has largely been abandoned.

Instead of blaming Fauci, investigators should prepare for the next pandemic. As Kizzmekia Corbett, who helped develop a COVID vaccine, wrote for Time magazine: "The federal government needs to change the paradigm that defines our federal research focuses, with an emphasis on being proactive instead of reactive."

Being proactive means investing in public health, bolstering response mechanisms and giving the public a reason to trust in our institutions and medical professionals. It does not mean engaging in theatrics that distract from the task at hand.

Reform provides a glimmer of hope

By TERRY WHITT BAILEY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Here in Indiana, 53 of the 92 counties have a shortage of primary health providers.

For cancer patients, this means they not only face the daily battle against a life-threatening illness but also struggle with limited access to care.

These multifaceted challenges can significantly impact patients' ability to receive timely and adequate treatment. As the President and CEO of the Cancer Support Community Indiana (CSC), my team and I make it our goal to support all patients, but especially vulnerable patient groups in the fight for affordable and effective medications, treatments and services that keep them alive.

A crucial aspect of CSC is advocating for policies that prioritize patient-centered care and recognizing the government leaders pushing for these changes.

One leader in particular that I'd like to recognize is Indiana's 8th District Congressman, Dr. Larry Bucshon, for being a clear voice in reforming a key program that is impeding patient access and affordability.

He is the lead author of the 340B ACCESS Act (Affording Care for Communities & Ensuring a Strong Safety-net Act), a bill that attempts to reform the program known as 340B. In 1992, 340B was implemented to help health care providers serving vulnerable patients and communities manage rising prescription drug costs. These providers receive large discounts on medicines and in turn are meant to use those savings to lower the cost of care for underserved patient populations.

Over the years, the program has slipped through the cracks and, unfortunately, lost its focus. A lack of transparency as well as flaws in the program's structure and reporting accountability have allowed some participants to run free and use any generated savings for their own benefit rather than the benefit of vulnerable patient groups in need.

Terry Whitt Bailey



The lack of meaningful 340B regulation has also perpetuated a dramatic increase in health care costs for some cancer patients in Indiana. According to a 2022 report from the Community Oncology Alliance (COA), some 340B participants are marking up the cost of cancer drugs by as much as 11 times the cost.

These are only a few of the issues surrounding the current state of 340B, and the program is in desperate need of reform.

The hope for this bill is to reform the 340B program and act as a true safety net program for struggling patients. Of the 31 million Americans relying on these resources for their medical care, 90% are low-income, and 41% live in rural communities. These are the types of patients that the program was originally created for but, many times, these are the people who fall through the cracks.

In a time where there are major issues dominating the news throughout the world, I applaud Congressman Bucshon for pushing this positive effort in our health care industry.

This legislation is not about pointing fingers or placing blame. Instead, it's collaborative efforts like these that will change the scope of access to care and ease the heavy burden of treatment costs.

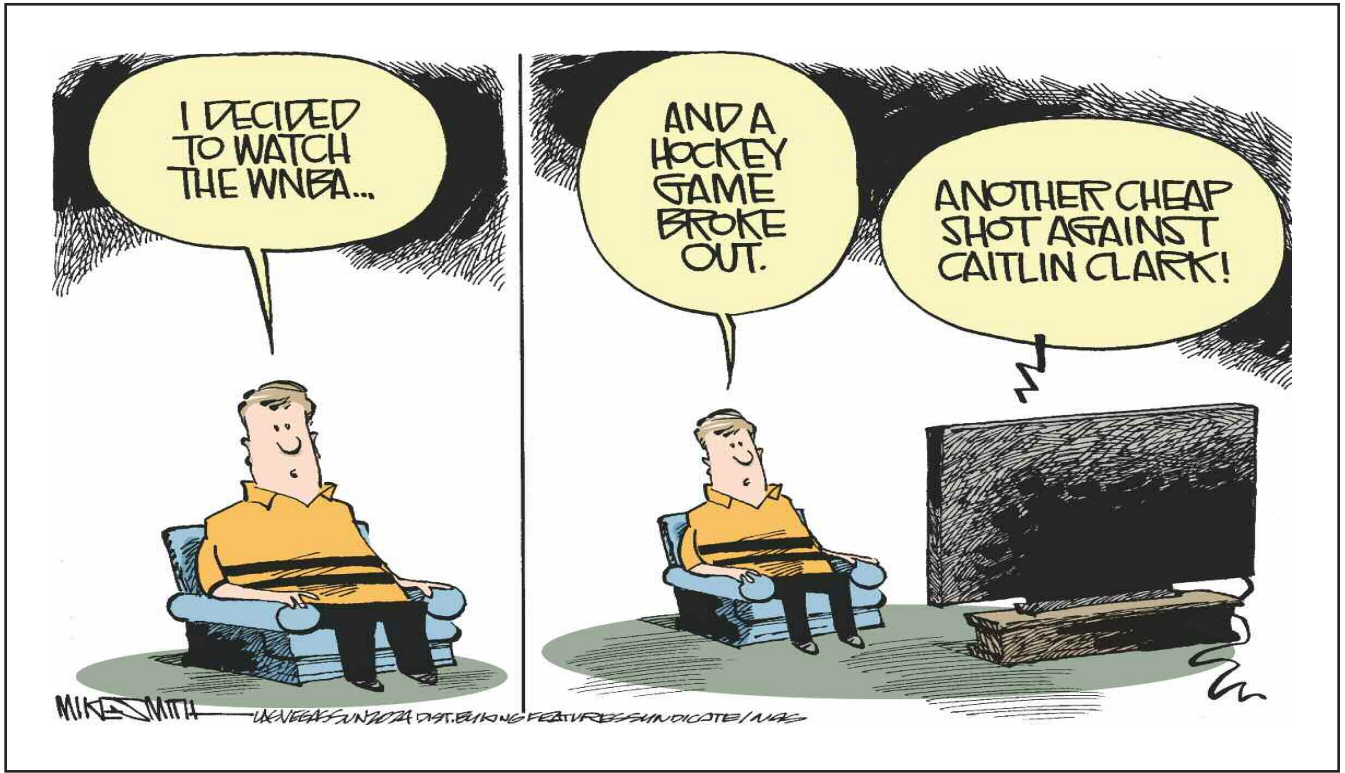
It's essential for leaders to understand patient needs and take action for accessible care.

