

The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

Stage invaders



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

A couple of aliens played by Titus Schwieterman (left) and Drew Lingo share some popcorn on stage during rehearsal last week for Jay County Civic Theatre's production of "Everyone Gets Abducted By Aliens: A Cautionary Tale." The show opens with a performance at 7 p.m. Thursday at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place in Portland. Additional shows are scheduled for 7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Alien abductions are at the heart of Jay County Civic Theatre show that features a cast of actors in middle school and younger

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Be cautious — aliens from outer space may be closer than you think.

Jay County Civic Theatre's upcoming production shares precautionary tips to avoid a harsh fate with extraterrestrial life.

"Everyone Gets Abducted By Aliens: A Cautionary Tale" takes to the stage at 7 p.m. Thursday at Arts Place, with subsequent showings slated for

7 p.m. Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

The comedy, written by Marshall Paillet, follows characters as they act out scenarios in which otherworldly beings interfere with planet Earth.

With everything from aliens abducting a famous fictional couple mid-picnic to unidentified flying objects flattening sentient stalks of corn, there's a variety of visitors from outer space making their way around the planet.

"It is a very fun show, lots of opportunities for silliness," said director Hannah Littler. "It's a great play for kids, because I feel like it gives them a lot of agency to have fun with their characters. That's part of why I was very excited to direct it, because I knew I was going to be able to let the kids do their thing with the characters, and they really have."

The show's style, Littler explained, portrays a similar feel to episodes of the 1950s and

'60s TV series "The Twilight Zone" by Rod Serling.

"We're hearing the story through the eyes of Conspiracy Dan and Sweet Bonnie," explained Littler. "Conspiracy Dan is like our storyteller, and he's ... warning Sweet Bonnie about alien life, alien activity on Earth. So we're basically seeing different little snippets of the alien activity that's going on on Earth that we don't actually know about."

See **Invaders** page 5

County supports additional access

Firms seek funding for expanding broadband

By BAILEY CLINE

The Commercial Review

Locations have been identified in Jay County that are in need of better access to internet, and funding is available to change the broadband outlook.

One service provider is throwing its hat in the ring.

Jay County Commissioners heard an update Monday about Indiana Broadband Office's ongoing Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) grant program. They also OK'd signing a letter of recommendation for Wabash Mutual Telephone Company of Celina, Ohio, to apply for funding through the program.

Autumn Marshall of East Central Indiana Regional Planning District shared updates about the grant program. She said the office released the list of Jay County addresses identified as unserved and underserved, announcing 500 eligible locations (67 underserved and 433 unserved). She reminded officials that initial estimates for Jay County anticipated the program would mark only 184 unserved and underserved addresses.

"This is a big win for us," she said, thanking those involved in gathering the data.

Marshall noted that the Indiana Broadband Office will award internet service providers with grant money and locations to build infrastructure for broadband. Applications were set to close at the end of the day today for the first round of funding.

Aker asked Marshall to recap Mainstream Fiber Networks' proposal in recent years.

See **Access** page 5

Dunkirk upgrading Council OKs buying vac, sweeper

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city will be getting some new equipment.

Dunkirk City Council approved the purchase of a street sweeper and a new vacuum truck during its meeting on Monday.

Council president Jesse Bivens presented the proposal to purchase the new equipment. He said the new vacuum truck has about three times the capacity of the city's current pull-behind model.

He proposed the purchase of a used vacuum truck from Best Equipment for \$19,500 after trade-in.

He added that the city's existing street sweeper is old and needs repairs for which parts are no longer available. He proposed the purchase of a used street sweeper, also from Best Equipment, for \$40,900 after trade-in. (He said the city has looked into

purchasing a new truck, with estimates coming in between \$350,000 and \$400,000.)

With discounts for buying both pieces of equipment at the same time, the total came out to \$58,900. The water and wastewater departments will split the cost of the vacuum truck, and the street department will purchase the street sweeper.

Council members Christy Curts, Dan Watson, Donna Revolt, Randy Murphy and Bivens unanimously approved the purchases.

Watson also reported on damage at the wastewater treatment plant that was caused either by a lightning strike or power surge during a storm last week. The "call-out box" was damaged during the event, leading to no one being notified of the issue until employees arrived for work the next day.

Since then, one pump is now being operated manually. Watson

said early estimates indicate there could be about \$25,000 in repairs to bring the facility back to regular working conditions. He added that the city is waiting on information from its insurance company before repairs can begin.

Council members also approved the payment of a \$27,026.25 invoice from Team EJP of Indianapolis for equipment related to new water meters. The cost will be split evenly between the water and wastewater departments.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins updated the council on Indiana Senate Bill 1, which addresses property taxes as well as various other tax-related issues. He presented the council with data that shows Jay County taxing entities would lose \$1.1 million in tax revenue under the bill in 2026, followed by \$1.42 million in 2027 and up to \$1.52 million in 2028.

