

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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\$1

## Program offered



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

A Better Life — Brianna's Hope recently started offering Moral Reconciliation Therapy at Jay County Jail. Pictured above, participants Payton Folknerth, Steven Taylor, Trevin Miller and Coby Green cheer after completing an exercise in May with facilitator Kandi Sapp.

### Moral Reconciliation Therapy at Jay County Jail is intended to help reduce facility's recidivism rate

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

There's a new program for inmates at the jail.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy, a cognitive-behavioral treatment intended to help participants make better decisions and improve their behavior, is now in full swing at Jay County Jail.

Kandi Sapp, a rural Pennville resident who has worked for A Better Life — Brianna's Hope for almost five years, leads the group that meets for an hour and a half every Friday.

Developed in the 1980s, Moral Reconciliation Therapy started in a prison-based therapeutic community. It spread to more facilities over time, leading to a decrease in disciplinary infractions, lower recidivism rates and beneficial changes in inmates' personality characteristics, according to the program's website.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy is defined as "a cognitive-behavioral treatment system that leads to enhanced moral reasoning, better decision making

and more appropriate behavior."

The word "moral" refers to the levels of moral reasoning theory developed by Lawrence Kohlberg. "Reconciliation" is a combination of the terms "conative" and "conation," which both refer to making conscious decisions, Sapp explained.

The program can serve to help those struggling with substance abuse or mental health issues, she continued.

"It's for anybody that wants to try to refresh their way of think-

ing," Sapp said. "We're raised with the basic life skills of, you know, teamwork and resiliency and trustworthiness and being truthful, and somewhere along the way within our life those basic life skills can get misconstrued."

She noted decisions can be made based on pleasure and pain, or they can be made for selfish reasons.

Moral Reconciliation Therapy helps to refocus the decision-making process.

See Program page 2

## Partial immunity granted; case is sent back

Supreme Court rules that president is immune for 'official acts'

By DAVE GOLDINER  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

A divided Supreme Court Monday handed former President Trump a major legal victory by deciding that presidents enjoy significant criminal immunity, derailing a trial for his role in the Jan. 6 attack.

Even as it rejected Trump's claim of absolute immunity, the conservative top court ruled that presidents may not be criminally charged for "official acts" while serving in the White House.

The 6-3 ruling sends the case back to U.S. District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan for pre-trial proceedings and almost certainly prevents Trump from facing trial before the November election.

"The nature of presidential power requires that a former president have some immunity," Justice John Roberts wrote.

Trump hopes to beat President Biden and win back the White House, when he would likely order the case dismissed, even though presidents are supposed to respect the independence of federal prosecutors.

Trump was indicted last year in what Special Counsel Jack Smith calls a sweeping plot to overturn his loss to President Biden in the 2020 election, an effort that culminated with the Jan. 6 attack.

See Case page 2

## Anderson man convicted of murder

By KEN DE LA BASTIDE  
The Herald Bulletin (Anderson)  
Tribune News Service

MUNCIE — An Anderson man has been found guilty by a Delaware County jury of murder in a 2022 road rage incident in rural Daleville.

Alexander Geesy, 20, is scheduled to be sentenced July 26 in Delaware County Circuit Court Division 5 for the July 22, 2022, shooting death of Randall Coomer.

Four Anderson residents were charged in the incident.

On the afternoon of the crime, Alexander and Ryan Geesy, Brandi Zirkle, Dawn Schattner and three juveniles took two cars from Anderson to Sharp Cemetery in the 12000 block of South Delaware County Road 500 West in rural Daleville "to celebrate a birthday."

Zirkle, the Geesys and two of the juveniles were riding in a Ford Focus belonging to a sister of Alexander Geesy, while Schattner and one of the juveniles were in Schattner's Ford Explorer. During the ride, some of the occupants of at least one of the cars yelled obscenities and "flipped off" occupants of other vehicles.

### Case stems from 2022 shooting in Delaware Co.

They ultimately were involved in a verbal and physical confrontation with Coomer, with Alexander firing multiple shots until Coomer fell into a ditch.

Ryan Geesy and Brandi Zirkle pleaded guilty in 2023 to charges of assisting a criminal and obstruction of justice. Ryan Geesy was sentenced to serve 13 months in the Delaware County jail, and three years of the sentence was suspended. Zirkle was sentenced to serve two years on electronic monitoring.

Schattner has pending charges of assisting a criminal, obstruction of justice and neglect of a dependent. A court hearing has been set for Aug. 20.

## All lit up

Fireworks light up the sky over Dunkirk City Park on Saturday night in this view looking north from the intersection of Washington and Center streets. Independence Day activities continue with the 4th of July parade at 11 a.m. Thursday in Portland followed by a celebration at Jay County Fairgrounds concluding with fireworks at dusk. Redkey's fireworks are scheduled for Saturday.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

### Deaths

Allison Garringer, 1, Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County closed June with a high temperature of 73 degrees Sunday. The low was 61.

Expect a low of 70 tonight with winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Skies will be partly cloudy Wednesday with a chance of showers and a high in the upper 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will partner to host a free food tailgate at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Hudson Family Park in Portland. Income verification is not required.

### Coming up

Wednesday — Coverage of this week's Portland City Council meeting.

Friday — Results from the Portland Rockets game against the Muncie Chiefs.

Saturday — Photos from the Jay County 4th of July Parade in Portland.



# Program ...

Continued from page 1  
Participants work through various exercises, challenging their way of thinking. "Every exercise just walks you through, trying to get you back to what's most important to you and keeping those things in mind while you're making decisions," said Sapp. Moral Reconciliation Therapy has a 16-step process, referred to as the Freedom Ladder, for participants to work through over the course of their time in the program. (It's not a variation of 12-step programs often used in substance abuse recovery groups and it's not an education group, she noted.) It breaks the steps into nine stages: disloyalty, opposition, uncertainty, injury, non-exis-

tence, danger, emergency, normal and grace. Sapp discovered the program while writing a letter of reference for A Better Life - Brianna's Hope meeting attendee who had completed a similar program. Sapp checked out the website and quickly became interested. "It was promoted as a really good tool to also use alongside any kind of substance abuse treatment," she said. Sapp completed training to become a Moral Reconciliation Therapy facilitator in December. An Indiana Wesleyan University alumna with a bachelor's degree in social work, Sapp noted the program fits in with her career field. "Me personally, I feel like it helped refresh me," said Sapp.

"It's not just for people that have substance abuse issues. It's not just for inmates. It's for anybody that has had a rough go at things and just feels like they need to be re-centered, be reminded what they feel like their purpose is, and how they should be behaving." Sapp has been leading the program at Jay County Jail since May, with participants trickling in over the weeks. As of the end of June, the program had 13 inmates involved. "We're building a supportive environment," she explained. "I'm just there to kind of oversee and make sure everybody stays on task." Sheriff Ray Newton noted A Better Life - Brianna's Hope has been offering programs - such as addiction-recovery support

meetings - at the jail since last year. Moral Reconciliation Therapy is a new program intended to help inmates avoid repeat offenses after they leave incarceration, he explained. "I feel like our job here is to prevent them from coming back in," said Newton. "When they do come back in, I feel like we've failed ... The more programs we offer them, the better chance we have." It takes anywhere from 20 to 32 weeks for participants to complete the program, varying based on the individual and their progress. Participants must expect to be at the jail for that amount of time in order to join the group. "You'll have people graduating at different times," she explained,

noting participants who have completed the program and are still inmates at the jail are welcome to continue attending the group to help others. Groups are split for men and women. The current group at the jail is intended for males only, although a second group for women could be started in the future. Sapp said she would love to start a program in the community as well. She specifically noted those who don't meet the criteria, such as inmates awaiting a prison transfer or being released before the end of the 32 weeks. "I'm hoping that by starting in jail, I'll be able to get some sort of good word of mouth going on and it'll encourage others that want to join," she said.

