

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Council members discuss noise complaint

*Resident says noise from activities has been a nuisance*

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review

A complaint from a resident led to discussion about how to handle noise issues in the city.

Portland City Council on Monday talked about the possibility of updating the city's noise ordinance after receiving a written complaint from resident Gary Dennis regarding church services that are being held at Jay Community Center.

Council member Matt Goldsworthy read the letter from Dennis, who said the noise has been a disturbance for him and his family. Other council members said they have also received complaints about the loud music on Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays.

Dennis also complained about loud music being played during soccer games.

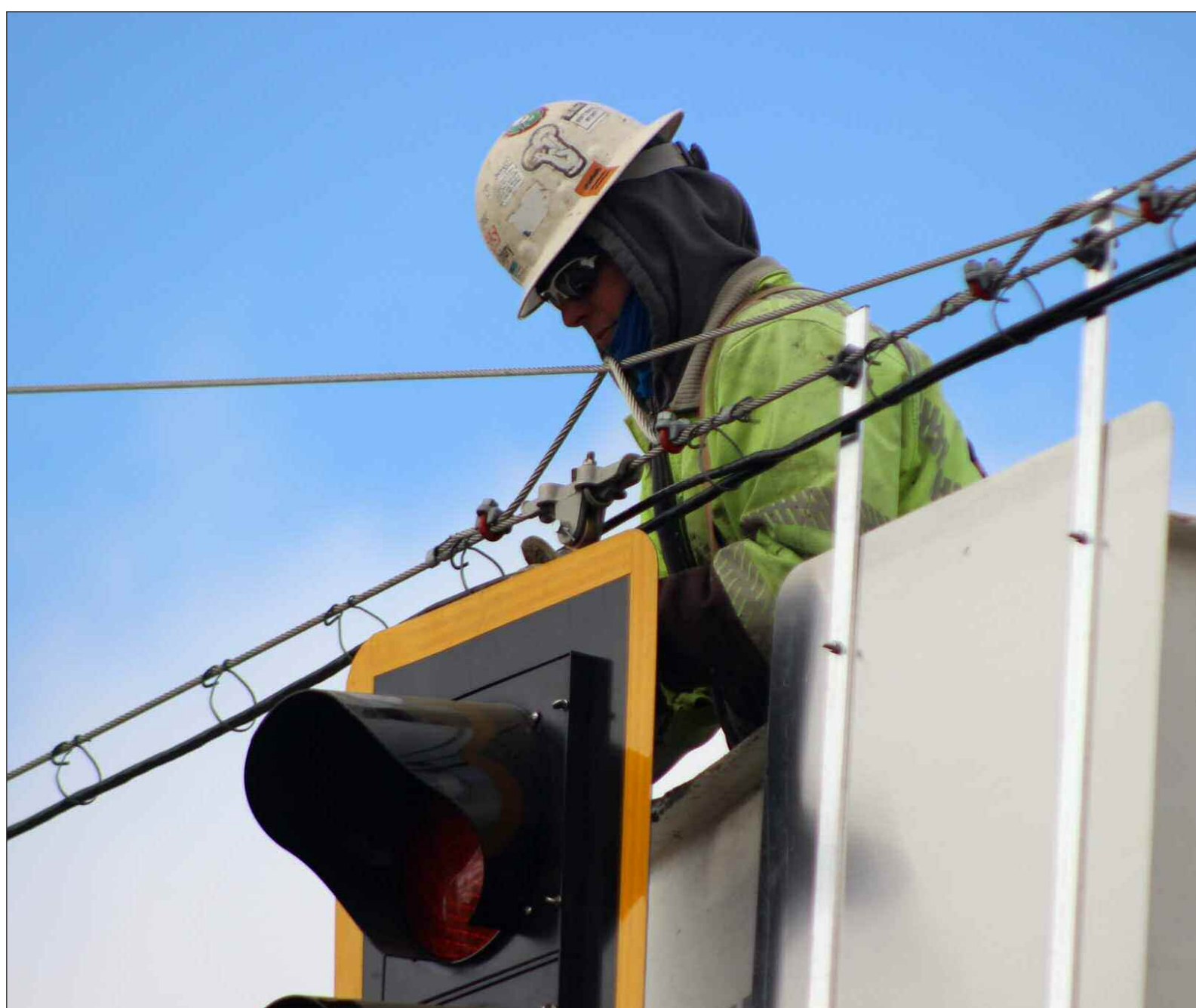
He asked that council members look into changing two sections of its ordinance, one regarding an exemption for church services and another regarding exemptions for athletic events.

Goldsworthy said he brought the issue to the attention of community center executive director Kyle Cook, who acknowledged that there have been issues and said he would continue to work on addressing them.

Council member Dave Golden asked city attorney Wes Schemenaur about the possibility of changing the city ordinance.

Schemenaur said removing the religious exemption to the noise ordinance would likely cause Constitutional issues involving First Amendment rights. He advised that the city could look at changing the exemption for athletic events and could consider adding decibel limits. He noted, however, that enforcement of such limits can be difficult.

See Noise page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

## Installing signals

Construction workers from Shambaugh & Son of Fort Wayne install and cover traffic signals Tuesday at the intersection of Meridian and Lafayette streets in Portland. The installation of the lights is the final step in an ongoing Indiana Department of Transportation project that also included paving and sidewalk work.

# FR seeking Diller's successor

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — The village is seeking an assistant administrator.

Fort Recovery Village Council heard plans Monday from village administrator Randy Diller to begin advertising and taking applications for the new position.

Diller has worked for the village for just over three decades, overseeing various departments and day-to-day business of the village. He hopes to retire at the end of February 2026.

In order to prepare for his retirement, the village will be bringing on an assistant. Plans are for the job to serve as training for an individual, who would eventually become village administrator and take on Diller's duties next year.

Diller said he will be advertising for the position this week and posting the job website Hometown

## Longtime village administrator plans to retire in early 2026

Opportunity. Hopes are to hire an employee within the next few months, he said.

Relatedly, Diller noted street department superintendent Jerry Guggenbiller retires at the end of the month. Plans are to shift street maintenance employee Brandon Weyerick into Guggenbiller's role.

Also Monday, council agreed to pay a \$573,192.48 bill for water main work and steel ordered for the ongoing construction of a second water tower in Fort Recovery.

Plans call for a 250,000-gallon ele-

vated tower on the north side of the village with an additional 2,600 feet of water lines to connect it to the village's distribution system.

Diller pointed out underground work for the approximately \$2.44 million project has been completed, with tank construction to begin soon. The tower is projected to be complete in July 2025.

In other business, council:

- OK'd a \$31,264.48 payment to Shinn Brothers of Celina for completing safety improvements at the Center and Elm streets intersec-

tion for pedestrians. Originally an idea for Safe Routes to School grant funding, the project's total cost will be split with Fort Recovery Local Schools.

- Paid \$7,623 to PMG Consulting and Shoaf Consulting for ongoing work related to designs for water plant improvements. The project would involve transitioning the village's water softening treatment to reverse osmosis membrane softening, potentially decreasing the village's chemical costs by an estimated \$210,000 annually.

- Was reminded the scoping meeting to kick off projects being funded through Ohio Department of Transportation's Safe Routes to School grant is slated for Feb. 13. The village was approved for approximately \$439,589 in infrastructure work through the program. (Fort Recovery Local Schools also received \$18,000 for a non-infrastructure project.)