Reforming the 340B program is the glimmer of hope that Hoosier cancer patients need.

Whitt Bailey is the President & CEO of Cancer Support Community Indiana.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization.

Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.



Trump trial jury did its job

By LYNN SCHMIDT
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service

To borrow from the song written by Sonny Curtis of The Crickets, "I Fought the Law," former President Donald Trump fought the law and the law won.

With the law winning, the very system that our country was founded upon triumphed. The problem is that partisans won't stop fighting against the rules of that law.

The bedrock of our constitutional republic is rule of law. The rule of law is not about a single verdict; rather it is the process that occurs before, during, and after that judgment.

While individuals may disagree with the jury's verdict in Trump's hush-money trial last week, it is imperative that we value the twelve New Yorkers who stood as the pillars to our democracy, and we should all be grateful for their service.

The New York State Unified Court System "Petit Juror's Handbook" begins with the following passage:

"On behalf of New York State's Unified Court System, I extend our thanks that you are here today for jury service. The right to trial by jury is essential to the ability of courts to provide equal justice to all those who enter through our doors, which depends on your service as jurors. It is both an awesome responsibility and a great privilege to serve as a juror: it directly calls on you, as members of our society, to help resolve disputes by determining the truth so that our courts can produce just results."

Once the jury is selected, each juror takes an oath and pledges to act fairly and impartially and follow the law that is explained by the judge.

The unanimous jury composed of five women and seven men found the former president guilty of all 34 felony counts of falsifying business records to conceal a sex scandal

ahead of his 2016 campaign for the White House. Americans have no justification to suspect that those twelve men and women did anything other than what they were selected to do. For partisan Republicans to suggest otherwise damages the justice system's authority.

While the charges that were brought against Trump may have been politically motivated, the procedure in which he was adjudicated was not.

Trump was a private citizen when the crimes were committed. A grand jury determined that there was an adequate basis for bringing criminal charges against Trump and he was indicted.

Trump had an adequate defense team, and a jury of his peers convicted him in 10 hours. This is exactly how the system should and did work.

But of course following the verdict, Republicans began attacking the justice system itself, calling the trial "rigged" and insulting both the judge and the jury as being biased.

While there are too many examples of Republicans bashing the system to cite here (including many social media posts by members of Missouri's Republican congressional delegation), there is one that stood out to me as the epitome of what is wrong with our current political culture:

Former Maryland governor and current senatorial candidate Republican Larry Hogan told voters to "respect the verdict" before it was announced.

Senior Trump advisor Chris LaCivita responded almost immedi-

Lynn Schmidt



ately on X, "You just ended your campaign."

I have written in the past about my experience serving as a juror on a murder trial. Admittedly, the charges in the case were different from Trump's trial and the defendant was definitely not a former president.

That said, I took my obligation as a juror very seriously and felt a great responsibility for my deliberations. The other 11 in the room with me did as well. We worked hard, listening to one another, and reviewing and discussing the evidence until we confidently reached a unanimous verdict.

I have no doubt that the jurors in Trump's trial also understood the gravity of the situation in front of them while assessing the evidence presented to them.

The Magna Carta, written in 1215, had a strong influence on America's Founding Fathers as they wrote the Constitution. Article 39 of the Magna Carta reads: "No freemen shall be taken or imprisoned or ... exiled or in any way destroyed, nor will we go upon him nor send upon him, except by the lawful judgment of his peers or by the law of the land."