## CR almanac

Wednesday 7/3	Thursday 7/4	Friday 7/5	Saturday 7/6	Sunday 7/7
<b>89/70</b>	<b>82/69</b>	<b>84/66</b>	<b>80/62</b>	<b>84/66</b>
There's a 50% chance of thunderstorms on Wednesday when winds may reach up to 25 mph.	Independence Day looks to be rainy with a 60% chance of thunderstorms possible.	There's a 50% chance of thunderstorms Friday. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	Saturday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a slight chance of rain.	There's a slight chance of rain Sunday. Otherwise, mostly sunny.

## Lotteries

**Powerball**  
Estimated jackpot: \$125 million  
48-50-57-63-69-78-80  
Cash 5: 5-7-22-25-36  
Estimated jackpot: \$379,000

**Mega Millions**  
Estimated jackpot: \$137 million

**Hoosier**  
Sunday  
Midday  
Daily Three: 7-6-4  
Daily Four: 5-4-1-8  
Evening  
Daily Three: 2-8-4  
Daily Four: 0-2-2-5  
Quick Draw: 3-6-9-10-14-17-19-20-31-38-41-42-45

**Ohio**  
Sunday  
Midday  
Pick 3: 6-4-4  
Pick 4: 3-5-4-6  
Pick 5: 0-2-5-7-5  
Evening  
Pick 3: 4-9-5  
Pick 4: 3-2-9-2  
Pick 5: 9-5-5-5-0  
Rolling Cash 5: 1-2-4-23-24  
Estimated jackpot: \$150,000

## Markets

**Cooper Farms Fort Recovery**  
Corn.....3.87  
Oct. corn .....3.92  
Wheat .....5.12

**POET Biorefining Portland**  
Corn.....3.95  
Aug. corn .....3.93  
Sept. corn.....3.88

**The Andersons Richland Township**  
Corn .....3.84  
Aug. corn .....3.82  
Beans .....11.59

July beans .....10.61  
Wheat ..... 5.37

**ADM Montpelier**  
Corn.....3.78  
July corn.....3.82  
Beans.....11.54  
July beans .....11.24  
Wheat .....5.36

**Heartland St. Anthony**  
Corn.....3.87  
July corn.....3.87  
Beans.....11.34  
July beans .....11.19  
Wheat .....5.12

## Today in history

In 1535, Sir Thomas More's trial began for refusing to accept King Henry VIII as the head of the Church of England.

In 1838, Charles Darwin presented a paper of his theory of evolution to the Linnean Society in London.

In 1968, the U.S., United Kingdom and U.S.S.R. were among more than 60 signatories to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, an effort to stop the spread of nuclear weapons.

In 2007, Andrea Banter, 24, Berne, was killed and nine others, including six children ages 7 and younger, were injured in a traffic collision at the intersection of county roads 1150 West and 350 North, west of Pennville.

In 2020, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement was signed to replace the North American Free Trade Agreement that had been in effect since 1994.

In 2021, after about four months of discussion, Portland Plan Commission gave a favorable recommendation to Portland City Council for approval of rezoning 108 acres of land between Tyson Road and county road 75 South to allow for the expansion of U.S. Aggregates' stone quarry. —The CR

## Citizen's calendar

**Tuesday**  
4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.  
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.  
5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Franklin St.

7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St., Pennville.  
7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.

**Wednesday**  
7 a.m. — Jay County Board of Health, Jay County Health Department, 504 W. Arch St., Portland.

# Obituaries

**Allison Garringer**  
Sept. 8, 2022-June 28, 2024  
Allison Garringer, age 1, a resident of Portland, passed away Friday, June 28, 2024, at Riley Hospital for Children in Indianapolis. Allison was born Sept. 8, 2022, in Bluffton, Indiana, the daughter of Dustin and Holly (Thompson) Garringer. Survivors include: Her parents — Dustin and Holly Garringer, Portland, Indiana Her brothers — Koltyn and Kaidyn Garringer, Portland, Indiana Grandparents — Karen Garringer (Robert), Pennville, Indiana, Phyllis Thompson, Rossville, Indiana, and Michael Thompson

(wife: Laura), Brookston, Indiana Great-grandparents — Keith and Linda Cline, Pennville, Indiana Uncles — Alan Garringer (Alexis), Vincent Cline (Amy) and Steven Thompson (Katelyn) Aunts — Kortney Garringer (Mason), Catherine and Nicole Thompson She was preceded in death by a grandfather, Bingo Garringer. Visitation will be held on Wednesday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funer-



al services will follow at 2 p.m. on Wednesday at the funeral home. Pastor Matt Ransom will officiate and burial will follow at Green Park Cemetery in Portland. Memorials may be directed to Riley Hospital for Children. Condolences may be expressed at williamsonspencer.com. .... 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.

# Capsule Reports

**Holdman to serve**  
State Sen. Travis Holdman (R-Markle), who represents Jay County, will serve as the vice chair for the Interim Study Committees on Fiscal Policy and State and Local Tax Review Task Force. "I'm always eager to further study Indiana's tax system and fiscal standing," Holdman said in a press release. "The 2025 legislative session is a budget session, which means the Fiscal Policy and State and Local Tax Review Task Force committees will be even more important in understanding our tax system and finding more ways lawmakers can help keep money in the pockets of hardworking Hoosiers." Other committees he will serve on this summer include the Funding Indiana's Roads for a Stronger, Safer Tomorrow Task Force; Legislative Council; Legislative State of Emergency Advisory Group; Medicaid Oversight Committee; Northeast Indiana Strategic Development Commission; and Simplified State Sales Tax Administration Delegates. Study committee agendas are avail-

able at iga.in.gov. Committee meetings can also be livestreamed. **Merging crash**  
A Portland man crashed the vehicle he was driving into a Portland woman's truck near the intersection of Votaw Street and Industrial Park Drive about 3:57 p.m. Monday. Mahkiah M. Hunt, 22, was driving a 2013 Kia Optima south on Industrial Park Drive approaching the intersection. He told police he didn't check the turn lane prior to attempting to merge into it, causing him to crash into a 2011 Dodge Ram driven by 45-year-old Sarah D. Cook of Portland. Damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. **Backing accident**  
A Portland resident's car swiped a parked vehicle along Votaw Street about 9:13 a.m. Monday. Jerry Coats, 62, was backing his 1994 Ford F-150 at 133 E. Votaw St., Portland, and attempting to avoid a truck behind him when he struck the side of a parked 2012 Honda Passport. Damage is estimated between

\$2,500 and \$5,000. The Honda Passport is registered to Elaine Smith of Portland. **Pole hit**  
Damage is estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000 after a Portland man struck a telephone pole in the parking lot at Pak-a-Sak in Redkey about 7:10 p.m. Friday. Bryan E. Cline, 62, was turning his 2002 Ford F-550 around in the lot at 9017 Indiana 67 when his vehicle hit the pole, which snapped and damaged his truck. Cline's vehicle was towed. **Cow accident**  
A Portland man drove into a cow along Indiana 18 in Jay County about 6 a.m. Saturday. Trenton J. Webster, 20, was driving his 2005 Chevrolet Silverado west on the highway when he noticed a cow in the road. He wasn't able to avoid hitting the animal, which belongs to Larry Coleman of rural Bryant and Dustin Robinette of Montpelier. Webster's vehicle was towed, with damage estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

# Case ...

Continued from page 1  
District Court Judge Tanya Chutkan set a trial date in March, saying the nation deserved a resolution before picking the next president. But she was forced scrapped that plan and put all proceedings on hold when Trump appealed her ruling that he does not enjoy immunity for the alleged crimes. Trump appealed her decision and the Supreme Court has taken its time deciding the case, rejecting Smith's December plea that they hear it immediately. An appeals court panel comprehensively rejected Trump's claim but the Supreme Court agreed to hear a new round of oral arguments in late April.