Tribune News Service/The Philadelphia Inquirer

## Surveying scene

First responders, Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker, U.S. Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy, Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro and other agency officials walk Monday morning along Cottman Avenue, surveying the scene of a medical jet crash.

# Inspection bill advances

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

A bill to increase inspections of confined livestock farms advanced Monday despite pushback from multiple Indiana farming groups who argued that additional oversight requirements will come at a cost to producers.

Senate Bill 193 originally proposed annual inspections for all confined feeding operations, or CFOs. Currently, those farms must be inspected by state regulators at the time of licensure, and then once every five years.

Before moving the bill 9-1 to the full chamber, however, the Senate Environmental Affairs Committee amended the bill to require two inspections in every five-year period.

Bill author Sen. Rick Niemeyer,

## Measure would double current requirement for confined feeding

R-Lowell, emphasized that the change would add "just one more inspection" and comes at "no cost" to farmers.

Niemeyer said the proposal stemmed from concerns in his district — specifically within Newton County — about the yearslong gap between farm inspections.

"It's not because the CFOs

have a problem in the state. They do not. They've had a great track record," he said. "This is just for the residents that live around there. They had a lot of concerns ... to make sure that runoff isn't getting into the ditches, into the rivers, and areas that maybe it shouldn't have been in."

See Inspection page 5

### Deaths

David Miller, 82, Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County's high temperature climbed to 61 degrees Monday. The low was 34.

The forecast calls for freezing rain tonight with a low in the lower 20s and winds gusting to 20 miles per hour. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the upper 40s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Jay County Public Library will have Legos and magnetic blocks available in the children's play area this week. They can be used from 3 to 7 p.m. Thursday and 9 a.m. to noon Saturday.

### Coming up

Thursday — Details from Tuesday's Jay County Development Corporation meeting.

Friday — A preview of the brackets for the wrestling regional at JCHS.

Saturday — Results from the JCHS girls basketball sectional semifinal versus Delta.





# Obituaries

## Madonna Chittum

June 19, 1938-Feb. 1, 2025  
Madonna "Donna" L. Chittum, age 86, of Portland passed away on Saturday, Feb. 1, 2025, surrounded by family in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare in Portland.



Chittum

Born in Celina, Ohio, on June 19, 1938, she was the daughter of Herbert and Mary (Faller) Meinerding. She was married on June 30, 1962, to Larry Chittum and he passed away on Nov. 30, 2021.

Donna was a receptionist for Jay County REMC for many years. She was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Jay County Hospital Auxiliary and American Legion Auxiliary. She was

a graduate of Fort Recovery High School and International Business College.

Donna was involved in Special Olympics golfing, she enjoyed her Busch Light and wine and was the life of the party, never meeting a stranger. She was also stuck going with Larry to a lot of Jay County athletic events.

Surviving are two sons, Vince Chittum (wife: Laura) of Bargersville, Indiana, and Patrick Chittum (wife: Jenn) of Wauseon, Ohio; one daughter, Deborah Jackson (husband: Doug) of Portland; two brothers, Gene Meinerding and Jack Meinerding (wife: Ginny), both of Union City; and one sister, Mary Jo Stump (husband: Larry) of Hudson, Wisconsin; eight grandchildren; and 11 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her husband Larry; daughter Theresa (twin of Vince); grandson Chris Jackson; and sister Jeannette Meinerding.

Funeral services will be Thursday, Feb. 6 at 7 p.m. with Pastor Earl Doll presiding. Visitation will be Thursday from 3 to 7 p.m.

Burial will be in Claycomb Cemetery.

Memorials can be made to the Portland Rockets or Jay County Special Olympics.

## Connie Walker

July 9, 1947-Feb. 3, 2025  
Connie Walker, age 77, of Portland passed away on Monday, Feb. 3, 2025, in Persimmon Ridge Healthcare.

She was born in Portland on July 9, 1947, the daughter of Maxwell and Suzanna (Upp) Compton. She was married on

Aug. 15, 1965, to Perry Walker, who survives.

Connie had worked in the deli at Marsh supermarket, Dairy Queen and CVS. She was a 1965 Portland High School graduate and was an avid bowler.

Surviving are her husband Perry; two sons, Kevin Walker of Berne and Randy Walker (wife: Melissa) of Mt. Airy, North Carolina; and three grandchildren, Evan Walker, Emily Walker and Kiersten Walker.

She was preceded in death by a brother, Ron Compton.

Memorial services will be Saturday, Feb. 8, at 11 a.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home. Family will receive guests from 9 to 11 a.m.



Walker

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

**Jacquelyn C. Wright**, Coldwater, Ohio, Sept. 4, 1941-Feb. 1, 2025. Services will be at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 8, at Trinity Lutheran Church, Fort Recovery.

**Bruce E. Fidler**, Geneva, Dec. 17, 1951-Jan. 17, 2025. Services will be at 4 p.m. Tuesday at Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 N. Washington St., Geneva.

The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge.

They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

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

## CR almanac

Thursday 2/6	Friday 2/7	Saturday 2/8	Sunday 2/9	Monday 2/10
<b>42/25</b>	<b>33/28</b>	<b>44/28</b>	<b>35/21</b>	<b>35/23</b>
Thursday has a slight chance of rain with temperatures in the upper 40s.	Mostly sunny skies on Friday when the high will be in the mid 30s.	Saturday's forecast shows a 70% chance of snow under mostly cloudy skies.	Mostly cloudy on Sunday, when there's a slight chance of rain.	Monday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the lower 30s.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 2-40-47-53-55 Power Ball: 20 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$69 million	Daily Four: 9-4-8-2 Quick Draw: 5-11-14-18-19-21-29-35-36-37-40-43-51-52-61-65-66-69-71-73 Cash 5: 6-14-35-41-45 Estimated jackpot: \$335,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$44 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 5-8-0 Pick 4: 1-2-0-0 Pick 5: 8-3-9-3-0 Evening Pick 3: 6-9-1 Pick 4: 7-8-6-3 Pick 5: 0-7-5-6-4 Rolling Cash: 4-10-12-16-32 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 1-6-2 Daily Four: 6-4-8-8 Quick Draw: 5-6-8-13-15-16-17-19-20-30-35-43-47-54-57-60-61-67-78-80 Evening Daily Three: 0-7-7	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.88 March corn.....4.93 April corn.....5.00	March beans .....10.53 Wheat ..... 5.16
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.95 March corn.....4.99 April corn.....5.10	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.86 March corn .....4.89 Beans .....10.45 March beans .....10.49 Wheat .....5.35
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.88 March corn .....4.88 Beans .....10.48	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.83 March corn .....4.83 Beans .....10.28 March beans .....10.33 Wheat .....5.11

## Today in history

In 1852, the Hermitage Museum in Saint Petersburg opened to the public. Originally founded nearly 90 years prior, it's known for being one of the largest and oldest museums in the world.

In 1869, the largest gold nugget in history was found at Moliagul, Australia. The nugget, dubbed "Welcome Stranger," weighed more than 71 kilograms.

— The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Election Board, voting room, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.
<b>Thursday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners special session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	4 p.m. — Jay County Public Library Board, community room, library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland.
4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	6 p.m. — Jay County County Living Advisory Board, living facility, 1194 E. 200 North, Portland.
<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N.	6 p.m. — Dunkirk Board of Works, city building, 131 S. Main St. 7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

## Noise ...

Continued from page 1  
Council president Kent McClung agreed, saying any limits in the ordinance must be objective rather than subjective. He also expressed concern about unintended consequences, noting that some industries, such as Portland Forge, can be noisy. Other examples offered by council members and Schemenaur included concerts at the city's parks and Portland Rockets games.