This is our arrangement and to love our country is to accept verdicts as legitimate. The verdict in this case is authentic because a lawful judgment was reached by Trump's peers.

Of course people are free to dislike the outcome and to express that displeasure vocally. This very same structure protects them, too. That is the beauty of it all.

The foundation of America's democracy has proven itself again, in part because it has been held up on the backs of 12 ordinary citizens. The politics will play itself out in November.

Schmidt is a columnist and editorial board member of the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The Commercial Review



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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.

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"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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6-8 CRYPTOQUIP

H UYNKDB LNUNWYP EQ XYTQLY
EJY QMUYP QA N TQEENWY
TJYYIY ANTEQKB, XRE HE
MNIU'E HU EJY TRKPI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THE PERIODIC TABLE INCLUDED AN "AH" OR AN "OH," MIGHT THAT BE AN ELEMENT OF SURPRISE?

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: T equals C

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Under the sea

- 1) What country is home to the largest aquarium in the world?
- 2) Which type of ray gets its name from the Portuguese word for "blanket"?

Answers: 1) China (13 million gallons) (2) Mantas

6-10 CRYPTOQUIP

SHFFHMV MGZN SLP G WGJFG
PNJFGIPGMF HMJHKN G QIVN
ZGMQGFFGM FPGHM KNWLF:
WNMMN JFGFHLM.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: I NEARLY MANAGED TO BECOME THE OWNER OF A COTTAGE CHEESE FACTORY, BUT IT WASN'T IN THE CURDS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: V equals G

CRYPTO FUN

Determine the code to reveal the answer!

Solve the code to discover words related to Father's Day. Each number corresponds to a letter. (Hint: 15 = E)

A. 23 19 9 11 15 10
Clue: Male parent

B. 25 15 4 9 24 10
Clue: Provides guidance

C. 14 19 10 15 4 9
Clue: Guardian

D. 2 15 13 15 16 10 19 9 15
Clue: Throw a party

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to Father's Day.

SRTEEPN

Answer: Present

Guess Who?

I am a comedian born on June 5, 1976 in New York. I grew up in Staten Island and attended a private high school where I met friends with whom I formed the comedy troupe The Tenderloins. We had such success that our jokes turned into a prank show that airs on TruTV.

Answer: Joe Gatto

HEALTH FACT:

THIS IS THE PRACTICE OF SPENDING TIME IN A FOREST OR IN NATURE TO REAP HEALTH BENEFITS.

Answer: Forest Bathing

Math Blocks

Fill in the missing blocks with numbers between 0-20. The numbers in each row add up to the totals on the right. The numbers in each column add up to the totals on the bottom.

20		10	38
1	16		19
	3	17	25
26	27	29	

THIS DAY IN... HISTORY

JUN 7

- 1654: LOUIS XIV IS CROWNED KING OF FRANCE.
- 1805: NORWAY'S PARLIAMENT DISCLOSED ITS UNION WITH SWEDEN.
- 1946: THE UNITED KINGDOM'S BBC RETURNS TO BROADCASTING ITS TELEVISION SERVICE, WHICH HAS BEEN OFF AIR FOR SEVEN YEARS DUE TO WORLD WAR II.

New Word

NATURE

the physical world, including plants, animals and the landscape

TV DADS WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS:

- AL BUNDY
- CARL WINSLOW
- CYRUS ROSE
- DAN CONNER
- DANNY TANNER
- ERIC TAYLOR
- FRANK COSTANZA
- FRED ANDREWS
- GOMEZ ADDAMS
- HOMER SIMPSON
- JACK PEARSON
- JAMES EVANS SR
- JASON SEAVER
- LOUIS HUANG
- MICHAEL KYLE
- MIKE BRADY
- MITCH LEERY
- NED STARK
- PHIL DUNPHY
- PHILIP BANKS
- RON SWANSON
- TONY MICELLI
- TONY SOPRANO
- WALTER WHITE

Get Scrambled

Unscramble the words to determine the phrase.

HET ERGTA UDTOOSRO

Answer: The Great Outdoors

Did You Know?

WHEN ENJOYING CAMPING OR OTHER OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES THAT INVOLVE FIRE, IT IS VITAL TO MAKE SURE THAT THE FIRE IS COMPLETELY EXTINGUISHED BEFORE LEAVING THE SITE.