## SERVICES

**Today**  
Loper, Verna: 11 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

**Wednesday**  
Garringer, Allison: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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# Please make the voyage upstream

To the editor:  
One time, a very long time ago, there was a beautiful stream that flowed freely.

The water was crystal clear, and people enjoyed finding beautiful rocks and watching numerous fish flow down the stream every day. They would wade across the stream to pick wildflowers and many different types of berries to make pies and breads.

Deer, squirrels and many other types of wildlife would come and drink from this stream daily.

Children would wade in this stream; people would gather their water in buckets from this crystal-clear stream.

This stream ended up flowing

## Letters to the Editor

into a pond that was simply amazing and people came from miles around to enjoy this pond. They had picnics beside it. Families would come specifically to this pond to have their portraits taken, friends would meet up and go swimming. People would come and catch fish for their supper that very same night.

Beside this pond there was the most gorgeous tree imaginable. Children would climb the tree,

friends would play hide and seek behind the tree, people would lay out a blanket under the tree and read a book until their heart was content, others would take a nap in the shade of the tree. Life was like a little piece of heaven on earth for all who visited.

One day, the pond had many dead fish in it. All the people gathered around it and simply couldn't believe their eyes, they just didn't understand why all the fish had died.

The bigger the crowd got; the more rumors flew about why the fish had died. Of course, no one knew the real reason.

Finally, a few people in the crowd said, "Instead of standing here wondering how this could have happened, let's go upstream

and see if we can figure out the real reason."

So, they started upstream. They went slowly so they could see everything in sight. It was not an easy task, and it took them a long time.

However, the further upstream they went, the more they learned along the way. These few people gained knowledge and learned how to prepare themselves to be the change to make the environment, the stream and the pond become beautiful again.

This story holds truth to so much going on in our world today. There are so many changes that can be made to make life worth living, not just surviving — people truly caring for other people, and wonderful

places to make yourself and others feel better.

You don't have to travel far away to make the changes needed. Start in your own backyard, give a stranger a smile, stop and say hi to your neighbor, pick up that piece of trash that you see on the sidewalk, ask what your community needs and then become a pivotal part of those needs.

The more you learn, the more you understand; the more you understand, the more you help; the more you help, the more you will come to love yourself, your family, your friends and your community.

Please follow us upstream.  
Stephanie Patterson  
Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

## Massive budget won't keep us safe

By LINDSAY KOSHGARIAN  
OtherWords

If you looked at the U.S. military budget without knowing otherwise, you'd probably guess we were in World War III.

Our military spending is now the highest it's been at any point since World War II — and Congress keeps adding more. The House of Representatives just passed legislation that will take military spending to \$895 billion, while the Senate Armed Services Committee passed a bill that would total \$923 billion.

Those totals don't even include the military aid to Ukraine and Israel that was included in the \$95 billion war package Congress passed this spring. We're teetering closer and closer to a \$1 trillion military budget.

Adjusting for inflation, the last time the national security budget topped \$1 trillion was in 1945, the final year of World War II.

Unlike a world war, there's nothing happening today that can justify this level of spending. Even the war in Ukraine and the decimation of Gaza (which is being carried out with U.S.-supplied weapons) account for just a small fraction of overall spending.

So what's all this spending for?

It's to keep the U.S. military machine running as it has since World War II, with the more or less explicit goal of global military domination. That goal is shared by many in Congress. But members of Congress also receive constant encouragement — and campaign funds — from for-profit, corporate military contractors who can expect to receive about half of the total military budget.

But it turns out that global military dominance is pretty expensive. And luckily, it's not at all necessary to safeguard U.S. security.

After 20 years of disastrous wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, too many in Congress and military leadership haven't learned that having the biggest, strongest military in the history of the world costs a lot — more than \$21 trillion in the first 20 years of the millennium — but doesn't make the world any safer.

Senator Roger Wicker (R-MS) called for adding another \$55 billion to the already-gargantuan Pen-

Lindsay Koshgarian



tagon budget — supposedly justified by competition with China. But the U.S. military budget is already more than three times higher than China's.

Many experts agree that the military threat from the Chinese has been oversold. But whatever threats the U.S. faces, it should say something more troubling about the U.S. military if we can't achieve security by spending more than three times what an adversary spends.

Anyone genuinely concerned with the security of the American people should be more concerned about that \$1 trillion military budget. The obsession with China and world dominance is bleeding our public coffers. This is money that can't be invested in infrastructure, education, health care, or other necessities to keep our own country functioning.

Meanwhile, as another summer starts, we face growing bills for disaster relief from floods and heat waves to storms and wildfires. In a world where climate change is making these disasters more frequent, we have to start budgeting for those expenses and doing more to limit the damage by transitioning to renewable energy.

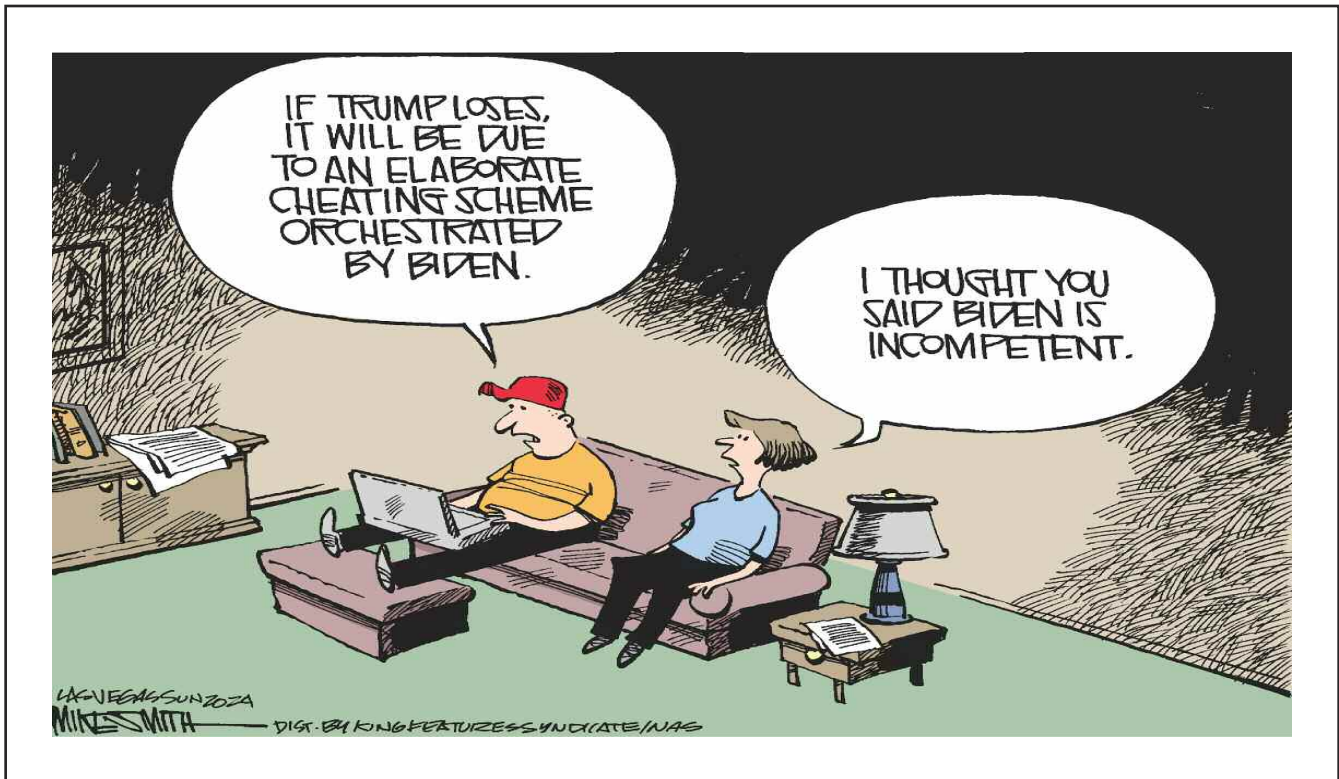
Even a fraction of the \$1 trillion soon to be spent on the military would go a long way to making life safer on each of these fronts.