Schemenaur encouraged council members Michele Brewster, Mike Aker, Ashley Hilfiker, Ron May, McClung, Goldsworthy and Golden to reference American Legal Publishing and consider whether they would like to make any ordinance changes.

In other business:  
•Council approved a request from Chris Englehardt of Tri-State Gas Engine and Tractor Association for a waiver from Aug. 9 through 24 to the city's golf cart ordinance for drivers who display a Tri-State golf cart sticker. He told council members that drivers will be provided a copy of the rules, which include that golf carts are not allowed on state and U.S. highways. Also approved was the closure of a section of Morton Street adjacent to the Tri-State grounds for Aug. 15 through Aug. 24.

•On the recommendation of the city's tax abatement advisory committee, council approved a one-year tax abatement for Joyce/Dayton on a

\$57,000 investment in new equipment. It also amended the equipment list for a 2023 Joyce/Dayton tax abatement. (The change does not affect the financial details for the abatement.)

•Mayor Jeff Westlake issued a reminder that "Splashin' with a Passion: Peggy's Plunge" is scheduled for noon Saturday behind Moser Engineering, 102 E. Performance Drive, Portland. Portland Fire Department will host a chili cook-off the following weekend, and the mayor is planning his State of the City address for later this month.

•Golden asked a question about the Blaine Pike street paving and walking path project. Clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips said a final change order is scheduled to come before the city's board of works on Thursday.

•May asked several questions: —Why have "no turn on red" signs been added to Meridian Street? Mayor Jeff Westlake indicated that the Indiana Department of Transportation is in charge of any such

signs because the street is a U.S. highway.

—Is it legal to shoot down drones if they are flying over a house? Schemenaur advised against doing so, noting that it is a felony to shoot down aircraft. He advised residents to follow the advice that has been provided by local officials and report drones to Jay County Sheriff's Office.

—Why are businesses not provided with trash service? Phillips informed him that, by ordinance, the city provides residential trash service only.

—What is being done following an executive order from Indiana Gov. Mike Braun that lays out expectations for all Indiana law agencies to fully cooperate with immigration officers in relation to the "investigation, apprehension, or detention of individuals illegally or unlawfully present in the United States"? Westlake said he has been advised to wait for further details regarding the issue.

### SERVICES

**Thursday**  
**Chittum, Madonna:** 7 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

**Saturday**  
**Walker, Connie:** 11 a.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.  
**Wright, Jacquelyn:** 11 a.m., Trinity Lutheran Church, 301 Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

**Tuesday**  
**Fidler, Bruce:** 4 p.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Service listings provided by  
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## Capsule Reports

### Lost control

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after an Ohio woman lost control of her car and crashed it along county road 800 South about noon Monday.

Ashley N. Kirtley, 37, Bradford, was driving east on the road near county road 300 East. She told police a semi driving toward her took up a large portion of the road and she had to drive on the shoulder of the road to avoid a crash. She lost control of her 2011 Nissan Maxima, causing it to spin 90 degrees and go into a ditch along the road.

Kirtley complained of face pain. Her passenger, 23-year-old Jessalyn A. Mendenhall of Fort Loramie, Ohio, complained of lower leg pain.

Kirtley's vehicle was towed.

# GREAT SELECTION

of newspaper roll ends

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# Time hasn't healed wound

DEAR ABBY: Twenty years ago, I developed psychosis with a personality change. I did things I'm ashamed of. I had an affair, remarried and moved out of the country, leaving my 13-year-old daughter with my ex-husband. I snapped out of it 15 years ago with the help of a good psychiatrist and excellent medication. I deeply regret my behavior, and I have made every effort to change things. However, my relationship with my daughter has never recovered in spite of my apologies, sorrow and deep shame.

Fast-forward: My daughter got married recently and invited her father but not me. I was devastated. I have been trying so hard for so many years to reestablish trust and show her I love her. I know I can't force her to forgive me, but banning me from her wedding brings me to tears every time I think of it.

I have a therapist and I'm working hard to recover from my bout of insanity all those years ago. I love my daughter very much. Can you think of anything I can do to heal our relationship, or must I just bump along unless and until she forgives me? — IN A STATE IN

## Dear Abby



WASHINGTON  
DEAR IN A STATE: I know neither you nor your daughter other than what you have described to me. Continue talking with your therapist for guidance. This individual is most familiar with your history and how hard you have tried to repair the damage you caused. Your therapist is the most qualified to help you traverse the "bumpy" path ahead.

DEAR ABBY: I have a longtime friend, "Erin," who is my age (early 60s). She retired several months ago and has told me a couple of times since then that she has stopped wearing bras. I thought she meant around the house, but she means ALL the time. Erin is generously endowed and has "headlights." In warmer weather, she's less likely to wear a cardigan, so the lack of a bra or anything else to preserve a bit of modesty

other than wearing her shirts in a larger size is starting to bother me.

I don't normally care what other women wear. But I cringe having Erin around my husband and other friends, and I no longer want to go out and about with her. Am I a prude? If this were something occasional, I would ignore it. But this seems to be forever. If I say something, what should I say? — CAN'T UNSEE THIS IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR CAN'T UNSEE: If your longtime friend is unaware of how much of her "assets" are on display, someone should point it out. If she asks why you have distanced yourself, be truthful. (You may be doing her a favor.) Do not, however, expect her to stop doing what she's been doing. Erin has the right to go braless if she wishes. Only you can decide whether her lack of attire is grounds for ending a long friendship.

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

# Guitar, piano lessons available

It's never too late to pick up a new hobby.

Registration is open for guitar and piano labs at Arts Place.

Both labs involve students participating in group lessons weekly for eight weeks.

Piano lab is open to students in second through fourth grade, and lessons are taught on electric keyboards. This session is intended for beginners. Piano lab is slated for 6:40 p.m. Thursday and continues each Thursday through March 13. Registration is \$30.

Guitar lab is open to students 14 to 18 years old. The upcoming session is intended for beginners, and students will be loaned guitars. It begins at 7:05 p.m. March 3 and continues each Monday through April 21. Registration is \$40.

To register, visit myartspace.org or visit Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland. For more information or questions on how to be involved, please contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 or emailing [jcc@myartspace.org](mailto:jcc@myartspace.org).

## Hosting 'Comet'

Ball State University's Department of Theatre and Dance will present its production of "Natasha, Pierre and

## Taking Note

the Great Comet of 1812" this month.

Performances at Sursa Hall are scheduled for 7:30 p.m. Feb. 7, 8, 11, 12, 13 and 14 and 2:30 p.m. Feb. 9.

The show is based on a section of the Leo Tolstoy novel "War and Peace." It focuses on the romantic entanglements and personal struggles of its characters.

Tickets are available at the College of Fine Arts box office in Sursa Hall, online at [tix.com/ticket-sales/bsu/969](http://tix.com/ticket-sales/bsu/969) or by phone at (765) 285-8749.

## Hosting free course

Bowen Health is hosting a free online course designed to help first responders and their families handle job-related trauma.

First Responder REBOOT will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. on Thursdays beginning Feb. 13. Paul Painter, a Bowen therapist, will facilitate the peer-led course.

To register, visit [rebootrecovery.com/RESPONDERS](http://rebootrecovery.com/RESPONDERS).

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

## Today

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

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

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

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

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

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

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

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

## Thursday

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

CELEBRATE RECOV-

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

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

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.

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.

CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will hold its next meeting at noon Friday, Feb. 7, at Harmony Cafe in Portland.

## Saturday

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.

DUNKIRK HISTORICAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the first and third Saturday of each month in the former W.E. Gaunt Jewelry building, 113 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

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.) For more information, call (260) 726-8463.

MUSEUM OF THE SOLDIER — Is open from noon to 5 p.m. the first and third Saturday and Sunday of the month. It is located at 510 E. Arch St., Portland. The website is [museumofthesoldier.com](http://museumofthesoldier.com).

## Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

## Monday

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

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

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

JAY COUNTY DRUG EUCHRE — Will be

# Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

## Tuesday's Solution

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

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



# Restaurant serves as time machine

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Feb. 3, 2010. Jack had friends all over the world. (In fact, his column from 20 years ago this week was about catching up with friends via email.) His story is a reminder that friendships come in wide varieties, from those that feature daily communication to others that stand the test of time and distance. All of them enrich our lives.*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

Who knew that an Italian restaurant could be a time machine?

I hadn't talked to Walt in years. But on the phone, his voice sounded the same as ever, enough to make time evaporate.

So, I said, how's retirement working out for you?

He laughed.

Well, he said, the first 20 years or so have been okay.

Twenty years?

No, it couldn't be that long, could it?

Walt had been chief of communications for The Associated-

## Back in the Saddle



Press in Indy those many years ago, and I hadn't spoken to him at length since his wife Dot died in the mid 1990s.

But now there was a reason to get together.

Walt's old boss, Dave, was back in Indiana.

Dave, who had been Indianapolis bureau chief for the AP in the early 1980s, has had a rough couple of decades. Job changes, health challenges, and a little thing about being run over by a car and put into a coma sort of add up.

But now Dave was back in the state, moving down here from Maine to be closer to his children.

He and Walt didn't always get along. Both were impatient types.

Both were perfectionists. And they didn't share a vision of perfection.

But they were both our friends. Connie and I delighted in our friendship with Walt and Dot, when we were in our 30s and they were in their 50s. It was like having an extra aunt and uncle.

And after Dave left the AP our family often got together with his in southern Maine, terrorizing the lobster population and reducing the state's inventory of beer.

So, last week, after the state press association convention, we booked a time machine.

Actually, it was the Italian Gardens, a little mom and pop restaurant on the east side of Indianapolis.

But for the four of us, it was a time machine.

We picked up Dave, who is using a walker since the accident, and met Walt at the restaurant.

And as soon as we were seated, the stories started flowing.

Stories about:

• The time I'd invited Indy

Mayor Bill Hudnut to speak at the state Associated Press Managing Editors meeting and he tangled with Dot, a truly disgruntled constituent.

• The time Dave arrived back at the bureau with a bunch of Maine lobsters he had charged to the AP, much to the chagrin of Margaret, his imperious secretary.

• Our first state APME meeting when Dave was the incoming bureau chief and his ousted predecessor was still awkwardly on hand.

• Friends like Jack and Barbara Powers from the South Bend Tribune, Bill and Cookie Allen from the Michigan City Post-Dispatch, and Jack and Mary Lou Howey from the Peru Tribune.

• A particularly rowdy bus trip from Elkhart to a Notre Dame football game that shortened an editor's career.

• The old AP offices tucked into an unwanted corner of the Indy Star building.

• A memorable meeting in a

rundown hotel in South Bend the last weekend of its existence. We moved out on Sunday. Demolition began Monday.

And on and on and on.

Walt asked Dave why he always called him "Uncle Walter."

Answer: Because his voice reminded Dave of Walter Cronkite. So, said Walt, why did you always refer to Dot as my "child bride"?

I knew the answer to that one, because she was so small she looked like a kid next to Walt.

It may not have looked like a time machine.

It probably looked like a thousand other Italian restaurants in America.

But last week, that's exactly what it was.

Maybe we couldn't have gone back to the Middle Ages or even the 19th century.

But we were able to knock 25-30 years off the clock, and judging from the laughter and the smiles I'd say our little exercise in time travel was a success.

# Keep taxes free and easy to file

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

As tax season gets underway, we are happy to say that now about half the country will benefit from the IRS' free Direct File program, which lets people with relatively straightforward income tax returns get their refund or make their payment via an online portal.

New York was one of the initial 12 states included in last year's pilot that has doubled to 25 states. We used it last year.

It works, and it works well.

The obvious path is to double it again to all 50 states for next year.

Unfortunately, no good deed goes unpunished, and the free Direct File program is in the crosshairs of GOP lawmakers who are pushing the new Trump administration to take action against it.

Trump Treasury nominee Scott Bessent said that the administration would look at the program after this tax year, taking no stand in favor or opposed. We'll tell the president the same thing we've said on other matters: People elected you on the belief that you'd deliver a better economy and lower costs, and that's what they're expecting.

There is fortunately at least one built-in defense against the targeting of the free Direct File program, which is that it's not so politically easy to take away from people things they've come to rely on.

Policymakers can endlessly debate giving or not giving the public certain benefits and services, but once people have become accustomed to a cheaper and easier way of doing things, trying to wrest that away tends to have immediate blowback, which at least some of the detractors seem to understand.

It's pretty clear why anyone wants free Direct File on the chopping block, and it's got nothing to do with big government or waste or the

## Guest Editorial

usual excuses; this is a relatively inexpensive program to run in the scheme of the federal government and helps save people a lot of money.

The real reason is quite simply that private actors are making a buck during tax season, when millions across the country fork over their hard-earned cash for people or programs to help them navigate the quagmire that is U.S. tax filing.

Among the biggest of these interested parties is Intuit, the company behind TurboTax, which led a decades-long fight against a government-sponsored free file program and which a few years ago wound down their own participation in the IRS-sponsored Free File Alliance. It and other companies, like H&R Block, which also quit the Free File Alliance, want to keep their customers. We'll note, though, that Intuit is still around, as are its various big competitors as well as thousands more little mom-and-pop tax shops.

Nothing about the existence of the free Direct File program prevents filers from availing themselves of these private services, especially if they have more complex tax needs or simply want and can afford more personalized service.

We have a market system and all these providers are more than entitled to continue competing for consumers' business if they can provide a cost-effective product that provides a better experience or better results than free Direct File.

Giving consumers additional choice and one fewer thing to have to fork over money for is good for everyone except the businesses that want a free ride themselves.



# Better storage can save lives

By DANIELLE N. POOLE  
Progressive Perspectives  
Tribune News Service

On Jan. 22, a 17-year-old boy shot and killed a fellow student before killing himself at a high school in Nashville. It was the first fatal school shooting of the new year; it will almost certainly not be the last. In 2024, the United States saw 39 school shootings.

It doesn't have to be this way. New national policies regarding secure gun storage could save children's lives.

As a scientist working to prevent public health crises, I am all too familiar with our social and political failures to embrace simple solutions that could dramatically change seemingly intractable problems. Yet ensuring that all gun-owning households secure their firearms from unauthorized users — including children — could immediately decrease school shootings.

Beyond the horrors resulting from unauthorized access to firearms in school shootings, guns now kill more children in the United States than cancer, car crashes or any other cause. Moreover, the majority of child gun deaths involve perpetrators who are children themselves, who obtained guns from home. Making firearm owners prevent unauthorized access to firearms would have direct impacts on the safety of the nation's 50 million school-age children.