GET THE PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Bee bite
- 6 Mark of disgrace
- 12 Muse of astronomy
- 13 Try to rip open
- 14 "Mask" actor Eric
- 15 Writer Hemingway
- 16 Lighten
- 17 Eternities
- 19 Greek vowel
- 20 Body powder
- 22 Poetic dusk
- 24 Cranberry territory
- 27 Utah ski resort
- 29 Remain
- 32 Brunch dishes with Emmentaler
- 35 Hen pen
- 36 Practice pugilism
- 37 100 percent
- 38 Pas' mates
- 40 Russian river

DOWN

- 42 Fr. holy woman
- 44 "— fan tutte"
- 46 Taxi alter-native
- 50 Ban
- 52 Townies
- 54 Open, as a sleeping bag
- 55 Pendant with a photo
- 56 Easy two-pointers
- 57 Poppy drug
- 1 Little louse
- 5 Swift antelopes
- 6 British gun
- 7 Succinct
- 8 007 creator
- 9 Chinese drink
- 10 Sail support
- 11 "— girl!"
- 12 Employ
- 18 "Armed" sea creature
- 21 Small batteries
- 23 Night school subj.
- 24 Abbr. in an email
- 25 Discoverer's call
- 26 Euclid's study
- 28 Texas city
- 30 Pac. counterpart
- 31 Designer monogram
- 33 Ecol. watchdog
- 34 Geological period
- 39 Place for a massage
- 41 Emmy-winner Susan
- 42 Motown genre
- 43 Albacore, e.g.
- 45 They give a hoot
- 47 Capital of Azerbaijan
- 48 Grade sch.
- 49 Letters after Q
- 51 Baseball's Gehrig
- 53 "Alley —"

Solution time: 26 mins.

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Doubleheader

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ Q 5
♥ A K 7 6
♦ 10 8 2
♣ Q 10 7 6

WEST
♠ 6 4
♥ 8
♦ A K Q 9 7 6 5 4
♣ K 2

EAST
♠ J 10 9 3 2
♥ Q J 5 4 3
♦ J
♣ 9 3

SOUTH
♠ A K 8 7
♥ 10 9 2
♦ 3
♣ A J 8 5 4

The bidding:
South West North East
1♣ 4♦ Pass 5♣
4♣ Pass 5♣
Opening lead — king of diamonds.

Two of the rarest plays in bridge are the dummy reversal and the squeeze. To utilize both in the same deal is rarer still, but that's what declarer had to do to make five clubs on today's hand from a national women's team championship.

At first (or even second) glance, it might seem that South must lose a club, a heart and a diamond to go down one. But, as demonstrated by the declarer, Marinesa Letizia, appearances can be deceiving.

West led the king of diamonds and continued with the ace, ruffed by South. Declarer crossed to the queen of spades and took a club finesse, losing the ten to West's king. West then exited with a heart to dummy's ace.

At this point, Letizia made the key play of ruffing dummy's last diamond with the club jack, reducing her hand to two trumps while dummy had three. She then cashed the ace of clubs and led a club to the queen to bring about this position:

North
♠ 5
♥ K 7 6
♦ 7
♣ —

West
Immaterial

East
♠ J 10 9
♥ Q J
♦ —
♣ —

South
♠ A K 8
♥ 10 9
♦ —
♣ —

When dummy's seven of clubs was now cashed, East had to throw in the towel. If she discarded a spade, South would discard a heart and score the last four tricks with the king of hearts and A-K-8 of spades; if East discarded a heart and score the last four tricks with the king of hearts and A-K-8 of spades; if East discarded a heart and score the last four tricks with the king of hearts and A-K-8 of spades; if East discarded a heart and score the last four tricks with the king of hearts and A-K-8 of spades.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 "Hunny" bear
- 5 Telly network
- 8 Hindu deity
- 12 Roof edge
- 13 Football filler
- 14 Yale students
- 15 Curds' partner
- 16 Capone's nickname
- 18 Cherry-topped treat
- 20 Old British coin
- 21 Priests' garments
- 23 JFK info
- 24 Youthful countenance
- 28 Thick chunk
- 31 Wall St. debut
- 32 Fake name
- 34 Parched
- 35 Arrears

DOWN

- 19 —
- 1 Church furniture
- 2 Pearl Harbor site
- 3 Pizza cooker
- 4 Time of prosperity
- 5 The National
- 6 Pen name
- 7 Rocky outcrop
- 8 Equipments
- 9 "M*A*S*H" star
- 10 Rats' kin
- 11 Cruising
- 17 Regret
- 19 —
- 22 Offspring
- 24 Auction action
- 25 Mimic
- 26 Hair accessory
- 27 Beach paperback, often
- 29 Curved line
- 30 "Adios!"
- 33 Antitoxins
- 36 Natural gift
- 38 Woodland
- 40 Dict. info
- 42 Hearty dish
- 43 Beginner
- 44 Droops
- 46 Cook-book legend
- 47 Wedding cake layer
- 48 Evergreens
- 50 Financial pro

Solution time: 21 mins.

