

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

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Bond-ing experience



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

At the end of the Jay County High School Marching Patriots show, the props that show silhouettes of James Bond through most of the performance are flipped to review his name. The show, titled "You Know My Name," features music from the Daniel Craig era of the long-running movie franchise.

Show evokes action/adventure world

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Bond. James Bond. From the drum major salute with a twirling Emma LeMaster next to a dapper Gabe Pinkerton to a series of silhouettes along the back of the field, everything about the Marching Patriots' 2024 repertoire evokes the name. Jay County High School's marching band show — "You Know My Name" — is built around the iconic themes of the James Bond films. The show idea came from a track of the same name, which is the opening of the Daniel Craig movies in the long-running film franchise.

"I've always loved it," said JCHS band director Chuck Roesch. "His version of James Bond is a lot different than Shawn Connery, Roger Moore and even Pierce Brosnan ... He's a lot more aggressive. The movies reflect the culture. The movies are a lot more action based and not so much spy/thriller. ... That song is just so aggressive and grungy that I've always been drawn to it." "You Know My Name" is the closing number for the Marching Patriots' show, with "Writings on the Wall" from the 2015 movie "Spectre" as the "opening credits" followed by the original

James Bond Theme. "Skyfall," from the 2012 film of the same name, serves as the ballad. Alex Yoder arranged all of the pieces for the band — Caleb Garinger on mellophone and Joseph Boggs on baritone are the featured soloists — with Roesch then building the drill off of the music. His goal, he said, was to capture the essence of Bond, including swirly forms that invoke the idea of the octopus that is Spectre's logo. There is also a lot of casino imagery, most obviously via the flags used by the color guard. The opening deep red flags display the four suites of a deck of cards. Other flags show the face

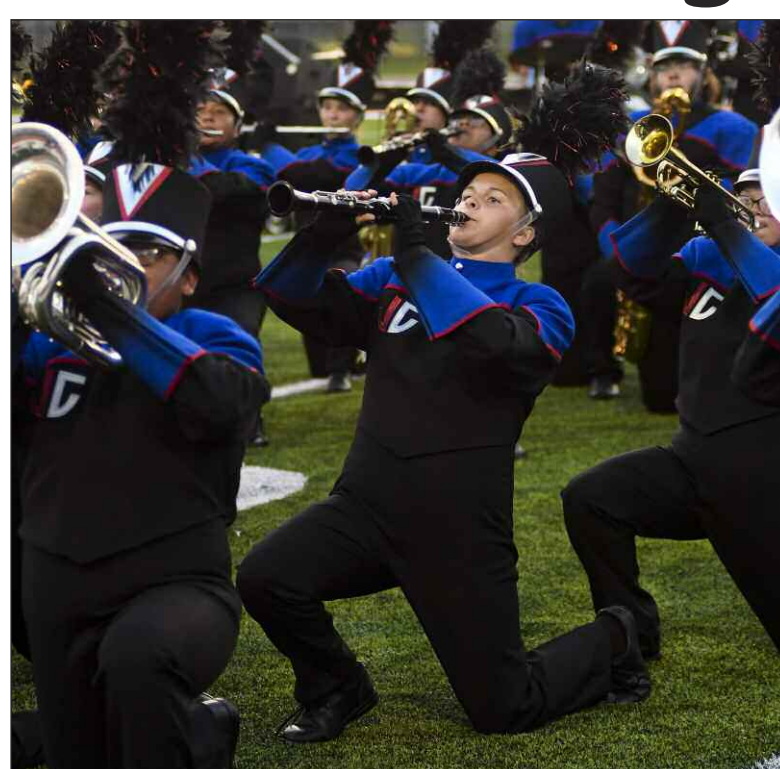
cards, utilize the deep green felt of poker tables and include various references to Bond. (All of them took their backgrounds from the opening credits of the 2006 film "Casino Royale.") The color guard members wear tuxedo-themed uniforms and the drum majors are dressed to the nines in true Bond fashion. "It's a very class show, obviously," said drum major Emma LeMaster, referencing her own sparkling red gown and fellow drum major Gabe Pinkerton's tuxedo. "It's definitely different from what we've done in the past." See Show page 2

Patriots ready to rise to the challenge

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Chuck Roesch was thrilled with band camp. He said his Marching Patriots came out a different group following their week at Indiana Wesleyan University. Their first performance following band camp, though, wasn't quite up to the standards they expected. After a couple of quality runs in front of their home fans Tuesday night, they feel ready for the state fair. Jay County High School's Marching Patriots will compete Friday at Indiana State Fair Band Day, taking the track early at 10:21 a.m. "When they play smart, when they play together, when they're focused in and they're concentrating, they are at their best," said Roesch following Tuesday evening's state fair preview performance. "The two runs that we had tonight are indicative of that. "Saturday night was a good show, but it wasn't a great show." The preliminary round of the state fair competition begins at 9 a.m. Kokomo is the first of the top contenders to take the track at 9:45 a.m., with Muncie Central

and Richmond back-to-back at 10:45 and 10:54 a.m. Montgomery County, Anderson and Centerville perform in succession beginning at 11:39 a.m. Awards from the preliminaries will be at 4:30 p.m. Finals are scheduled for 8 p.m., with awards to follow. The weather forecast does not look promising, with a 41% chance of rain beginning and 9 a.m. and increasing through the evening hours. Thunderstorms are also possible. Rain, thunder and lightning can't be a concern for his crew, Roesch said. "We can't get caught up with distractions — if it's gonna rain, if it's not gonna rain," he said. "The one thing that I've always learned and the thing that I try to get my students to understand is there are things that are within your control and things that are outside your control. "We'll be there. We'll be ready to go. We'll also be flexible if something gets (changed) with the schedule. But when it's time to light it up, we're gonna be ready to go out there and just lay down a great show for everybody and entertain them." See Rise page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