Luckily, we don't face the same problems the world did in 1945 — and we don't need a World-War-III-level military budget. Instead, we need members of Congress to do three things: focus on the problems we do have, stop trying to rule the world, and have the spine to say no to military contractors.

Only then will we have a budget designed for 2024, not 1945.

.....  
*Koshgarian directs the National Priorities Project at the Institute for Policy Studies.*

*OtherWords is a free editorial service published by the Institute for Policy Studies.*



## Tax cut proposals are silly

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

We are well into election season, so we are bombarded with talk of slashing taxes. Nearly all of this is electioneering nonsense that won't come to pass.

There's almost nothing new under the sun in the way of tax-and-spending policy, so almost every proposal will come with reams of examples to compare it to and plenty of data on the experiences of other states. One way to do this is to skim through some of the proposals that have been floated in recent weeks.

One proposal that has been making the rounds is to eliminate property taxes for Hoosiers who are over age 65 or have served 10 years in the military. Another proposal would freeze assessments at the purchase price of the home. These come from the Beckwith and Rainwater campaigns. These proposals are likely to be popular; at least in the Hicks household, where this would immediately eliminate property taxes on my home.

The authors of these proposals didn't make any claims about the purpose. So, I can only speculate why such a cut would be structured. But I can draw some clear conclusions about what it might or might not do to the economy.

There's nothing in that proposal that would grow population, employment, GDP or household incomes. In fact, population growth tends to cluster in high-tax places. In Indiana, the 10 counties with the highest effective property tax rates alone accounted for 27,105 new residents since 2020, a whopping 61.3 percent of the state's entire population growth. The 10 counties with the lowest effective property tax rates saw only 878 new residents, or less than 2 percent of the state's growth.

I know many readers will recoil at this challenge to a long-held notion that lower taxes cause growth. However, it is a cold, hard fact that both population and employment growth is positively correlated with tax rates on income and property.

In Indiana, a 1 percent increase in the average tax rate leads to a 2 percent increase in population growth. That is simple mathematics.

No one quite says, "That place has

Michael J. Hicks



higher taxes; I want to move there." Despite what many politicians appear to believe, though, households are sophisticated economic agents. Most families are capable of assessing tax rates and the quality and quantity of local public services. They look for the best fit of home, schools, safety, and traffic they can find. On average, they are moving to higher-tax places.

These are places where families judge themselves better off. If you live in a state where families are moving from low- to high-tax regions, your state is underinvesting in local amenities such as schools, parks, and public safety.

Indiana is such a state, and cutting taxes for elders and veterans would worsen the problem. Here's why.

Indiana's property taxes are budget-based. So, if the legislature excludes a particularly meritorious set of taxpayers—such as economics professors who are also retired soldiers—someone else pays that tax or services get cut.

So, if this tax proposal becomes law, my property taxes will drop by 100 percent, but my neighbors will all pay more. Probably a lot more.

Statewide, roughly 1 in 5 households would be excluded from property taxes in this scenario. Moreover, the value of housing stock owned by older Hoosiers is higher than that of younger families. So, this proposal could shift a third of property taxes to younger, poorer residents.

I say 'could' because some of those properties will be at the property tax caps. These caps make Indiana's property tax rates among the lowest in the nation. So, in some communities, we would expect cuts to other local services. For every dollar lost to these cuts, about 42 cents will be funding for schools, with most of the remainder coming from the budgets of cities and counties.

That would mean less, perhaps much less, available money for fire protection, police, and parks. You know, the types of things families judge a community by when considering whether to relocate there.

And there's the rub on all this. Tax cuts will be welcomed by us old-timey veterans, but that will do precious little to influence household relocation. Indiana is already an older-than-average state that doesn't charge income tax on military pay or retirement. Our challenge isn't getting people like me to move here. Our challenge is getting young people—our children, grandchildren and their friends—to live here.

A tax cut on seniors and veterans will have two clear effects. It will result in higher taxes on younger families and reduce public spending on schools, parks, police and fire departments. There are other effects as well. If you suppose that action will benefit the state's economy, or encourage more families to move here, I am sorry. You are daft.

Selective cuts in property taxes will also affect housing markets. This will be particularly true of a proposed assessment freeze. Older residents will be disinclined to relocate to lower-cost housing if they pay no property taxes.

California tried a version of this more than 40 years ago, and it has clobbered housing options for young people, strangled public services and helped destroy neighborhoods.

I could go on and on about this proposal, but I stop here to congratulate you. Because, if you made it this far, you've thought more about the effect of this tax proposal than its authors.

I would encourage everyone to ask folks who might support these tax cuts if they are fine making it harder for their kids and grandkids to build a life in Indiana. If they say no, send them this column.

.....  
*Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.*

# The Commercial Review



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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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Motor route (where available): Monthly auto-pay - \$12; 13 weeks - \$44; six months - \$74; one year - \$140.  
Mail: Monthly auto-pay - \$13; 13 weeks - \$49; six months - \$80; one year - \$151.  
Home delivery problems: Call (260) 251-9588



Photo provided

## Ribbon cutting

Jay County Chamber of Commerce hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony last week for the grand re-opening of Progressive Del Toro Office Products. Under the new ownership of Adolfo Solis, the business at 120 N. Meridian St., Portland, has been remodeled.

# Ardagh closing Houston facility

Ardagh Glass Packaging announced last week that it will be closing its Houston facility and halting production at its Seattle wine glass production facility.

The Houston closure will result in 220 jobs lost while almost 250 are expected to be laid off in connection with the Seattle shutdown. The company indicated that a continued consumer shift to cans for beer had an impact on the decision.

"After reviewing current beer market conditions," we have announced the closure of our Houston, Texas glass production facility, effective July 2024," said Gina Behrman, Ardagh vice president of marketing, communications and new production development in a statement to Packaging Dive. "The affected customer base will be supplied from Ardagh's remaining glass manufacturing facilities across the U.S.

The company operates glass manufacturing facilities in Dunkirk and Winchester.

### New to practice

Nurse practitioner Veronica Rupel has joined Lutheran Health Physicians in Bluffton.