Only eight states currently have laws explicitly requiring safe storage for guns. And yet, we know that laws to prevent child access to guns significantly reduce unintentional injuries among children, lower youth suicide rates by 13% and result in 17% fewer homicides perpetrated by adoles-

cents. We also know that in half of all cases in which students themselves perpetrate school shootings, their weapons were obtained from homes where the firearms had not been securely stored.

Universal safe storage laws are sometimes criticized by those who say the principles of safe storage are inherent in existing legislation. "Whether it's a child endangerment statute, a criminal negligence statute or a reckless handling of firearms statute, states already prohibit actual reckless behavior with firearms around children," states the National Rifle Association's Institute for Legislative Action. "The statutes may look different and may not reference firearms explicitly, but the prohibition on reckless conduct involving firearms is clear."

That's simply not true. In the absence of actual laws requiring safe storage, weapons are finding their way into the hands of children, often with tragic results.

Fortunately, some states have begun adopting legislation that invests in safer storage. One legislative incentive, in place in Tennessee and under consideration in Wisconsin, is to exempt the purchase of firearm safes from state sales taxes.

While it's great that some states are moving toward this, it's still an uphill battle to pass gun sense legis-



Danielle N. Poole

lation in many states. But legislation is only one avenue for increasing safe storage. We can treat this as a public health crisis, and have public health funding pay for gun locks, much the way governments funded free COVID tests during the pandemic. Research shows that the widespread distribution of life-saving interventions can be a successful and cost-effective public health strategy.

A basic handgun safe can cost as little as \$40. Here in Tennessee, where I live with my family, the cost of supplying secure storage solutions to all 1.5 million homes where children live with firearms would cost about \$40 million, or less than \$25 per child. This cost would, of course, be considerably less each year going forward as household safe storage needs were met, all the while saving lives. This would be a far-better use of tax dollars than active shooter drills, required by some 40 states, which traumatize students despite almost no evidence of their effectiveness.

Some states, including Georgia and Michigan, have taken a hard line for reckless gun storage after the fact, trying and sentencing parents for the lives lost due to the reckless storage of their firearms. But these after-the-fact measures don't save lives.

We need a prevention plan we can implement today, and we can't afford to ignore the data we have in hand. Gun owners and policy makers need to ask themselves whether \$40 is a price they're willing to pay to keep our children safe.

.....  
*Poole is the director of research at the Yale Humanitarian Research Lab. She is a Public Voices Fellow of Yale and The OpEd Project.*

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Suit filed against Norfolk Southern

By JENNIFER RODRIGUEZ  
The Charlotte Observer  
Tribune News Service

A new lawsuit filed against railway company Norfolk Southern says seven people died as a result of a train derailment in Ohio.

On Feb. 3, 2023, a Norfolk Southern train carrying industrial chemicals derailed in the small town of East Palestine, according to a civil complaint.

Thirty-eight railcars derailed, 11 of which contained toxic chemicals such as vinyl chloride, butyl acrylate, ethylene glycol monobutyl ether, ethylhexyl acrylate, isobutylene, and other hazardous substances, the lawsuit said.

Residents in the town were forced to evacuate their homes as the train cars burned.

The decision was then made that a controlled release and “burn of the vinyl chloride from at least five railcars was the best way to stop further explosions,” the lawsuit said. On Feb. 6, 2023, the controlled burn was done, releasing toxic chemicals into the air.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Dustin Franz

Smoke rises from a derailed cargo train in East Palestine, Ohio, on Feb. 4, 2023. A lawsuit filed against railway company Norfolk Southern says seven people died as a result of chemicals released following the derailment.

The lawsuit, which represents 744 current and former residents, alleges that as a result of the derailment and subsequent controlled burn, seven people have died and others are still sick.

“They chose to fail in protecting the families who trusted them. The community is still contaminated, and people are still sick,” the lawsuit said.

The lawsuit lists several health

complications residents have experienced in the two years since the crash including scaly rashes, headaches, nosebleeds, memory problems, heart issues, excessive hair growth and more.

In one case, the lawsuit says an 8-year-old girl experienced early onset menstruation.

The Keenan Law Firm also filed claims against the Environmental Protection Agency saying it did not “properly respond” to the derailment and that it “neglected to prevent unnecessary toxic releases, delayed key environmental testing, and provided inadequate oversight of cleanup efforts, leading to prolonged exposure to hazardous chemicals for the residents of East Palestine.”

A claim against the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention says that agency “negligently instructed health professionals and testing facilities not to test for dioxins and other toxic chemicals” and that it failed “to ensure proper public health response, testing, and medical support for the affected residents.”

McClatchy News reached out to the EPA and CDC for comment Feb. 2 but did not immediately hear back.

Norfolk Southern did not wish to provide a statement to McClatchy News but did send a progress update on its cleanup and testing efforts and a list of “long-term” initiatives it plans to conduct.

The lawsuit claims there was “improper transport, clean up, and disposal of hazardous chemicals is an abnormally dangerous condition that cannot be maintained without injury to property.”

It also says the controlled burn “may have caused the formations of dioxins.” Dioxins are toxic, carcinogenic and known as “forever chemicals” because they are extremely difficult to break down.

The lawsuit is requesting a jury trial and asking for an undetermined amount in damages.

East Palestine is about a 50-mile drive northwest of Pittsburgh.

## Inspection ...

Continued from page 1  
“You always have the smell from these things, that’s always going to be there. The flies and that type of stuff ... that’s part of livestock farming. But the magnitude of manure that comes off of these CFOs is a lot — tremendous,” Niemeyer added. “All the bill does is (require) that we have one more look at that during that five-year period ... and make sure it’s running right.”

But three of Indiana’s largest farming associations spoke out against the bill.

“Our members oppose any increases in current frequency of CFO inspections at a time when our members are demonstrating high compliance with the regulations promulgated by (the state). Coupled with the current biosecurity risks, this seems to be an unwise mandate for higher levels of inspection at this time,” said Andy Tauer,

Indiana Farm Bureau’s public policy director. “This will increase the cost for our members and our farmers, as they do hire consultants to be there and go along with the (inspections). Right now, our farmers are, year over year, seeing a decrease in net farm income, so any additional increase in cost of inspections will further harm members’ fiscal health.”

The latest version of the bill stipulates that additional inspections, carried out by the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM), can only be used to evaluate farm property already under permit.

“They can look at the manure storage and whatever’s going on with that,” Niemeyer said. “They can’t go into any other buildings ... with this process, IDEM can just go (on property) they’ve OK’ed.”

Other inspections — like of milk cleanliness in dairies —

are carried out more regularly and are the responsibility of the Indiana Board of Animal Health. Those operations, for example, would not qualify for IDEM oversight, Niemeyer emphasized.

The bill additionally requires IDEM regulators to provide landowners at least 30 days in advance of an inspection. Farmers must be on site while the inspection takes place.

A legislative fiscal analysis for Niemeyer’s first bill draft estimated that IDEM would need to hire up to six additional staff to carry out annual inspections of the 1,635 CFOs currently permitted in Indiana — which could cost the agency an additional \$500,000 or more per year.

Drake Abramson, IDEM’s legislative director, said the agency “could potentially absorb the workload” created by the updated bill requirement of just one

additional inspection within the five-year window.

“However, that depends on how many new permitted facilities may come online,” Abramson said. The state agency was neutral on the bill as of Monday.

Presently, about 20% of all Hoosier CFOs are inspected annually, Abramson told lawmakers. He wasn’t able to provide trend data on CFO violations but said the agency closely monitors “the top 10” violators throughout the state. Documents related to permitting, inspections and enforcement are available for public view on IDEM’s website.