The Jay County High School Marching Patriots, including clarinet player Gina Ward (center) kneel near the end of the first run of their state fair preview show Tuesday evening. The Indiana State Fair Band Day competition begins at 9 a.m. Friday, with JCHS scheduled to take the track at 10:21 a.m. Preliminary awards are at 4:30 p.m., with finals at 8 p.m.

Schools to start with new policies in place

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Thousands of Hoosier students are headed back to school this week and next — and with the start of a new academic year comes a slew of new policies affecting testing, curriculum and classroom behavior. More than a dozen K-12 education laws were passed by state lawmakers during the 2024 session and went into effect July 1. Some details — like changes to IREAD tests and high school diplomas — are still being hashed out by state officials and won't become official for several years.

And although newly-enacted legislation brings minimal changes to schools' finances, the second year of the current biennial budget does bring some dollar boosts. Per-student funding increases improved 5.3% in Fiscal Year 2024, and another 1.8% for this fiscal year, which began July 1. That means schools received \$8.84 billion for tuition support last fiscal year, and \$9.03 billion this year. Private school vouchers and public charter schools also get a portion of this funding, however.

Indiana's next two-year budget will be crafted in the 2025 session and take effect July 1 of next year.

Among the most debated legislation of the 2024 session, Senate Enrolled Act 1 seeks to remedy Indiana's literacy "crisis" by requiring schools to administer the statewide IREAD test in second grade — a year earlier than previous requirements — and direct new, targeted support to at-risk students and those struggling to pass the exam.

But if, after three tries, a third grader can't meet the IREAD standard, legislators want school districts to retain them. That number could reach into the thousands, according to 2023 data. New IREAD results for tests taken in Spring 2024 are expected to be released next month.

Nearly 1,100 schools opted-in to administer IREAD to second grade students during the 2023-2024 school year, according to the Indiana Department of Education (IDOE). All will be required to do so when giving students the test in March 2025.

Students who demonstrate reading proficiency in second grade won't have to test again, and their passing score will be reflected in the following year's IREAD results for third grade students.

The summer school course curriculum must be aligned to science of reading and be taught by a teacher, instructor or tutor who is specifically trained in that instructional practice, according to IDOE. A summer retest option will also be available to third grade students who did not reach proficiency in second grade or during regular spring testing.

Deaths

Max Chenoweth, 86, Portland
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 86 degrees Tuesday. The low was 70. Tonight's forecast calls for showers and thunderstorms with a low of 70. Expect more rain and storms Friday, especially in the afternoon, with a high in the low 80s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

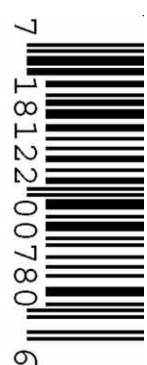
The Jay County Junior-Senior High School cheerleaders will hold their state fair preview show at 6:30 p.m. Friday at East Jay Elementary School. The squads will compete Saturday at the Indiana State Fair beginning at 9:30 a.m.

Coming up

Friday — Jay County native works at Olympic training facility.

Saturday — Results from the Marching Patriots at Indiana State Fair Band Day.

Tuesday — Coverage of the Jay County cheer squads at the Indiana State Fair.



Set clear boundaries

By JANN BLACKSTONE
Tribune News Service

Q. I often hear, "Set clear boundaries" when co-parenting, but my co-parent just does what he wants and I am left frustrated and angry because he doesn't listen to me.

For example, he's never on time. The court order says 10 a.m. on Saturdays. He rolls in at 10:30 and I'm sitting at Starbucks for a half hour with a crying 3 year old.

To make my point, I started to be late, too. It made no impact. When I mentioned it, he said, "Well, you're late sometimes, too!" What's good ex-etiquette?

A. A boundary is a limit that you set for acceptable behavior. But, if you are wishy-washy, that can be confusing and people don't know what you expect. That's where the term "blurry boundaries" comes from. The line drawn gets smudged.

Your example of being late is a perfect illustration. Trying to get back at your co-parent by also being late just reinforced that being late is really of no consequence to you. You blurred the boundary when you, too, were late.

By the way, Good Ex-etiquette for Parents rules No. 5 and 6 are, "Don't be spiteful" and "Don't hold grudges." Revenge rarely

Ex-Etiquette



sets the example you want.

I am often asked how to set a clear boundary. Here are my suggestions:

1. Identify your limits. What do you want? Consider what actions, behaviors, and situations you will accept and what you will not find acceptable.