Yesterday's answer 6-8

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13					
14					15					
16				17	18		19			
		20	21			22	23			
24	25	26		27		28		29	30	31
32			33				34			
35				36					37	
		38		39		40		41		
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
50			51			52	53			
54						55				
56						57				

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

West dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH
♠ 9 6 4 3
♥ A 8 6
♦ K 5
♣ Q 8 7 6

WEST
♠ —
♥ J 10 9
♦ A Q J 10 8
♣ A K J 5 4

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

SOUTH
♠ A K Q J 10 8
♥ K Q 4
♦ 9 7 3 2
♣ —

The bidding:
West North East South
1♦ Pass 3♣ 3♦
3♣ Dble Pass 3♦
Pass 4♦ Pass 4♥
Pass 5♥ Pass 6♣
Opening lead — king of clubs.

This remarkable deal was played many years ago by all-time Italian great Pietro Forquet. He got to six spades as shown, and West led the king of clubs.

Had the trumps been divided 2-1, Forquet would have made the slam easily. He would simply have drawn trump, led a diamond toward dummy's K-x, and eventually trumped two diamonds in dummy.

But after Forquet ruffed the king of clubs with the ten of spades and cashed the ace of trump, he realized that since East was marked by the bidding with shortness in diamonds, he would not be able to successfully ruff two diamonds in dummy. So he stopped drawing trump and instead led a diamond toward dummy's K-x at trick three.

West went up with the ace and returned a diamond to dummy's king, whereupon Forquet ruffed the king of trump and the A-K-Q of hearts to produce this position:

North
♠ 9 6
♥ Q 8
♦ —
♣ —

West
♦ Q J
♣ A J

East
♠ 7
♥ 7
♦ 10 9
♣ —

South
♠ Q 8
♥ 9 7
♦ —
♣ —

Forquet next led the eight of spades, placing West in a hopeless position whether he discarded a diamond or a club.