“Usually, it’s a matter of whether they’re upkeeping their lagoons or manure storage structures, that kind of thing,” he said of notable CFO violations logged within Indiana.

Farm groups largely pointed to IDEM and doubled down on the agency’s likely “inability” to

ramp up inspections with current staff.

They held, too, that additional inspections will increase farmers’ fees paid to third-party environmental consultants — hired by a majority of CFOs to ensure compliance with state and federal regulations. When inspections take place, those consultants must also be present.

Josh Trenary, executive director of the Indiana Pork Producers Association, said farmers are already vigilant about expensive fertilizer storage and application, negating additional “discretionary inspections.”

“Farmers have to follow the regulations. But why wouldn’t they want to? Because if you’re storing \$87,000 worth of fertilizer, you’re going to keep pretty close tabs on it until you can use it for the benefit of your crop. The farmers want to use every gallon of it they can get,” Trenary said.

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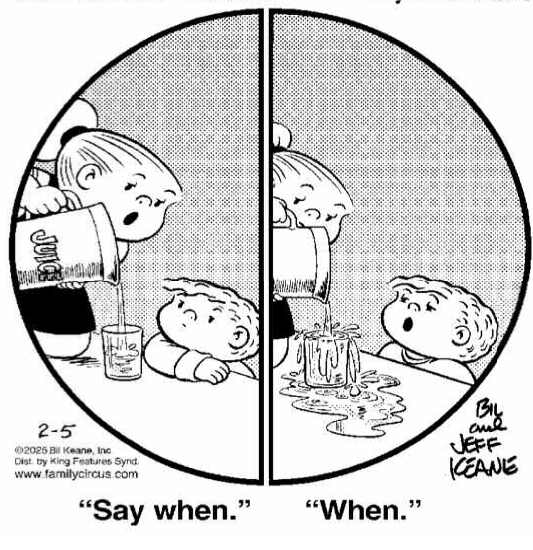
SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

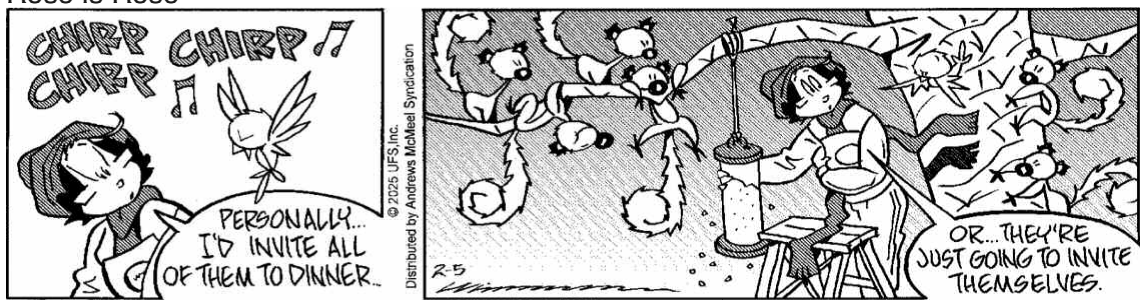
By Bill Keane



Peanuts



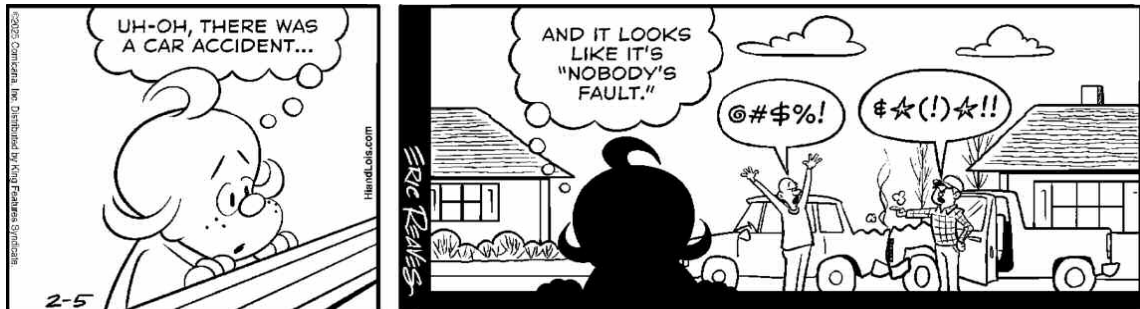
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A 5,150-point decision

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable. NORTH: A 9, K J 3, A K J 9 6 3 2, 9 8. WEST: A J 8 2, Q 9 5 4, 8 5, Q 6 4. EAST: Q 10 7 4 3, 10 7 6, A K J 10 3. SOUTH: K 6 5, A 8 2, Q 10 7 4, 7 5 2.

surprisingly, everyone passed. West had no clear-cut opening lead. He was in the unfortunate position where any lead he made...

The bidding: South Pass 3 NT, West Pass 3 NT, North Dble Redble, East Dble Redble. Opening lead - two of spades. Consider this deal played in a national championship some years ago...

Pointwise, East-West would have been plus 3,400 instead of minus 1,750, or 5,150 points better off. If West, by chance, had happened to select a club as his opening lead...

Tomorrow: With a little bit of luck. ©2025 King Features Syndicate Inc.

2-5

CRYPTOQUIP

AVKS TNQQKMN TOMVS WGN
CNBJ QTOSSNG ZOMVS ULZU
UBOGM SW KGWSVNB? "O
ZWCN JWL K AVWZN AKSS!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: KIND OF PASTA SAUCE WELL-KNOWN TO RELIEVE SYMPTOMS FROM VARIOUS AILMENTS: MEDICAL MARINARA.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: A equals W

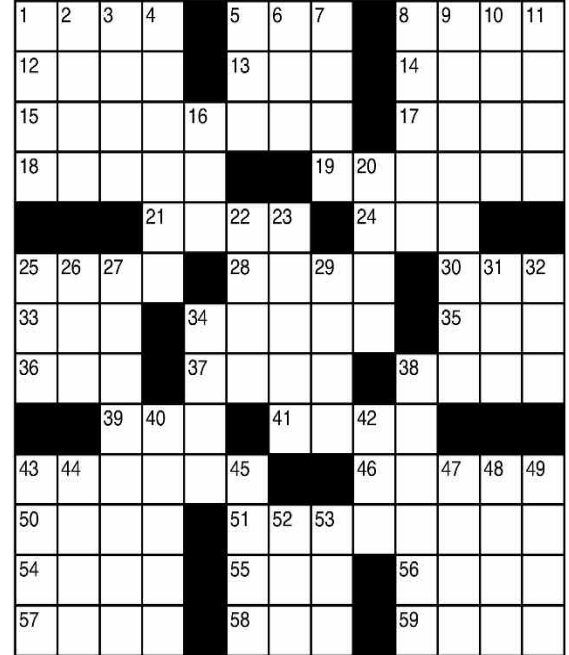
CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS: 1 Actor Sharif, 5 "Hum-bug!", 8 JFK guesses, 12 Cape of Portugal, 13 In the style of, 14 Seniors' gp., 15 Manhattan, for one, 17 China (Pref.), 18 "The Sopranos" restaurateur, 19 Brunch fare, 21 Thick chunk, 24 TV spots, 25 Ancient invader, 28 Uber competitors, 30 Mas' mates, 33 Chef Garten, 34 Bo of "10", 35 Pen filler, 36 - chi. DOWN: 1 Sea predator, 2 Heath, 3 Ad agcy. client, 4 Debonair, 5 Sheep call, 6 Boxer Laila, 7 Angelic light, 8 Allayed, 9 Severe decline, 10 "Rule, Britannia!", 11 Espy, 16 Aviv, 20 Mardi Gras wear, 22 Computer brand, 23 Exposures, 26 - tear (raging), 27 Hind- most parts, 29 Boy- friend, 31 Comic Gasteyer, 32 Enjoy Aspen, 34 June hon-orees, 38 Ringo, for one, 40 Analyze, 42 Trigger's rider, 43 Baltic feeder, 44 Queen of Carthage, 45 Pinnacle, 47 Biblical king, 48 Aachen article, 49 Serb or Croat, 52 Musician Yoko, 53 Private aid gp.