2. Put boundaries in place as soon as possible. If you wait or drag your feet, you will have to play catch-up. And once a boundary has been breached, it is difficult to be taken seriously.

3. Be consistent. Once you've communicated your boundary, stick to it. "Blurry boundaries" just asks your co-parent to push the limits.

So, let's say there was a boundary in place but a co-parent ignored it. How do you get back on track? It will be helpful to use "I" statements to communicate your feelings.

"I feel (name the emotion) when (describe the action) because (describe why). I would like (name the corrected behavior)."

The following is how putting a boundary into place

looks in real life. The example follows the model above, but more importantly, the original boundary was breached and this co-parent is asking that the original boundary be respected.

"I'd like to revisit how we communicate the kids' schedules. Our previous decision was that there was no need to send each other reminder texts once the kids' extracurriculars were entered into the co-parenting app calendar. I thought I was clear when we discussed this previously, but I am still getting reminder texts from you, 'just to make sure.'"

"I appreciate that you were previously responsible for getting the kids to their activities and it may be difficult to relinquish that role when they are with me, but I must ask you to respect our original agreement. Our responsibilities have been clearly defined, so in the future, let's do our best to stick to our the agreement already in place."

Be direct and stay calm. That's good ex-etiquette.

Blackstone is a child custody mediator and the author of "The Bonus Family Handbook: The Definitive Guide to Co-parenting and Creating Stronger Families." She can be reached by visiting bonusfamilies.com or emailing her at jann@bonusfamilies.com.

Partner's solo trips affecting marriage

DEAR ABBY: Fifteen years into our marriage, I'm struggling to honor my wife's desire for space and independence. I can be a hopeless romantic, and my attempts to communicate my desire for trustworthy and healthy boundaries have actually made it worse.

We had a romantic origin story in a foreign country, and we haven't had a vacation together with the kids in 10 years. She enjoys going on solo vacations so she can be "free" to have adventures where she can get attention from other men.

I trust her and love her deeply, but her returning to the exact location where we met romantically so she can be the object of other men's desire is hurtful. When I've communicated this, she says I'm being "needy." I disagree.

How can I let my wife be free and independent when the ways in which she does it are hurtful to me? When I express this openly and honestly, I'm made to feel as if it's a "me" problem to resolve for myself.

There are subtle and sometimes overt comments that make me feel like our connection is slipping away, and I refuse to let that happen. We are in counseling, but she's against it. What do you do when your desire for a deeper connection with your wife is rebuffed? — LOSING IT IN NEW YORK

DEAR LOSING IT: I am so glad you and your wife are in counseling, because you both need it. Since your wife is doing this against her will, I urge you to continue alone if necessary.

Please understand that you cannot save a marriage all by yourself. There has to be a mutual willingness, and it often involves compromise. Ten years since a family vacation is a very long time. For her to take solo vacations so she can appear to be single (if that's her reason) is hardly working on your marriage, and you have not

Dear Abby



been "needy" by pointing out that fact.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a twice widowed lady. I'm also a snowbird. There is a gentleman, also a snowbird, who comes south and stays with the family across the street from me. He's very nice, and we have gone to dinner a few times, but I have no desire to have more than a casual relationship. I drink good wine; he's a beer drinker.

Last week, he came to visit and brought a large bottle of very inexpensive (and awful) wine. I graciously had a small glass, but it wasn't to my liking. He has mentioned that he has bought yet another bottle of this wine for us to share.

How do I tell him I only want to be friends and that my taste in wine is more refined than his without coming across as a snob? I don't want to hurt his feelings, but I just can't drink another glass of it. — CABERNET QUEEN IN FLORIDA

DEAR QUEEN: Before you see this nice man again, ask him to return the wine he purchased "for you to share" and tell him it's your turn to bring the wine. People have different tastes, and it isn't "snobbish" to make your preference known. As to the issue of just wanting to be friends, once he sees the price of the wine you prefer, he may be only too glad to go back to his beer.

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.

Birth announcements

Bailey

Jameson Paul Michael, a son, was born July 25 at St. Vincent Randolph to Michael Bailey and Mackenzie Hollowell of Winchester.

He weighed 7 pounds, 5 ounces.

His grandparents are Brian and Barb Hollowell of Portland and Mark Bailey of Farm-land.

Langenkamp

Calvin Roger, a son, was born July 13 to Caitlin and

Alex Langenkamp of Portland at St. Vincent Randolph in Winchester.

He weighed 8 pounds, 1 ounce.

His grandparents are Roger and Debbie Langenkamp and Joe and Cindy Ruchgy.

Community Calendar

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

Today

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

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Sec-

ond Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

Friday

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

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

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first and third Friday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Holds its next meeting at noon Friday, Aug. 2, at Harmony Café in Portland.

Saturday

LOCAL'S MARKET — Will be held from 8 a.m. to noon each Saturday in June through October in the parking lot at Jay Community Center in Portland. For more information, contact Bill Cook.

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

ROAD RIDERS FOR JESUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. on the first Saturday of each month in the West Walnut Church of Christ fellowship hall, 204 W. Walnut St., Portland. (Please enter from the door facing the alley on the north side of the building.)