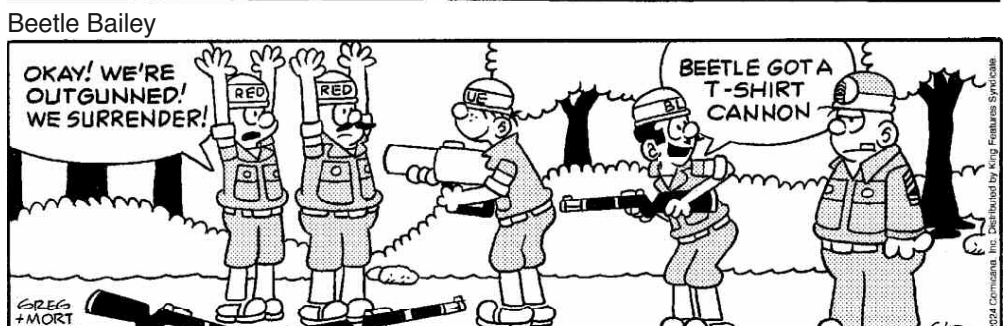
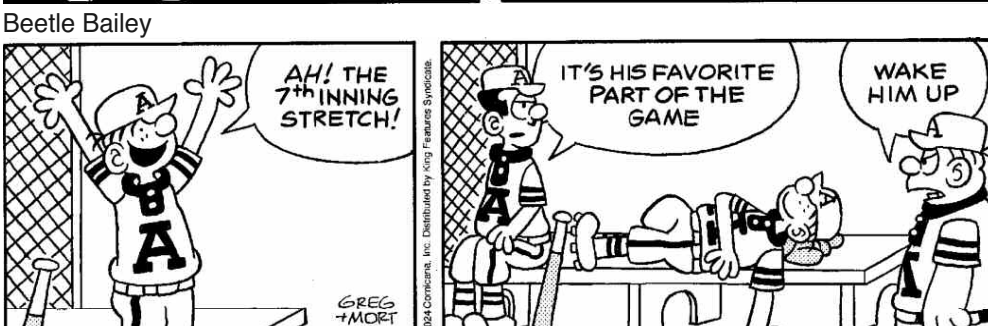
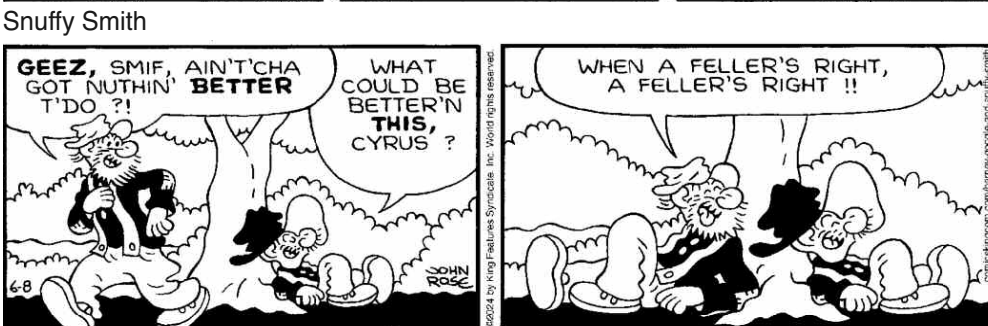
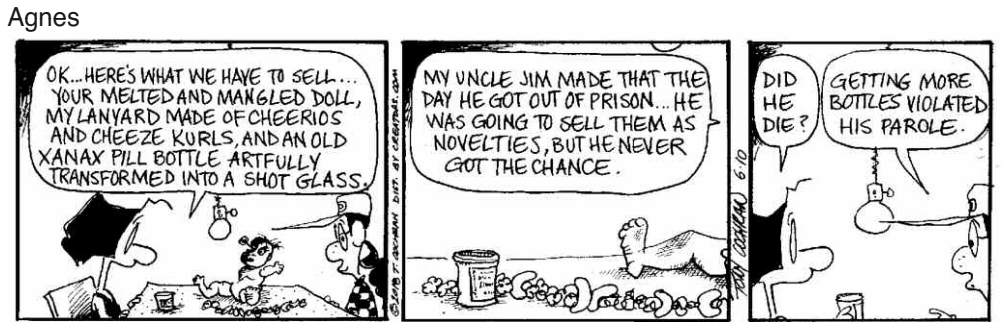
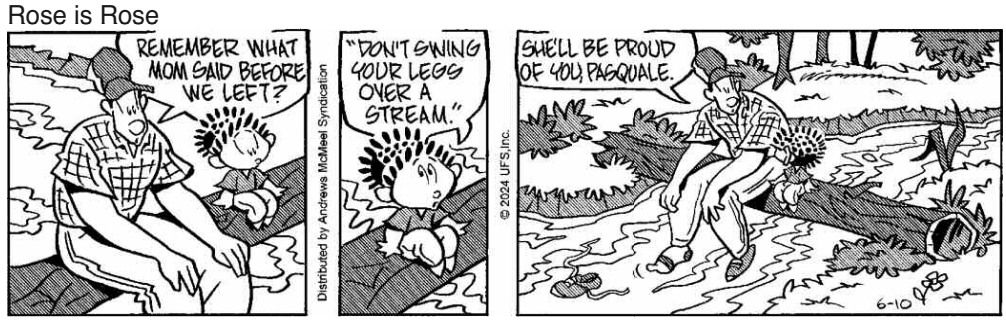
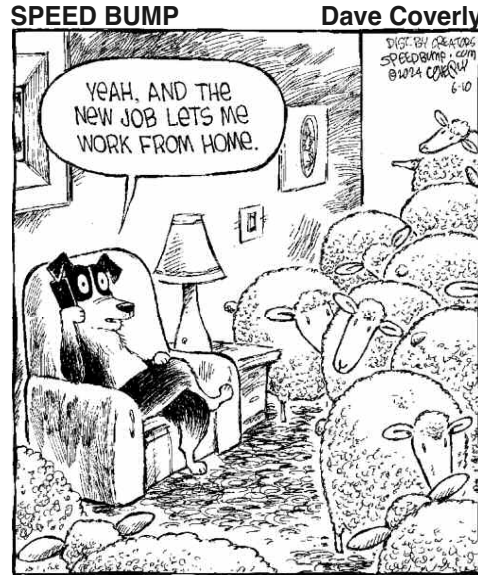
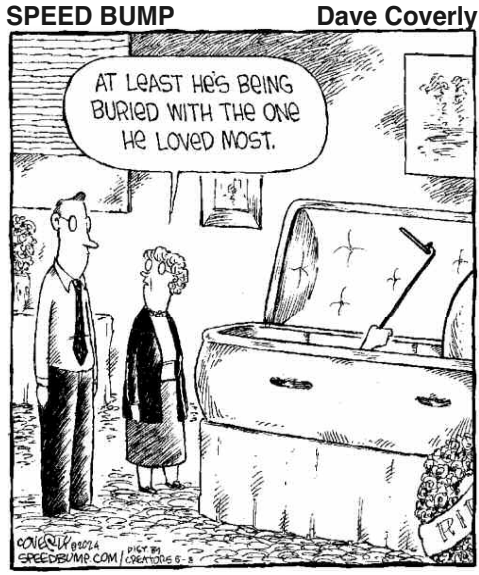
If West parted with a diamond, Forquet would play the trump six from dummy and then ruff a diamond to establish his nine. If West discarded a club instead, Forquet would overtake the spade eight with dummy's nine and ruff the eight of clubs to establish dummy's queen. Either way, the slam was home.

Tomorrow: A crucial decision.