Rupel previously worked as a registered nurse at Bluffton Regional Medical Center for 25 years. She earned her master's degree in nursing from Indiana Wesleyan University.

For additional information, visit [lutheranhealthphysicians.com](http://lutheranhealthphysicians.com).

### New flavors

Scooter's Coffee is adding a variety of new flavor options to its menu.

The coffee shop will offer OREO blenders and cake bits for its coffee drinks, strawberry lime and pineapple mint for its

## Business roundup

Quenchers and the new Caramelicious Creme cold brew.

For details, visit [scootercoffee.com](http://scootercoffee.com).

### Shifting to mail

The Star Press (Muncie) announced recently that it will be shifting completely to mail delivery beginning July 15.

"All of our readers can access our digital platforms, where they can get the latest news about their communities," editor Virginia Black said in a story for the Star Press. "But we know some of our subscribers prefer the printed newspaper, which doesn't always arrive at your homes on time. Transitioning to postal delivery will ensure consistent delivery."

Papers will be delivered same-day with the exception of Sunday's edition, which will be delivered Saturday.

### Applications open

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

Manufacturers can register for the program at [bestplacestowork-manufacturingin.com](http://bestplacestowork-manufacturingin.com). For more information, email [answers@workforcerg.com](mailto:answers@workforcerg.com) or call (281) 602-5004. The deadline is July 26.

### Papers purchased

Paxton Media Group last week announced its purchase of three Indiana newspapers.

Media merger firm Dirks, Van Essen & April announced in a press release that Paxton will take ownership of the Banner Graphic (Greencastle), the Times (Brazil) and the Greene County Daily World on Monday. Its purchase also includes the State-Gazette (Dyersburg, Tennessee).

Paxton is purchasing the publications from Rust Communications.

"We believe in local newspapers, and in their value to a community, and we are committed to continue the excellent tradition the State-Gazette, Banner Graphic, Brazil Times and Greene County Daily World has," said president and CEO Jamie Paxton in a press release.

Prior to the purchase, Paxton already owned 14 daily newspapers in Indiana, including The Courier-Times (New Castle), The Chronicle-Tribune (Marion), the Huntington Herald Press and the Connersville News-Examiner.

### Open call underway

Walmart's annual Open Call event is underway.

The event allows small business owners and entrepreneurs the chance to pitch their products to be sold by Walmart or Sam's club. Those selected through Open call will receive mentoring from Walmart leaders. They will also have a one-on-one pitch meeting with Walmart or Sam's Club merchants.

Applications are available at [rangeme.com/walmartopen-call2024](http://rangeme.com/walmartopen-call2024). The deadline is Monday, July 15.

### Schools split

The split between Indiana University and Purdue University in Indianapolis became official Monday.

The former IUPUI is now two separate universities and cam-

pus. Indiana University Indianapolis is now a standalone campus for the IU system while Purdue University in Indianapolis is considered an extension of the main campus in West Lafayette. The universities had announced plans for the split almost two years ago.

"The time is ripe for us to go in slightly different ways," inaugural IU Indianapolis chancellor Latha Ramchand told the Indianapolis Business Journal last week. "All of which is geared towards helping support this region, support our city, our state, as we move forward in terms of economic growth, development and prosperity."

"Today is about making sure that the future tech-driven prosperity will be here in Indianapolis and central Indiana with economic growth and brain gain," said Purdue president Mung Chiang during an event Thursday in Indianapolis.

IUPUI was founded in 1969.

### Events secured

Indiana Sports Corp. has secured a deal to bring three of WWE's largest events to the Hoosier state.

The entities announced last week that WWE's Royal Rumble, SummerSlam and WrestleMania will all be held in Indiana in the coming years.

The only of the events that is currently on the schedule is the 2025 Royal Rumble, which will be held Feb. 1 at Lucas Oil Stadium. The venue will play host two two-day WrestleMania and SummerSlam events in future years.

"For over four decades, our city's sports strategy has brought in millions of visitors and priceless hours of international brand-building media coverage," said Patrick Talty, president of Indiana Sports Corp., in a press

release. "This partnership with WWE continues to push that strategy forward in new and exciting ways."

The agreement also includes plans for WWE TV shows Raw, Smackdown and NXT, and other live events, at arenas in Indianapolis, Fort Wayne and Evansville.

### Chair named

Mohamed Abdel-Mottaleb has been named as the founding chair of the new Department of Computer Science at the Indiana University Luddy School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering in Indianapolis.

Abdel-Mottaleb has been involved in research with 3D facial recognition, biometric recognition, visual tracking and medical image processing. He previously served as chair of the Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Miami's College of Engineering.

"With more than 9,000 technology firms generating an economic contribution exceeding \$53 billion, Indiana is rapidly emerging as a hub of technological innovation in the Midwest, and we are thrilled to welcome a technological innovator of Abdel-Mottaleb's stature to campus at this pivotal time," IU Indianapolis chancellor Latha Ramchand said in a press release. "He will bring the vision and leadership to create a strong computer science program in Indianapolis that will foster a robust talent pipeline for these industries and set up our students for career success."

He will step into his new role for the fall semester.

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

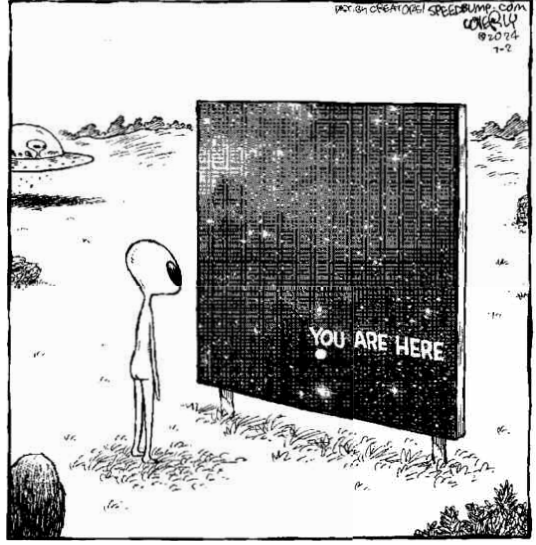
# Local Businesses & Services

This local business listing runs 4 times a month with packages of either \$25, or \$50.  
Give us a call at 260-726-8141 to be included

<p><b>All Weather Heating and Air Conditioning</b></p> <p>(260)726-4822 24 hr Emergency Service Serving Portland &amp; Surrounding Areas</p>	<p><b>Hopkins Repair, LLC</b> Auto &amp; light truck repair Mon-Fri. • 7am-4pm Call Scott Hopkins 260-251-0459</p>	<p><b>Fortkamp Foam</b> 3216 Wabash Road Fort Recovery, OH 45846 419-852-1390 <a href="http://Fortkampfoam.com">Fortkampfoam.com</a></p>	<p><b>Display Craft Signs</b> 630 E. Votaw St. Portland, IN 260-726-4535</p>
<p><b>All Circuit Electrical, LLC</b> 5510 N. US 27, Bryant, IN 260-997-8336 <a href="http://www.allcircuitelectrical.com">www.allcircuitelectrical.com</a></p>	<p><b>Vormohr Family Dentistry</b> 1413 W. Votaw St., Portland 260-726-7822</p>	<p><b>Dunn Family Dental Care</b> 110 W. North St. Portland, IN 47371 260-726-8007</p>	<p><b>Ohio Valley Gas</b> 129 E. Main St., Portland 260-726-8114 <a href="http://www.ovgc.com">www.ovgc.com</a></p>
<p><b>Brigade</b> You're safer with us</p> <p>1976 W. Tyson Road, Portland, IN 47371 (260)766-4343 <a href="http://brigade-electronics.com/en-us">brigade-electronics.com/en-us</a></p>	<p><b>Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition</b></p> <p>100 N. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371 260-251-3259 Email: <a href="mailto:jcdpcccontact@gmail.com">jcdpcccontact@gmail.com</a></p>	<p><b>Baird Freeman Funeral Home</b> 221 N. Meridian St. Portland, IN 260-726-7171</p>	<p><b>Home Idea Center</b> 901 Industrial Dr. Ft. Recovery, OH 419-375-4951 <a href="http://www.ehomeidea.com">www.ehomeidea.com</a></p>
<p><b>Williams Auto Parts, Inc.</b></p> <p>1127 Detroit Ave. Portland, IN 8-5:30 Mon-Fri, Closed Sat &amp; Sun. Used auto parts since 1951 (260) 726-8001 <a href="http://www.williamsautoparts.com">www.williamsautoparts.com</a></p>			