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

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

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FRHS fall sports

Tuesday, Aug. 20 - CR*

JCHS fall sports

Wednesday, Aug. 21 - CR/NS*

Blackford fall sports

Wednesday, Aug. 21 - NT*

Randolph County football

Thursday, Aug. 22 - N-G*

DEADLINES ARE ONE WEEK PRIOR

GRAPHIC PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

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

Why is grandma living all alone?

By MORTON J. MARCUS

When Gilbert O'Sullivan (no relation to Gilbert and Sullivan) wrote his 1972 lament, "Alone again, naturally," being alone was not anywhere as popular as it is today.

Back then, about 17% of American households were occupied by just one person. Today, that figure is closing in on 30%. Where, in the early 1970s, we saw 10 million single-person households, now we're pressing 40 million.

Many factors have combined to make living alone more common than in the '70s. Longer life for surviving spouses. More divorced people. High incomes for select occupations filled by young people. They all are evidence of a more prosper-

Eye on the Pie



ous economy with higher real wages supplemented by pensions, life insurance, social security, more liberal mortgage policies, increased female labor force participation and adults of all ages accustomed to more square footage than enjoyed by previous generations.

We may imagine the diverse lives of those living alone. For some, it is a golden time of

freedom and exploration. For others, it is a daily grind in a pit of desperation. It is a feature of our movies, songs and fiction, a persistent reality in advertising, but it fails to register on our collective thoughts of American life or our anticipation of our future society.

Americans complain of a housing shortage without acknowledging the fact that 14% of the population 18 and older occupies 28% of all housing units. In Indiana, that's 16% of the relevant population using 29% of our housing.

This living alone phenomenon has increased every year since 1960. From 2012 through 2022, occupied housing units increased by 12% while the number of persons living alone

increased by 15%. That's a gap of only three percentage points, but in New Mexico the gap was 14 percentage points (11% vs 25%). Indiana ranked 12th with a gap of seven percentage points, more than twice that of the nation. In all, 44 of the 50 states saw those living alone increasing faster than did the number of housing units.

The percent of the population living alone is highest for those 65 and older, 27% in the U.S. and 29% in Indiana. In both the U.S. and Indiana, this oldest group is just 6% of those 18 and older, but they occupy close to 12% of the housing.

Among those 65-plus, five diverse Indiana counties (Switzerland, St. Joseph, Knox,

Huntington and Marion) have more than a third of their seniors living alone. In Switzerland County, 9% of the population occupies 18% of the housing units, yielding the largest gap in the state of nine percentage points. Hamilton County is at the opposite end of the spectrum, with 4% of its 18-and-older population using 8% of the housing; the lowest gap in the state at four percentage points.

Do we want to (should we) do anything about those living alone disproportionately occupying housing? Are these inequalities inequities?

Marcus is an economist. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Deal should speed approval

New York Daily News
Tribune News Service

Months if not years in the making, a bipartisan bill in Washington seeks to speed up permitting for new energy infrastructure, which far too often today gets bogged down if not killed by exhausting regulatory processes and lawsuits. Here's hoping the imperfect but worthy legislation isn't bogged down or killed by the forces protecting the status quo, which far too often today carry the day in Congress.

Anyone who claims to care about giving Americans plentiful access to affordable energy, including the renewable sources of power that will be absolutely essential to slowing the rapid rise in temperatures that's threatening people and ecosystems across the planet, should be upset about the fact that, according to the federal energy department, 70% of the nation's transmission lines are more than 25 years old. Old transmission lines squander energy. They make power outages and cyberattacks more likely. And perhaps most importantly, they drive up costs to consumers.

It's not just the wires that deliver the electricity; it's the sources that produce it in the first place. To wean the country off carbon-emitting sources by 2035, the United States has to quadruple its annual deployment pace for solar and wind generation.

Yet under rules that have only gotten more complex and cumbersome over the decades, America continues to move at a snail's pace in rolling out energy infrastructure. As a late 2023 report by the World Economic Forum put it, "At the end of 2021 in the U.S., 79% of the wind pipeline was stuck in the permitting process versus the construction phase...There are also over 2,000 gigawatts of projects in the U.S. seeking connection to the grid, of which more than 95% is clean power technology. Similarly, interconnection waiting time is rising from less than two years for projects built in 2000-2007 to nearly four years for those built in 2018-2022."