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Saturday's answer 6-10

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12					13			14		
15					16			17		
18				19		20				
		21			22		23			
24	25	26		27		28		29	30	
31			32			33		34		
35			36		37			38		
		39		40		41				
42	43			44	45			46	47	48
49				50				51		
52						53			54	
55						56			57	



We Deliver

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

Laughter

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*

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40 NOTICES

INVITATION FOR BIDS
Notice is hereby given by the board of Aviation of the City of Portland, that sealed bids will be received at City Hall, 321 North Meridian St. Portland, IN 47371 until 4:00 P.M. Wednesday, June 12, 2024, for the following: Annual cash rent of 26.28 tillable acres of farmland at the airport; under a three-year farm lease. Such rental shall be paid to the City of Portland in two installment. The first being due April 1st and the second shall be due November 1st. Bid forms and a map can be picked up at City Hall, 321 North Meridian St., Portland 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Bids will be opened at 4:00 p.m. on the June 19th, 2024 by the Board of Aviation at the airport, 661 W. 100 N., Portland. The Board of Aviation reserves the right to reject any and all bids or to waive informalities in bidding due to errors.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
FRIDAY JUNE 21ST, 2024
TIME 5:00 P.M.
LOCATED: 2635 W. HWY 18
Bryant, IN
REAL ESTATE
17.63 Acres in section 10, Jackson Twp. Jay County, Indiana with approximately 15 acres tillable. Frontage on highway 18. For more information phone auctioneers.
OWNER: AMOS C GRABER
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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PUBLIC AUCTION

AUCTION LOCATION: 2635 W HWY 18.
Bryant, IN

FRIDAY JUNE 21ST, 2024

5:00 P.M.

REAL ESTATE

17.63 Acres in section 10, Jackson Twp. Jay County, Indiana with approximately 15 acres tillable. Frontage on highway 18. For more information phone auctioneers.

OWNER: AMOS C GRABER

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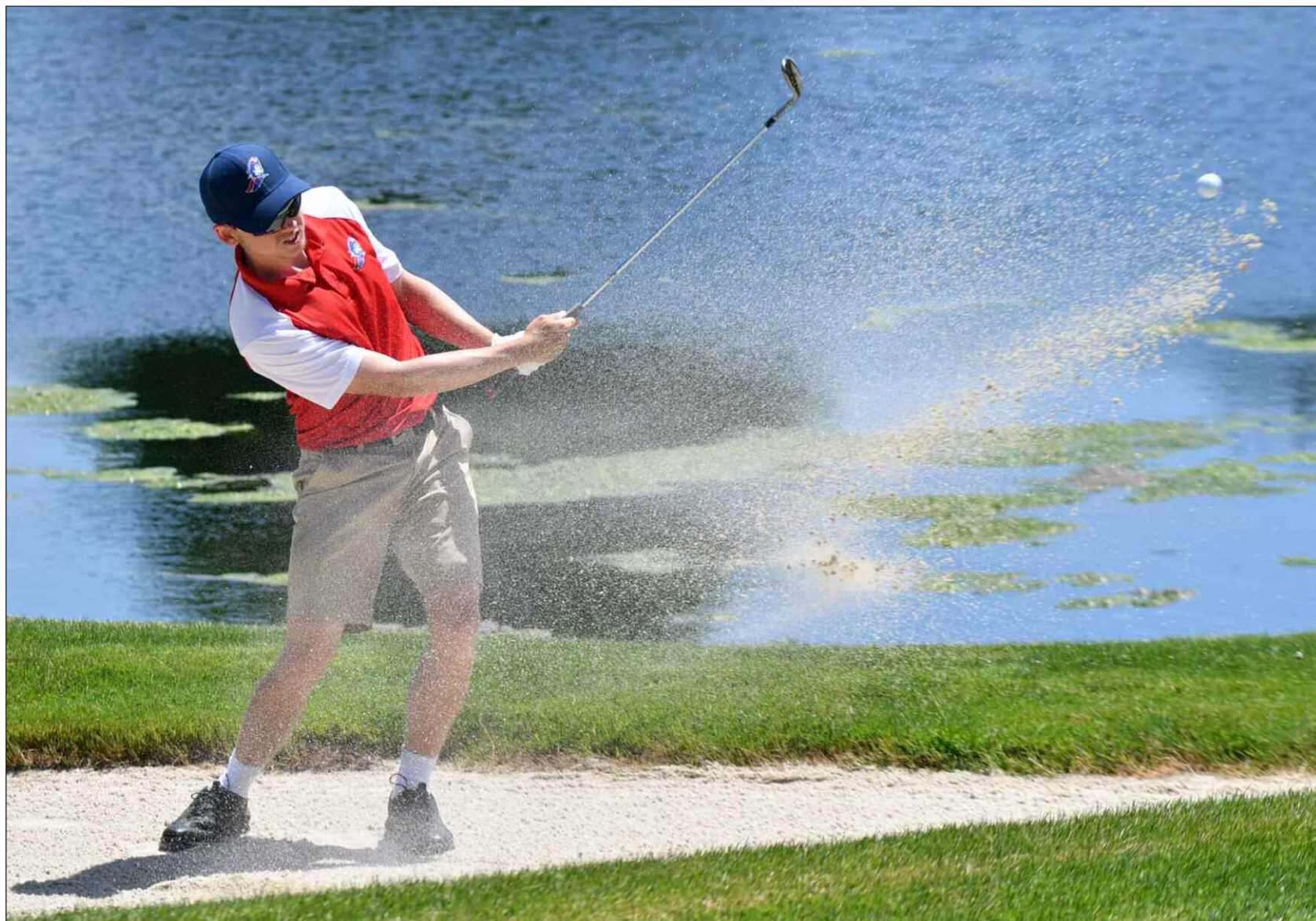
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Sports

Tough finish



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Caleb DeRome, a senior at Jay County High School, hits out of the bunker on the 18th hole at The Players Club on Thursday afternoon during the IHSAA Regional 4 meet hosted by Muncie Central. DeRome finished tied for 59 with 88 strokes and came up 14 short of a state berth.