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-5



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# Myles Garrett requests trade from Browns

By PETER SBLENDORIO  
New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

Things keep getting worse for the Cleveland Browns.

Superstar pass rusher Myles Garrett requested a trade Monday following the Browns' disappointing 3-14 season.

"While I've loved calling this city my home, my desire to win and compete on the biggest stages won't allow me to be complacent," Garrett, 29, said in a statement. "The goal was never to go from Cleveland to Canton, it has always been to compete for and win a Super Bowl."

The request comes days after Browns general manager

## The six-time Pro Bowl defensive end wants to compete for a Super Bowl

Andrew Berry said he would not trade Garrett, telling reporters he wouldn't even consider an offer of two first-round picks.

"You can put that on the record," Berry said, according to Cleveland.com.

Garrett is on a Hall of Fame trajectory with 102 1/2 sacks over eight NFL seasons, all with the Browns, who drafted him first overall in 2017.

The North Texas native is entering the fourth year of a five-year, \$125 million contract.

A six-time Pro Bowl selection, Garrett won NFL Defensive Player of the Year last season and is a finalist for the award this year, too. He recorded double-digit sacks in each of the last seven seasons, including 14 in both of the last two.

But the Browns boast only two

playoff appearances and one postseason win during Garrett's tenure. They plummeted from an 11-win season in 2023 to last year's disaster.

Cleveland owns the No. 2 pick in April's draft and is expected to be in the market for a quarterback, with Miami's Cam Ward and Colorado's Shedeur Sanders considered the best prospects at the position.

The Browns remain hamstrung by quarterback Deshaun Watson, whom they owe \$92 million over the next two seasons.

Watson recently re-tore his right Achilles tendon, putting his 2025 season in jeopardy. He has been among the NFL's least-

productive quarterbacks since the Browns acquired him from Houston in 2022 for three first-round picks and gave him a fully guaranteed \$230 million contract.

There is recent precedent for Pro Bowl pass rushers to be traded.

In 2018, the Chicago Bears traded four draft picks, including a pair of first rounders, to the then-Oakland Raiders for Khalil Mack, who was 27 at the time.

Last spring, the New York Giants sent a second-round pick and a fifth-round pick to the Carolina Panthers for Brian Burns, who was entering his age 26 season.

# End ...

Continued from page 8

"It was huge, but it was not a shock at all," said CHS coach Bret Baucher. "Kenlee has made big play after big play for us all year and been a great senior leader. She got an opportunity and took it and knocked it down."

"Once we got over that hump there, it gives you that confidence and you can play just a little bit harder."

Baucher iced the game away by splitting a pair of free throws over the final minute, while the Bulldogs got two more stops on the defensive end.

Niekamp led all scorers with 14 points on 7-of-17 (41.2%) shooting. She also pulled down a game-high 11 rebounds.

Alaina Vehorn's nine points finished as the high mark for Celina.

Fort Recovery will close out the regular season on Thursday with a Midwest Athletic Conference matchup against Versailles, before getting a 9-day break leading into its sectional championship game against the 11th-seeded Triad.

Box score				
<b>Celina Bulldogs vs. Fort Recovery Indians</b>				
<b>Girls varsity summary</b>				
<b>Fort Recovery (10-11)</b>				
	<b>FG</b>	<b>FGA</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>PTS</b>
CMhlnkmp	2-3	1-2		5
Hart	0-0	0-0		0
Niekamp	7-17	0-3		14
Schoenlein	1-3	0-0		2
Schmitz	0-2	0-0		0
Homan	2-8	1-3		5
KMhlnkmp	1-8	5-8		7
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13-41</b>	<b>7-16</b>		<b>33</b>
	<b>.317</b>	<b>.438</b>		
<b>Def. rebound percentage:</b>	<b>.619</b>			
<b>Celina (10-11)</b>				
	<b>FG</b>	<b>FGA</b>	<b>FT</b>	<b>PTS</b>
Rammel	1-2	2-2		4
Smith	0-0	0-0		0
Vehorn	3-9	2-2		9
Holstad	1-9	1-4		4
Korte	2-8	1-2		5
Kimmel	2-7	0-1		4
Walters	0-0	0-0		0
Baucher	1-4	2-4		4
Shreffler	0-4	0-0		0
Braun	3-6	0-0		7
Pearson	0-0	0-0		0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13-49</b>	<b>8-15</b>		<b>37</b>
	<b>.265</b>	<b>.533</b>		
<b>Def. rebound percentage:</b>	<b>.552</b>			
<b>Score by quarters:</b>				
<b>Ft. Rec.</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b> — <b>33</b>
<b>Celina</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>16</b> — <b>37</b>
<b>3-point shooting:</b> Fort Recovery 0-4 (Shoenlein 0-1, Homan 0-3). Celina 3-20 (Braun 1-2, Vehorn 1-4, Holstad 1-6, Kimmel 0-1, Baucher 0-1, Korte 0-3, Shreffler 0-3).				
<b>Rebounds:</b> Fort Recovery 39 (Niekamp 11, CMuhlenkamp 7, Homan 6, Team 6, KMuhlenkamp 5, Schoenlein 2, Schmitz 2). Celina 32 (Holstad 6, Korte 5, Kimmel 5, Team 5, Vehorn 4, Baucher 3, Shreffler 3, Braun 2, Rammel).				
<b>Assists:</b> Fort Recovery 2 (Homan 2), Celina 8 (Korte 2, Baucher 2, Rammel, Kimmel, Shreffler, Braun).				
<b>Blocks:</b> Fort Recovery 2 (Niekamp, KMuhlenkamp). Celina 4 (Vehorn, Korte, Walters, Braun).				
<b>Personal fouls:</b> Fort Recovery 14 (Schmitz 4, Homan 4, KMuhlenkamp 3, CMuhlenkamp 2, Niekamp). Celina 14 (Kimmel 4, Rammel 3, Vehorn 2, Holstad 2, Braun 2, Walters).				
<b>Turnovers:</b> Fort Recovery 20. Celina 14.				