Guest Editorial

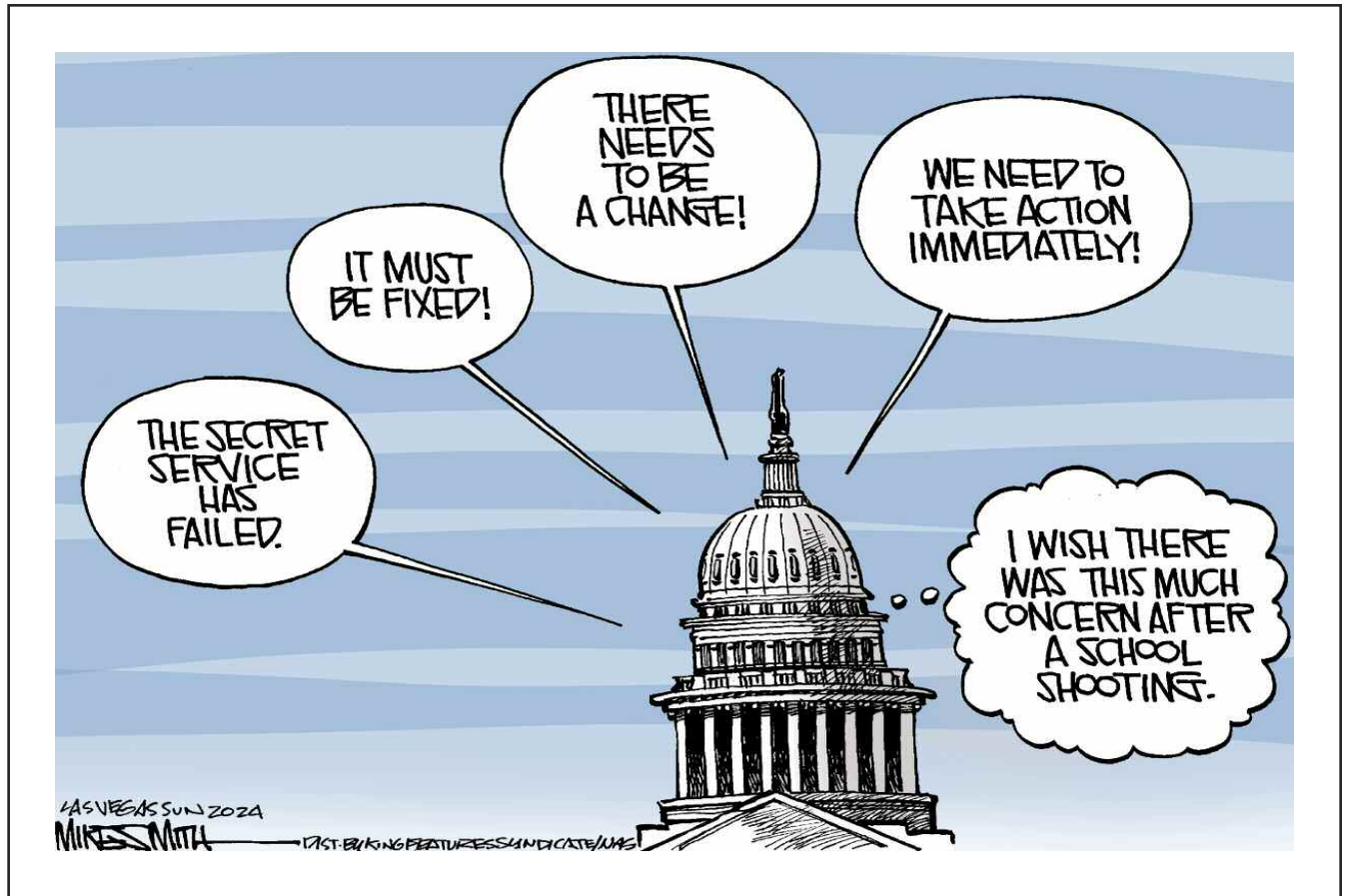
As author Philip K. Howard has pointed out in these pages and elsewhere, infrastructure approvals can easily take decades — with costs rising and rising with each passing year of delay.

The Trump administration took a crack at fixing the problem, in one of the few policy moves this page enthusiastically supported. The Biden administration, under which both oil and renewable production are at all-time highs, has also pushed for smoother and speedier permitting of clean energy projects—an agenda Republicans and some Democrats have resisted as an unfair thumb on the scale.

The sweeping legislation co-authored by Republican John Barrasso and Democrat Joe Manchin, who's made millions in the coal business, aims to speed up energy and infrastructure projects whether or not they emit fossil fuels. It would enable much faster modernization of the electric grid so that new sources, which are overwhelmingly renewable ones, can more easily deliver power to homes and businesses.

Oil, gas and other fossil-fuel emitting industries won't be on the outside looking in. The legislation would set a deadline for the Energy Department to decide whether to give gas export projects a thumbs-up or thumbs-down, and would streamline the process for generating energy, whether it's renewable or not, on public lands. It would expand both offshore oil drilling and offshore wind, and make it harder to tie up projects in endless lawsuits.

The bill could use refinement — given what a huge threat climate change, we'd strongly prefer renewable sources to be prioritized — but it should nevertheless serve as the foundation for major reform that unsticks the permitting process and lets energy and economic progress accelerate.



Short stories offer full reward

THOMAS GRANT BRUSO
The Press-Republican (Plattsburgh, New York)
Tribune News Service

Short stories are a dying art. Growing up in the 1980s and 1990s, I consumed many pulp and mystery short stories, satisfying my literary taste and inner bookworm.

Stephen King, Ray Bradbury, Ed McBain, Ross Macdonald, Raymond Carver, and Donald E. Westlake were a few of my must-read authors. They still are, in fact, my go-to writers when I need a break from the usual novel-length reads.

Nonetheless, they're available and can be equally enjoyed by various age groups.