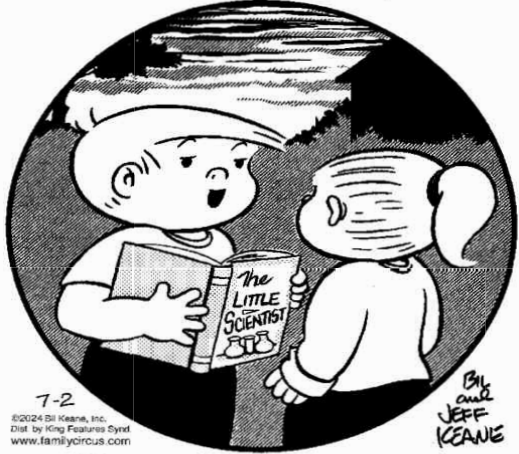
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

By Bil Keane



"Heat makes things expand. That's why days are longer in the summer."

Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

The correct discard

South dealer. East-West vulnerable. NORTH: ♠ 5 2, ♥ K 9 8 2, ♦ Q 9 6 4 3, ♣ 8 4. WEST: ♠ A 4 3, ♥ 6 4, ♦ A K 7 5, ♣ Q J 7 2. EAST: ♠ Q J 10 9 8, ♥ 5, ♦ 10 8 2, ♣ K 10 5 3. SOUTH: ♠ K 7 6, ♥ A Q J 10 7 3, ♦ J, ♣ A 9 6.

The bidding: South 1♥, West 2♥, North 2♠, East 2♣. Opening lead — six of hearts.

For example, let's say you ho the East hand and South reach four hearts as shown. Declarer will trump lead with ten and returns a low trump dummy's eight. What should you discard at trick two?

This might appear to be an insignificant decision to make, but act ally you could cost your side t contract if you make the wro discard. Let's say you discard eith the eight or nine of spades, or t deuce of diamonds or five of clul. In that case, after declarer led low diamond to his jack, your pa ner would win but would have tough time trying to figure o what to play next. He might o clude that his best return was t ace of spades, which would ha South the contract.

When you realize that half your life at the bridge table is spent defending against opposing contracts, it becomes obvious that unless you and your partner defend reasonably well, you will have very little chance of winning. In most deals, top-notch defense depends much more on partnership cooperation than on individual effort. Each defender should therefore do everything possible to steer his partner in the right direction.

The correct discard at trick two the queen of spades! This tells We that you have a spade sequen headed by the Q-J-10 while denyi that you have the king. (If you h the K-Q-J you'd signal with t king, not the queen.)

As a consequence of this discar your partner — knowing th South has the king of spades - would exit with a club at trick fo and declarer would eventually ; down one, losing a diamond, a cl and two spades.

Tomorrow: The guess that went to school.

7-2

CRYPTOQUIP

M MKUWMCA U XQKMXUG RUCMFQI EMBMCW MC U XGQVAF KMWEF VYBBACGN RYKT QYF UCB XIN "VYTTGMAV!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: THICK-SKINNED SNAPPING REPTILE THAT REALLY LIKES LOUNGING ABOUT IN BACK ROADS: AN ALLEYGATOR.

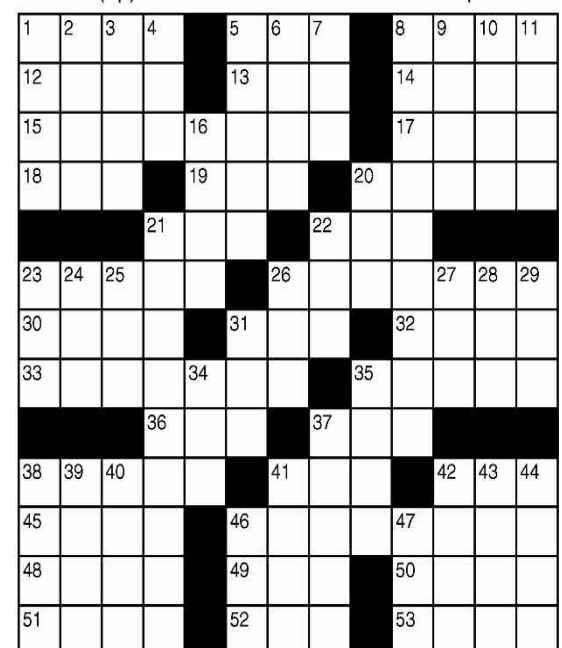
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals J

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS: 1 Hoosergow, 5 Remote batteries, often, 8 Mardi Gras wear, 12 Competent, 13 Roman 1051, 14 — Bator, 15 Jewelry container, often, 17 Aswan's river, 18 Depot (Abbr.), 19 Stan of Marvel Comics, 20 Marble type, 21 Sea, to Gigi, 22 Bro, maybe, 23 Bumpkin, 26 Backyard cooking area, 30 Norwegian saint, 31 Soap unit, 32 Rhine feeder, 33 SUV's kin, 35 Paid (up). DOWN: 1 Toast, 2 Border on, 3 "Casablanca" role, 4 Maui memento, 5 Fossil resin, 6 Medicinal plant, 7 Half a dozen, 8 Legumes in an Asian recipe, 9 Inter — season-ing, 10 Pretzel singer, 11 Leg joint, 16 Jazz singer, 20 Televisive, 21 Film fan address, 23 — Kippur legend, 25 Solo in space, 26 Summer cooler, 27 Touch lightly, 28 Fury, 29 — Talks (lecture series), 31 Ball club?, 34 Rug cleaner, briefly, 35 Basra resident, 37 Talking points?, 38 Apple computers, 39 — gin fizz, 40 Dark film genre, 41 Non-sense, 42 Hearty dish, 43 Mother of Helios, 44 "NFL Live" channel, 46 Goat's cry, 47 Shock partner.

Solution time: 22 mins.