"We've got work to do going into the tournament," Deutsch said. "That's the big takeaway. We haven't accomplished everything and our girls know that. We have to

keep our nose to the grindstone at the end of this long season. We still have work to do and have to dig in to meet the goals that we want. There's still work to do."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery's Karlie Niekamp, who led all scorers with 14 points, puts up a layup while Celina's Brinley Korte attempts to wall up during the loss on Monday.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Thursday**  
Jay County — Girls swim sectional preliminaries at Jay County — 5:30 p.m.; Boys basketball at Southern Wells — 6 p.m.; Junior high wrestling vs. South Adams — 6 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Girls basketball vs. Versailles — 6 p.m.; Girls basketball MAC tournament at St. Henry — 5 p.m.; Boys basketball MAC tournament at St. John's — 5 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**  
6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Oregon at Michigan (BTN); Butler at Seton Hall (FS1)  
7 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spurs at Atlanta Hawks (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Duke at Syracuse (ESPN2)  
7 p.m. — NHL: Boston Bruins at New York Rangers (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Illinois at Rutgers (BTN); Creighton at Providence (FS1)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: Arkansas at Texas (ESPN2)  
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Oklahoma City Thunder (ESPN)  
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Edmonton Oilers at Chicago Blackhawks (TNT)  
10:30 p.m. — College basketball: Colorado State at New Mexico (FS1); Nebraska at Washington (BTN)

**Thursday**  
6 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Rutgers at Indiana (BTN)  
6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: UConn at Tennessee (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — College basketball: Temple at South Florida (ESPN2); Maryland at Ohio State (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Dallas Mavericks at Boston Celtics (TNT)  
8 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Iowa

at Minnesota (BTN)  
9 p.m. — College basketball: St. Mary's at San Francisco (ESPN2)  
9 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Maryland at Oregon (FS1)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)  
10:30 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Los Angeles Clippers (FDSN Indiana)  
11 p.m. — College basketball: Washington State at Oregon State (ESPN2)

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By virtue of a certified copy of a Judgment and Decree to me delivered from the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Jay County, Indiana, in Cause No: 38C01-2411-MF-000022, wherein **FIRST FINANCIAL BANK**, successor by merger with Mainsource Bank Plaintiff,  
V.  
**UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DEVISEES OF JESSIE PAULETTE EVANS AND UNKNOWN OCCUPANT** Defendants.  
Cause No. 38C01-2411-MF-000022  
I will offer for sale at public auction to the highest bidder on the 27th day of February, 2025 at 10:00 A.M. on said day, at the Jay County Courthouse, 120 N. Court Street, Suite 305, Portland, IN 47371, Jay County, Indiana, the fee simple title together with the rents, profits, issues and income or so much thereof as may be sufficient to satisfy said judgment, interest, cost and accruing cost of the following described Real Estate, to-wit:  
**LOT 222 IN CURRENTS SECOND ADDITION TO SOUTH PORTLAND, NOW CITY OF PORTLAND IN JAY COUNTY, INDIANA.**  
More commonly known as 910 S. Bridge St., Portland, IN 47371  
Tax No. 38-07-29-101-050.000-034  
The Sheriff's Department does not warrant the accuracy of the street address published herein.  
Subject to all liens, encumbrances, rights of redemption, easements and restrictions of record not otherwise foreclosed and extinguished in the proceedings known as Cause #38C01-2411-MF-000022 in the Circuit Court of the County of Jay, Indiana and subject to all real estate taxes, and assessments currently due, delinquent or which are to become a lien.  
Said sale to be without relief from valuation or appraisal laws. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.  
Larry Ray Newton, Jr., Jay Count Sheriff  
Michael E. Anderson, #26001-45  
Attorney for Plaintiff  
**ANDERSON & ANDERSON, P.C.**  
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**Eight junior high wrestlers won matches with pins, see story below**

**Jay girls swim sectional opens with prelims today, see Sports on tap**

# Sports

## 11-0 to end

*Indians surrender double-digit run in 37-33 loss at Celina*

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

CELINA, Ohio — The Indians only surrendered nine points over 13 minutes.

But as the Tribe started to turn the ball over in the final three minutes, the Bulldogs hit their offensive stride, creating a double-digit run.

The Fort Recovery High School girls basketball team gave up an 11-0 run to the Celina Bulldogs in Monday's 37-33 loss.

"We kind of took a step back with where we were at earlier in the season," said FRHS coach Tyler Deitsch. "The moment caught up to us and we weren't able to execute was the big thing. ... They all know the answer to every question of what we should be doing. It's just a mental hurdle that we have to get over."

"Early on in the season we were able to put together some close wins. So, we've been there before, we'll put in some work and change some things up and kind of get back there again."

Turnovers played a key role in the Indians' struggles. Fort Recovery (10-11) gave the ball up 10 times in the first quarter alone as the Bulldogs (10-11) built a 7-3 lead.

FRHS cleaned its offense up in the third quarter, giving the ball away four times to allow it a 15-10 run and claim a 1-point lead at the intermission. The Tribe only committed one turnover in the third, which directly led to a basket for Brinley Korte, but otherwise helped it hold Celina to just four points in the period.

After giving up just two made shots in the third quarter, Fort Recovery kept the Bulldogs from scoring from the field for the first four minutes of the fourth, as all three of their points came at the free throw line.

The Indians committed their first turnover of the fourth quarter on a Bridget Homan offensive foul. While it was a dead-ball turnover, Celina managed to hit its first field goal in over nine minutes on a baseline drive by Alex Kimmel from the left corner. Kimmel took contact from Homan on the play, but missed the free throw.

Karlie Niekamp grabbed the ball off the rim and found Homan up the floor as the Bulldogs started to apply pressure. The sophomore then found Madie Schoenlein streaking down the right lane line for the score, giving Fort Recovery a 33-26 advantage.

The Indians would never score again, coughing the ball up another three times while



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Madie Schoenlein puts up a layup after the Fort Recovery High School basketball team broke Celina's press during Monday's 37-33 loss. Schoenlein's bucket was the final score for the Indians, as CHS ended the game on an 11-0 run to swipe the game away.

missing four shots.

"I mean, that's the game at that point right?" Deitsch said about his team's turnovers, while also taking responsibility for being late in making some adjustments. "It wasn't something new they threw at us at the end of the game. It was the same thing all game long and

we just let one bad thing turn into the next. We got frazzled and stopped executing."

Celina's first basket of the 11-0 run came from Brooke Baucher on a floater from the baseline. It then got back-to-back baskets off of steals in the back court as Korte and Rachel Rammel pulled CHS within a point.

Two possessions later, the Bulldogs took the lead after Baucher dropped off a pass for Kenlee Holstad for a triple in the right corner. Prior to the 3-pointer with 1:40 to go, Celina was only 2-for-19 (10.5%), while Holstad was 0-8 from the field and 0-5 from deep.

See **End** page 7

## Jay opens with 47-point win

The varsity girls team wrapped up its season a little under two weeks ago.

Now the junior high schoolers are getting their turn, and they came out strong to begin the year.

The Jay County Junior High wrestling team ended 10 matches early as they beat Monroe Central 81-34 in Monday's season opener.

The Patriots (1-0) took 10 of the 15 contested weight classes and ended all of them early with either a pin or a technical fall.

Eight Jay County wrestlers won via fall. The lightweight Patriots found particular success putting their Monroe Central opponents on their backs with Mitchell Byrum winning the 80-pound match, Bryce Van-Skyock taking the 90 and Karson Hines claiming the 95.

Porter Hatzell broke the streak of pins, as he claimed the 100 weight class with an 18-1 technical fall, but the Patriots got right back to it with three more falls. Those pins came from Eli Shannon (106-pound weight class), Walter Campofiore (113) and Logan Wendel (120).

The other Patriots to pin their opponents were David Schoenlein in the 138 contest and Brayden Keihn in the 245.

Paul Campofiore claimed the other technical fall victory, winning the 126 weight class 19-4.

Jay County also got points from four weight classes due to forfeits.

The Patriots also won four junior varsity matches, all four of which came via pin.

Byrum took down a second opponent, while Danica Chowning (110), Scarlett Fosnaugh (113) and Carson Cooke (132) picked up wins as well.

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