Two popular, long-running short story publications, Ellery Queen's Mystery Magazine and Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, are in print and accessible today as e-books or bound paperbacks, including a plentiful amount of crime, mystery, pulp, and suspense short fiction stories to sharpen and pique the armchair detective's little grey cells. In the July/August 2024 issue of Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine, a slew of marvelous, creative, and crafty tales is woven into page-turning suspense reads such as Steven Sheil's title story, "The Art of Cruel Embroidery," which is set in a tailoring shop and boutique business.

Marcelle Dube's deftly handled story, "Chuck Berry is Missing," is one of the collection's highlights, with its wintery, atmospheric backdrop and well-paced investigation. If you're looking for a solid missing person mystery and summer crime, I urge you to pick up or download a copy of the latest Alfred Hitchcock's Mystery Magazine.

As for physical books and the authors writing and churning out stories in the short fiction field, some celebrated authors, such as Stephen King and Joyce Carol Oates, have recently released a mishmash of short stories.

King is widely read and mainly known for his horror tales. Until

Thomas Grant Bruso



recently, the master of macabre took a break from writing about blood-thirsty clowns, gigantic spiders, rabid dogs, vampires, and vengeful cars for more grounded, human-interest stories like "Holly" and "Billy Summers."

For years, King's passionate fan base has been clamoring for spookier stories and the supernatural monsters and sinister entities that live in the dark and go bump in the night. King must have been listening because this past May, a dozen dark stories surfaced in a 500-page tome called "You Like it Darker," a nostalgically and stylized compilation of evocative old-school horror that King fans have been waiting for.

King returns with a sequel to "Cujo," a short story titled "Rattlesnakes." King reminds us that the past steers the future. In the story, a widower travels to Florida to receive an inheritance with strings attached.

"Danny Coughlin's Bad Dreams" is my favorite of the bunch. A man dreams of finding a dead body and then goes searching for it, only to land himself in the line of fire when he becomes the main suspect in the man's death. It is the longest story in the batch, clocking in at 151 pages, but the stellar storytelling seizes you and doesn't let go.

In 2023, prolific literary juggernaut Joyce Carol Oates published new arresting and provocative stories in "Zero-Sum." The compendium is an example of art imitating life — though it might be the other way around — a brilliant and innovative example of somebody holding a mirror up to our current times, a frightening glance at our country's

broken political and social landscape.

Oates likes to experiment with syntax, content, and language. Many of the stories in the book center on women's rights, feminism, and the vulnerable framework of living as a woman in a violent man's world.

"Mr. Stickum" includes violence against women, a familiar theme in Oate's writing. Still, the physical, emotional, and mental fatigue it takes on the women in the story doesn't outwit their hunger for control and retribution.

In the most comprehensive and powerfully wrought story, "The Suicide," a highly admired and cutting-edge writer experiments with drafts of his own suicide.

C.J. Tudor ("The Chalk Man" and "The Gathering") combines her strength for storytelling and world-building in a slim but fierce collection of horror stories titled "A Sliver of Darkness."

Using engaging dialogue and mind-bending narratives, Tudor features chilling cases of killer butterflies, Doomsday scenarios, and mistaken identity.

"Final Course" concentrates on a group of friends who gather for a dinner party as the country descends into darkness. Grave consequences abound as Tudor feeds her readers with excellent pacing and mood and amps up the creep factor to unnerving levels of uncertainty.

"Gloria" is an eerie tale of lust, as a strange young woman endears herself to a cold-hearted killer.

Short fiction is on the menu—a variety of pulp, mystery, and suspense tales for the ravenous reader. This month and throughout the year, support authors who write short stories. Check out the titles from this column, or select your own.

Whatever you choose, happy reading.

Bruso is a Plattsburgh resident who writes fiction and has been an avid reader of genre fiction since he was a kid.

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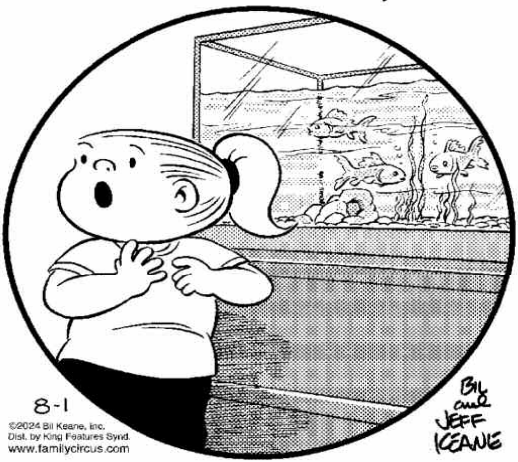
"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."
—Thomas Jefferson

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A case of self-preservation

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

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 1♣ Pass
3♠ Pass 4♠ Pass
Opening lead—three of diamonds.
A safety play is basically a protective measure. Declarer assumes an unfavorable lie of the cards and takes steps to guard against that possibility should it happen to exist.

Here is a typical case. West leads a diamond against four spades. Declarer wins with the ace and notes that if the opposing cards are divided unfavorably, he could lose three heart tricks and one or two trump tricks.