YESTERDAY'S ANSWER: 7-2



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



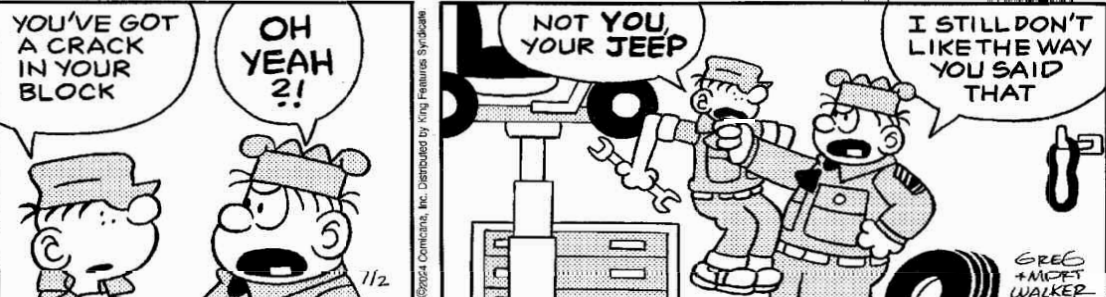
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



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40 NOTICES

PLEASE NOTE: Be sure to check your ad the first day it appears. We cannot be responsible for more than one days incorrect copy. We try hard not to make mistakes, but they do happen, and we may not know unless you call to tell us. Call before 12:00 pm for corrections. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland, Indiana 260-726-8141.

50 RUMMAGE SALES

YARD SALE (east of Bloomfield school) Friday July 5th 9am-4pm. Saturday July 6th 9-? Large yearly yard sale! Most things are under \$1.00

60 SERVICES

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Front Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Circulation Department Hours: 10:00 am - 4:30 p.m.

# Lynn ...

Continued from page 8  
There was a momentary on-field delay as words were exchanged, but the benches did not empty nor were any ejections made. Green induced a flyout vs. Paul Goldschmidt following the hit by pitch to Contreras and was replaced on the mound by lefty Sam Moll as left-handed hitter Brendan Donovan was due up next. Moll got Donovan ground out to end the fifth inning.

### Lynn reaches 1,000

Lynn secured his third strikeout of the afternoon when he froze Noelvi Marte on a cutter thrown middle-away to the right-handed-hitting 22-year-old in the second inning. The strikeout was Lynn's 1,000th in his career with the Cardinals. The milestone strikeout made him the sixth Cardinals pitcher to do so joining Bob Gibson (3,117), Adam Wainwright (2,202), Dizzy Dean (1,095), Chris Carpenter (1,085) and Bob Forsch (1,079). A graphic acknowledging Lynn's 1,000th strikeout as a Cardinal was shown on the video board at Busch Stadium. The Busch Stadium crowd gave the right-hander a standing ovation following the strikeout of Marte.



Photos provided

## Sweeping champions

Portland Optimist swept up the top spot in the Portland Junior League Rookie softball division in the regular season and the tournament championship on June 27. Portland Optimist also took home two of the three individual postseason awards as Ava Lotchefeld (second from left in the middle row) earned Rookie of the Year honors and Ava VanSkyock (right of Lotchefeld) was named Miss Softball.

# LeBron and Bronny to make NBA history

By DAN WOIKE

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

**NEW YORK** — The first round of the NBA draft at Barclays Center yielded a massive surprise with the Lakers taking Tennessee All-American Dalton Knecht with the 17th pick. One day later, inside a television studio near the East River in New York City, a more predictable addition to the Lakers' roster occurred. As expected, the team selected Bronny James, son of Lakers star LeBron James, with the No. 55 pick, making the two more than just the first father and son to play in the league together at the same time. The two will also be teammates. "NBA history could be made," Rob Pelinka said in Los Angeles. "And NBA history should be made in a Lakers uniform." LeBron James has the ability to opt out of his contract by June 29 and become an unrestricted free agent. The widespread belief among NBA executives is that he will remain with the Lakers, with only the type of contract left to be formalized.

The pick Thursday came after years of speculation about LeBron James lengthening his career long enough to get to play alongside his son. In the last 12 months, though, that plan moved to the background as the messaging focused more on finding the best situation for Bronny James. Bronny James, a 6-foot-1 guard, became an All-American himself after his senior year at Sierra Canyon High before committing to USC. But during a preseason training session at Galen Center, James collapsed after a cardiac arrest and subsequently required surgery to treat a congenital heart defect. He returned to competitive play on Dec. 10 and played 25 games for the Trojans, averaging only 4.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.1 assists. James entered the draft following the season, cementing

himself as a potential second-round pick with his play in the draft combine in Chicago. "My dream has always just been to put my name out, make a name for myself, and of course, you know, get to the NBA," Bronny James said then. "... I never thought about just playing with my dad, but of course he's, he's brought it up a couple times. But yeah, I don't think about it." It's a reality now, the Lakers and James' agent executing a plan to get him to Los Angeles. In the pre-draft process, Rich Paul said that James wouldn't be signing a two-way deal. And, according to ESPN analyst Bob Myers, Paul was calling teams on Thursday threatening that Bronny James would play in Australia if he were picked by a team they didn't want him to go to. Still, Pelinka told reporters that the Lakers weren't sure they'd be able to land James until the Boston Celtics passed on him at pick No. 54. "[JJ] Reddick and I were able

to welcome him to the Lakers family and let him know that this moment was happening mostly because of the work he's put into the game and because of the character and kind of young man that he is," Pelinka said in mentioning the team's new coach. "That was what was expressed to him on the phone call." Detractors pointed to his statistics, just 4.8 points on 36.6% shooting in 25 games, and his size at 6-foot-1 1/2 as the primary reasons why he didn't belong on draft boards. His supporters see a projectable NBA athlete with the potential to impact the game on the defensive end and with a positive trajectory as a shooter. At the NBA combine in May, James shot the ball incredibly well in drills to build some momentum into the before the draft. James didn't attend the second-round event, which was held inside a television studio one day after the first round, the first time the league has

stretched the draft to two days. Following the draft, the Lakers added French forward Armel Traore and Pittsburgh wing Blake Hinson on two-way contracts, according to people familiar with the moves not authorized to speak publicly on the matter. The Lakers met with James for one of his pre-draft workouts (reportedly, he also worked only for Phoenix) and Pelinka met with him for an extended lunch. Pelinka said he and James didn't speak about James' his feelings about sharing the court with his father because of LeBron James' potential free agency. The Lakers, though, don't seem naïve about the added attention they'll receive this offseason by hiring Redick and drafting Bronny James. "The biggest moment in sports happened with the Lakers," Pelinka said. "And that's how we're built, and we're excited to see this story unfold."

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Portland Rockets at Muncie Chiefs - 7 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
12 p.m. — UEFA Euro 2024: Netherlands vs. Romania (FS1)  
3 p.m. — UEFA Euro 2024: Türkiye vs. Austria (FOX)  
7 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at

New York Yankees (Bally Indiana) 7 p.m. — WNBA: Minnesota Lynx at New York Liberty (FOX)  
9 p.m. — Copa America soccer: Colombia vs. Brazil (FS1)

**Wednesday**  
6 p.m. — Tennis: Wimbledon (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at New York Yankees (Bally Indiana)  
7:45 p.m. — MLS soccer: Atlanta United at New England Revolution (FS1)

### Local notes

**Soccer camp announced**  
The Jay County High School boys and girls soccer teams will hold a youth soccer camp July 29-31. The camp is for kids going into first grade up to eighth grade. It will be held from 5-6:30 p.m. at the old soccer field behind the baseball diamond. Admission is \$30 per child and each additional child from the same household will cost only \$20. To sign up visit

https://qr.co.de/bf9AoD. For more information, email kimuhlienkamp@jayschools.k12.in.us or reynolds@jayschools.k12.in.us. Payment can be sent to the high school front office by July 12th.

**Meet booked**  
The Jay County Chamber Classic golf outing is set for Friday, July 19, at Portland Golf Club. The deadline to register is July 10, and it's limited to 20 teams. Awards of \$400,

\$200 and \$100 will be given out to first, second and third place, respectively. Golf will begin with a shotgun start at 10 a.m. To register, email tabby@jaycountychamber.com. For more information call (260) 726-4481.