Caleb DeRome's career comes to an end with an 88 at regional meet

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

YORKTOWN — Patriots' coach Dave Haines has often raved about the mental focus and maturity of Caleb DeRome. That attitude came into play on the back nine after a slow start on the front. Unfortunately for the senior, it wasn't enough to achieve his goal of breaking 80.

Jay County High School's Caleb DeRome saw his golf career come to an end on Thursday at the IHSAA Regional 4 meet at The Players Club hosted by Muncie Central as he shot an 88 on the day.

"I didn't play real good today, so I didn't feel like I had a chance today," DeRome said. "I did the same thing last year where I had a 40-something on the front and then I ended up shooting even on the back. I knew I could potentially do that, so I didn't want to throw in the towel too early."

DeRome finished in a seven-way tie for 59th place in the field of 89 golfers. Hamilton Southeastern's No. 5 golfer Dane Starnes finished as the regional medalist with an even 72 strokes to lead the Royals to the top spot with 297 strokes. Also earning berths to Tuesday's state tour-

'It's been a great four years. I've definitely had a lot of good days. ... It feels good that I made it four times and I'm definitely going to remember the sectional win for a long time.'

—Caleb DeRome

namment at Prairie View Golf Club were Noblesville (305) and Fishers (316).

The top three golfers not on teams already advancing earn a spot in the state tournament. DeRome needed to shave off 14 strokes to earn a spot as Pendleton Heights' Ryan Davis took up the final berth with a 74. Aaron Fulda of Eastbrook and John Lehman of Cathedral accounted for the other two spots, each shooting a 73.

DeRome got off to a slow start on the first three holes. He shot bogeys on the first and third holes and double-bogeyed the second after losing his ball in the tall grass to put him four strokes over par. He bounced back with a par on the 559-yard, par-5 fourth hole before rattling off three more bogeys. All three times he was just off the green

in regulation and came up just short on his putts for par.

"The greens were pretty tough today," DeRome said. "And it's a long course. 7,000 total yards from the blacks, so it's hard to get the ball there. ...

"I would say it was my long game as a whole. My irons and my drivers weren't very good today and the putter couldn't do anything to capitalize on it."

Haines mentioned DeRome has the ability to handle difficult courses because of his course management, but has recently developed a hook that affected DeRome's swing throughout the match.

Everything went right for DeRome on the 347-yard, par-4 eighth hole. A strong drive left him in the center of the fairway about 90 yards from the hole. His second shot left him just

short of the green, but his chip got him within four feet of the cup. He converted the putt to make par for the second time of the day.

He wound up eight strokes over par on the front nine after a bogey on hole No. 9.

DeRome didn't get rattled and started to turn things around on the back nine in hopes of staying under 80 strokes.

"He handles the mental aspect of it better than any other player I've had so far," Haines said. "He was (focused and emotionally controlled) at least outwardly. I don't know what's going on inwardly but outwardly he was."

He bogeyed the 10th hole before rattling off four pars over the next five holes. With just three holes remaining, DeRome could only afford nine strokes to reach his goal, which was a birdie average.

He was put in a hole after some trouble on the green on hole No. 16, leaving him with only three strokes before hitting 80 with two holes left. On the 17th, the senior's drive hooked, causing him to bogey the hole and pushing him to 81 strokes on the match.

DeRome struggled on the 18th as well, ending up in both the

water and sand traps before he finished with a triple-bogey to bring him to 88.

As DeRome came off the green of the final hole, Haines pulled him aside to remind him of some of the senior's accomplishments and to focus on those rather than the negatives of his performance.

Haines only had good things to say about DeRome following the tournament.

"From the time he was a freshman, everyone was speaking highly of him and he did not disappoint," Haines said. "He's just been the rock of the team. No matter what anyone else did in a match, I knew he was going to be really close to par and give us a good score."

This was DeRome's fourth time competing at the regional and his third-best score. He finished one stroke better than his sophomore year, but was beat out by his junior (79) and freshman (84) performances.

Despite the tough finish, DeRome found positives to hold onto from his time as a Patriot.

"It's been a great four years," he said. "I've definitely had a lot of good days. ... It feels good that I made it four times and I'm definitely going to remember the sectional win for a long time."

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