South can do very little about the location of the trumps if West has

all four of them, so he begins by leading a low spade to the ace, on which West plays the three and East the eight. When declarer next returns a trump and East produces the ten, South must decide whether to play the jack or the king.

This is a very common problem, but, unfortunately, there is no hard and fast rule to rely on. More often than not, the king is the better play, but in a particular case the jack might be the right play.

If certainly is in this deal, where playing the jack guarantees the contract, while playing the king jeopardizes it. Obviously, if the finesse wins, South has the contract firmly in tow and, in fact, is sure to finish with least 11 tricks.

And what if the jack should lose to the queen? In that case, declarer is still in good shape. Whatever West returns, South is sure to score at least 10 tricks consisting of four spades, four clubs and two diamonds.

But note what happens if declarer does not finesse the jack and plays the king instead. If he next concedes a trick to the queen, East will shift to a heart to sink the contract. And if instead South attempts to run his clubs right away in order to discard a heart, East ruffs the third club, and his heart return again puts the contract down one.

Tomorrow: Test your play.
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8-1

CRYPTOQUIP

G O XGSP G EVZTI TGPD OV EVKP
GS M YGKKVK YMSZCMJQZKGSF
CMJOVKU. G JVZTI RDD YURDTC

IVGSF OXMO.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: EVERYTHING ABOUT THE WEDDING WAS ABSOLUTELY TOUCHING. HECK, EVEN THE CAKE WAS IN TIERS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals R

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

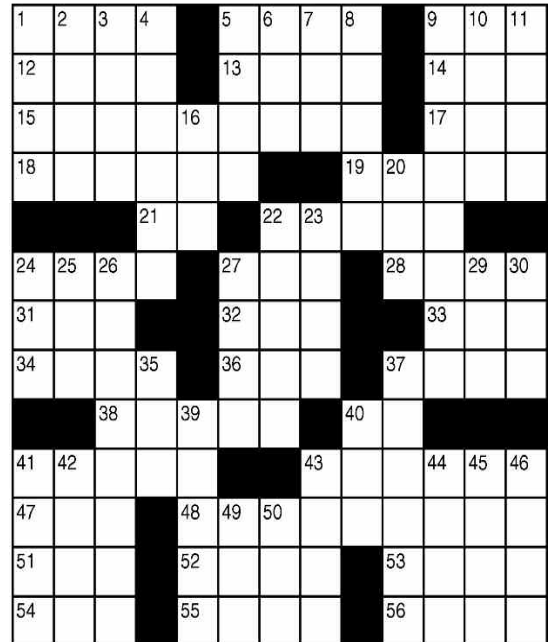
ACROSS
1 Profit shadow
5 Fore-jewel
9 Tiara
12 Too
13 Litter's littlest
14 — Dawn Chong
15 Pricey time-piece
17 Celestial altar
18 Veteran sailor
19 Pharaoh's land
21 Type measure
22 Threaded hardware
24 Nickname for Dallas
27 Fan's shout
28 Harboring a grudge
31 GI-entertaining gp.
32 "Am — blame?"
33 Rent out
34 Not barefoot
36 Spigot
37 True pals, in texts

DOWN
1 Jokes
2 Hand lotion ingredient
3 "La — Bonita"
4 Agreed silently
5 Boast
6 Ump's call
7 Pol. party org.
8 Old anes-thetic
9 Large canine of Eurasia and North America
10 Lawman Wyatt
11 Vegan's no-no
16 Tri-umphed
20 Some fridges
22 Skew-ered Thai dish
23 Karate move
24 Com-muter's choice
25 "Kinda" suffix
26 "Well done!"
27 Cracker name
29 Ump pilots
30 UFO
35 Insult
37 Clevel-land squad
39 Roman robes
40 Slugger Mel
41 LP player
42 Actor Clive
43 Golden Rule word
44 Combine
45 Greek vowel
46 Driver of "Logan Lucky"
49 Hitter's stat
50 Be sick

Solution time: 24 mins.



Yesterday's answer 8-1



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Sports

Chasing dreams and dodging balls

Fort Recovery native Perry Hull will compete in ESPN's USA Dodgeball All-Star Showcase

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

"I'm being told that Average Joe's does not have enough players and will be forfeiting the championship match," said Gary Cole's character Cotton McKnight in the spoof of ESPN2, ESPN 8 The Ocho from "Dodgeball: an Underdog Story".

"It's a bold strategy Cotton, let's see if it pays off for 'em," responded Jason Bateman's character Pepper Brooks.

This exchange was one of many from the 2004 comedy film that started "The Ocho's" legacy.

Today, what started as a joke on ESPN adding a second channel and the idea of how many "ESPN's" there would need to be for a sport like dodgeball to be televised, is now an annual event in early August that features a marathon of lesser-known, unconventional and humorous sports.

This year's version of the program will pay homage to the movie the program is based off of with dodgeball, and one of Fort Recovery's own will be there.

Fort Recovery native Perry Hull will compete in the USA Dodgeball All Star Showcase as part of The Ocho on Friday, which will air at 4 p.m. on ESPN2.

"People that know me ... know that it's family and faith and then I love dodgeball and I love Fort Recovery," Perry said. "Just being able to, one, be a guy from Fort Recovery playing sports on ESPN is wild to think about.