**Date set**  
The 42nd annual Cancer Association of Darke County/Annie Oakley Golf Tournament is set to take place on July

22 at Turtle Creek Golf Course in Greenville, Ohio. Lunch will be served at 11:15 a.m., with a shotgun start to follow at 12:15 p.m. All proceeds will go to the Cancer Association of Darke County. For additional information or an entry form call (937) 548-9960 or email director@cadinfo.org. \*\*\*\*\*  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@theccr.com.

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# Sports

## Indians beat Flyers, beat by Coldwater

ST. HENRY and FORT RECOVERY — The Indians got off to a strong start in the playoffs.

The semifinal round proved to cause some trouble, but the Indians still have a chance.

The third-seeded Fort Recovery ACME baseball team took down the No. 2 seed Marion Local Flyers 9-3 on Friday at St. Henry High School before getting picked off by top-seeded Coldwater 6-4 on Sunday at home.

With the loss in the first semifinal game to Coldwater, Fort Recovery needed to face off with Marion Local a second time in another semifinal on Monday at 5 p.m. for the chance to rematch Coldwater in the championship to follow.

The Indians (7-5) scored three runs in the first and fourth innings against Marion Local, two in the second and one in the sixth. Alex Gaerke raked in five RBIs on four hits, including a double. Caden Grisez supported with three hits, three runs and two RBIs.

Gaerke also earned the win after throwing 4 2/3 innings and only allowing two runs.

The Indians scored three runs in the first and another in the sixth against Coldwater. Jacob Foote led the offense with two RBIs.

Grisez suffered the loss, giving up five runs — only one was earned — in

### Local roundup

four innings pitched. Foote finished the game, giving up one run on two hits and two walks.

#### Rockets split

MISHAWAKA — The Portland Rockets split a pair of games against the South Bend Royals at Bethel University on Sunday.

Portland got walked off by the Royals in the first game 4-3.

Jared Holly drove in the first run for the Rockets (9-12) in the sixth inning and Garrison Brege smacked a two-RBI double to take a two-run lead.

Andrew Onuegbu gave up one run in the sixth inning before the game slipped away from Nick Bailey in the seventh.

Bailey gave up a walk, a double and intentionally walked another batter to load the bases. With two outs, Bailey nearly escaped, but gave up a two-out double to center field that plated a pair of runs.

Portland came back for a 7-4 win against South Bend in the second game. Brege and Joel Kennedy both led the way for the Rockets' offense with two RBIs and two hits. Brege hit two solo home runs,

while Kennedy had a pair of singles.

Camden LaFuze earned the win after five innings pitched and Sam Dunlavy earned the save.

#### Guggenbiller leads

NOBLESVILLE — Seven swimmers from the Jay County winter swim team competed in the Enchanted Forest 2024 at Forest Park Aquatic Center over the weekend.

Carsyn Guggenbiller put together the best day for Jay County, finishing in third place of the girls 10-and-younger high point standings. Her best performance came in the 100-meter backstroke, in which she placed third and hit the state standard. Guggenbiller punched a ticket to state in the 50 backstroke, earning a fourth-place finish.

Guggenbiller earned other top-10 finishes in the 200 individual medley, 100 butterfly, 200 freestyle, 50 breaststroke, 50 butterfly, 100 freestyle, 100 breaststroke and 50 freestyle.

Cooper Glentzer met the state standard in the boys 13-14-year-old 1,500 freestyle.

Cooper Glentzer, Grant Glentzer, Aubrey Millspaugh, Grady Warvel and Sophie Warvel all met the divisional time standards in multiple events, while Jaley Knapschafer only managed a career best.



Photos provided

## Rookie awards

Yearly awards were announced for the Portland Junior League Rookie baseball and softball leagues after their respective league championships. Above are Rookie of the Year Duke Steed, Mr. Baseball Trey Hirschy and Sportsmanship award winner Brett Huntsman. Below are Rookie of the Year Ava Lochtefeld, Miss Softball Ava VanSkyock and Sportsmanship award winner Adalyn Overla.





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## Lynn leads Cardinals to series split with Reds

By DANIEL GUERRERO

St. Louis Post-Dispatch Tribune News Service

ST. LOUIS — With a bullpen that has been exhausted in recent days and a series split up for grabs vs. the Cincinnati Reds on Sunday, the St. Louis Cardinals got just what they needed from starter Lance Lynn and their offense.

Lynn provided his club with six scoreless innings against Cincinnati and was backed by two runs in the fifth and sixth innings that aided the Cardinals (43-40) to a 2-0 win at Busch Stadium. Behind Lynn's six frames, Andrew Kittredge (2/3 of an inning), JoJo Romero (1 1/3 innings) and Ryan Helsley (one inning) bridged the rest of the ballgame to notch St. Louis' fifth shutout of the season and its second this weekend.

Helsley's save was his 30th of the season. All of Helsley's saves have come in consecutive fashion. The successful save tied Helsley with Hall of Famer Lee Smith for the most by a Cardinals closer before the All-Star break.

Offensively, the Cardinals received RBIs from Alec Burleson (1 for 3) and Masyn Winn (2 for 4).

#### Lynn quiets Reds

Coming off a winning decision in his last start, Lynn delivered his first scoreless outing since he threw four scoreless innings during St. Louis' home opener on April 4.

Against the Reds, Lynn kept opposing hitters to two hits and one walk over six innings. The right-han-

der's six strikeouts were his most in a start since he collected six against the Colorado Rockies on June 7.

The only hits Lynn allowed came in the second inning on a double from Jonathan India and in the fifth on a single from Stuart Fairchild, who stole second base during the following at-bat. Lynn did not allow a Reds base runner to reach third against him. He left the ballgame after setting down the side in order to end the sixth inning and reaching 79 pitches, 57 of which were strikes.

#### Youngsters get offense going

After the Cardinals were limited to one hit against Cincinnati's Hunter Greene through the first four innings, the offense broke through in the fifth.

Rookie catcher Pedro Pages, who had the Cardinals' lone hit before the fifth inning began, singled on a line drive to left field. Two at-bats later, rookie shortstop Winn advanced Pages to second base with a single to right field, setting the stage for second-year right fielder Burleson.

As the first Cardinals hitter to bat with a runner in scoring position on Sunday, Burleson pulled a ground-ball between Reds first baseman Spencer Steer and second baseman India for a single to right field. Pages raced from second base to home and scored standing up after Jake Fraley's throw from right

field was up the third base line.

The RBI from Burleson was his 19th of June and comes after he went hitless in four at-bats on Saturday. The 25-year-old has produced an RBI in seven of his past nine games following Sunday's series finale.

An inning later, Pages singled to give him the first three-hit game of his MLB career and put runners on first and second base after Nolan Arenado singled to begin the frame.

Following a strikeout by Michael Siani, Winn doubled Arenado home from second on the second pitch he saw from right-hander Fernando Cruz, who entered the ballgame to face Winn.

#### A bit of banter

Following Burleson's RBI single in the fifth inning that put runners on first and third base, Greene loaded the bases when he hit catcher Willson Contreras on the left arm with a 96.8 mph fastball. Contreras recently returned after several weeks out with a broken left forearm.

Contreras stared down Greene after he was plunked by the righty. Once he reached first base, Contreras appeared to voice some frustrations with the hit by pitch toward Greene. As Contreras voiced his displeasure, Reds infielders India and Elly De La Cruz walked toward the infield grass as if to get in between Greene and Contreras.

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