"And two, to be playing a sport I only really started playing six to seven years ago, and taking it really seriously for about two or three, so to be able to help pro-

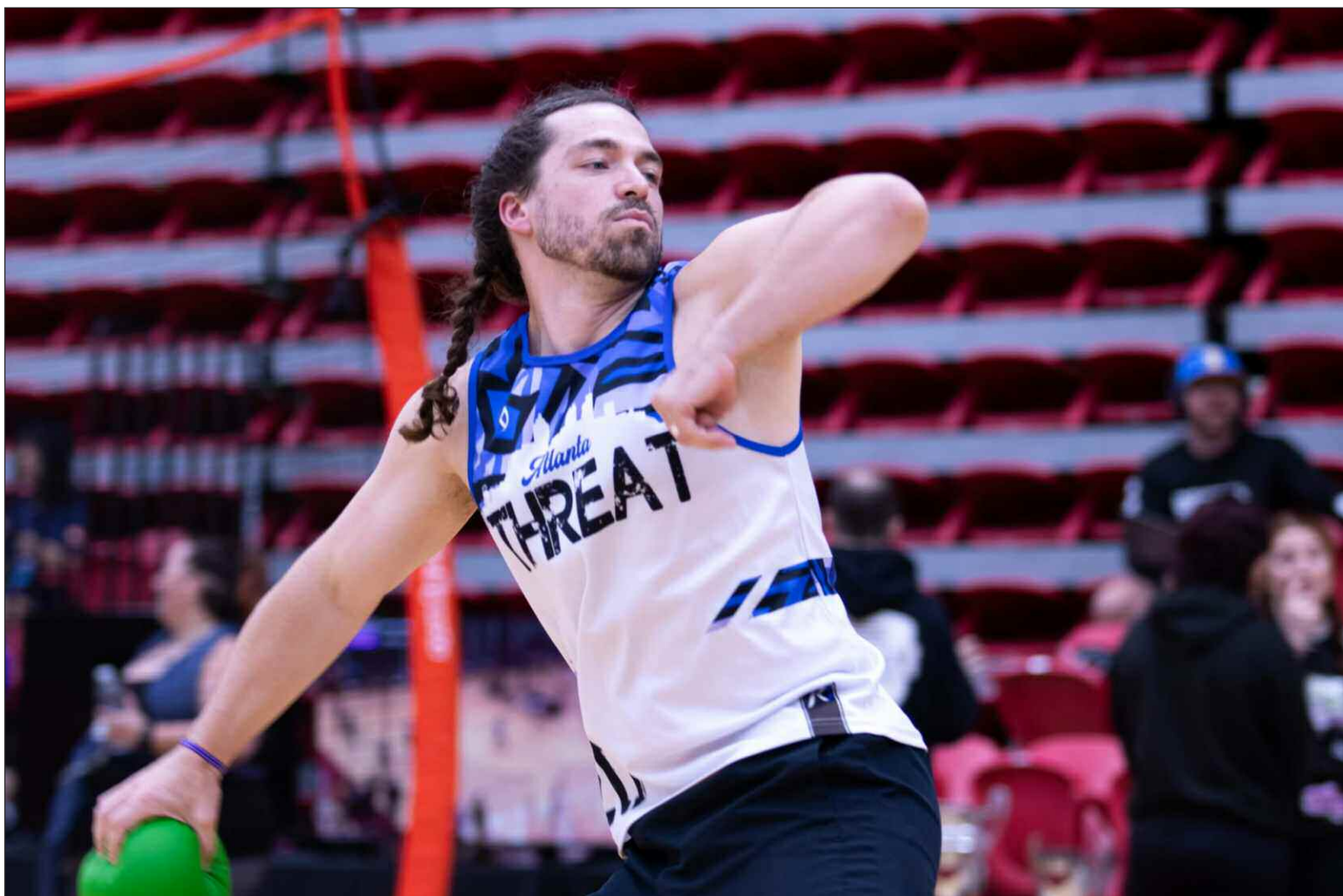


Photo provided

Perry Hull cocks his arm back to fire a dodgeball for the Atlanta Threat dodgeball club that he started after moving. Hull, who is originally from Fort Recovery, will compete in the USA Dodgeball All-Star Showcase during ESPN's The Ocho on Friday at 4 p.m.

mote this game as an actual true sport is a big deal for me."

Hull described his interest in dodgeball starting in high school on Fridays after his weightlifting class. The enjoyment he got from playing in high school didn't initially

bloom into the professional career he has now.

The 2010 graduate hadn't touched the physical education class staple for nearly eight years. While living in southern California, Hull got the opportunity to play again when helping


out with a youth lock-in at the church he was attending.

"I was asked if I wanted to play dodgeball with the kids," Hull said. "After a while (of playing), I was thinking 'this is so freaking fun.' I'm saying this, heaving over the toilet in the

men's bathroom because I wasn't in shape, but it was that fun."

That led to Hull to thinking if adult dodgeball leagues existed, and one Google search the next day showed a plethora of options in the area.

See [Dodging](#) page 7




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