See **Upgrading** page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Pétra toss

The Jay County High School Winter Guard performed its show "Pétra Krýo" (Greek for "Stone Cold") on Sunday at the conclusion of the winter pops concert. Pictured, seventh grader Ango Kato of the winter guard twirls her flag. The band's show included the songs "Chicken Dance," "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Mission Impossible."

Deaths

Harvey Thornton Jr., 96, Portland
Timmie Bell, 60, Portland
Nellie West, 101, Portland
Ronald Cook, 67, Montpelier
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 33 degrees Monday. The low was 19.
Tonight's forecast calls for freezing rain and snow with a steady temperature around 30. Expect mostly cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the mid 20s.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Arts Place is offering guitar and piano labs at its Jay County campus. Guitar labs for 14 through 18 year olds will start March 3. Piano labs for second through fourth graders will begin March 13.
For more information, contact Arts Place by calling (260) 726-4809 or emailing jcc@myartsplace.org.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the diving regional at Hamilton Southeastern.
Friday — Coverage of Wednesday's Jay County Council meeting.
Saturday — Details from the JCHS boys basketball game against Heritage.



Upgrading ...

Continued from page 1
A further breakdown shows a \$76,800 loss in tax revenue for Dunkirk in 2026, with that number climbing to about \$85,000 in 2027 and up to \$96,800 in 2028.

Robbins noted that legislators representing Jay County visited John Jay Center for Learning on Saturday and said there are changes coming to the bill.
(It was set for a committee

hearing on Tuesday afternoon.)
He also issued a reminder that legislators will hold another update in Jay County at 9 a.m. Saturday, March 15, at West Jay Community Center.

In other business, the council:
•Approved a \$100 sponsorship for Jay County 4-H.
•OK'd the payment of claims totaling \$317,975.31.
•Heard from Bivens that a

first draft of the city's wellhead protection plan is complete and is being reviewed.
•Received a thank you letter from Secret Families of Jay County Christmas Charity for the city's sponsorship.

CR almanac

Thursday 2/13	Friday 2/14	Saturday 2/15	Sunday 2/16	Monday 2/17
27/7	29/26	39/22	26/6	21/15
Thursday's forecast shows mostly cloudy skies with temperatures dipping to single digits.	Friday looks to be mostly sunny skies with a 50% chance of snow at night.	There's a 90% chance of rain and snow throughout the day, with a higher chance of snow late.	Mostly cloudy on Sunday, when there's another 50% chance of snow.	Mostly sunny on Monday when wind chill values may hit as low as -10 early.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 2-17-18-29-43 Power Ball: 3 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$154 million	Daily Four: 4-6-6-3 Quick Draw: 3-6-7-10-11-17-24-26-31-34-49-51-55-56-60-62-67-71-75-79 Cash 5: 7-9-21-23-37 Estimated jackpot: \$468,500
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$110 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 9-5-8 Pick 4: 5-7-8-0 Pick 5: 8-9-3-4-7 Evening Pick 3: 0-3-6 Pick 4: 5-7-6-5 Pick 5: 1-2-8-2-5 Rolling Cash: 12-18-28-31-34 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 4-8-3 Daily Four: 4-6-1-4 Quick Draw: 2-11-16-19-21-22-25-32-36-39-40-42-43-44-45-49-51-63-72-76 Evening Daily Three: 5-3-8	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.86 March corn.....4.92 April corn.....5.01	March beans10.50 Wheat 5.30
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.95 March corn.....5.02 April corn.....5.12	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.86 March corn4.89 Beans10.41 March beans10.45 Wheat5.49
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.92 March corn4.92 Beans10.45	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.84 March corn4.84 Beans10.25 March beans10.30 Wheat5.25

Today in history

In 1809, Abraham Lincoln was born in Hodgenville, Kentucky. Lincoln served as 16th president of the United States, leading the Union amid the American Civil War and issuing the Emancipation Proclamation declaring enslaved people in the Confederate states to be free. More than a century later, on this day in 1914, the U.S. hosted a dedication ceremony for the Lincoln Memorial in Washington, D.C.

In 1909, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) was founded in the United States. Its national office was established a year later with a board of directors and president Moorfield Storey, a white lawyer and former president of the American Bar Association. The civil rights organization aims to secure the rights of all people as designated in the 13th, 14th and 15th amendments to the U.S. Constitution. Its mission, according to its website, is to "ensure the political, educational, equality of minority group citizens of states and eliminate race prejudice."

In 2016, Jay County High School boys basketball team fell 36-32 to the Heritage Patriots, marking JCHS Patriots' first conference loss to a team other than Leo in two seasons as a member of the Allen County Athletic Conference.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 5 p.m. — Jay County Commissioners and Jay County Council joint session, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland. 6 p.m. — Jay County Council, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.	118 S. Meridian St., Portland. Friday Portland Board of Works executive session, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St. Monday 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 Main St. Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.
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Obituaries

Harvey Thornton

May 25, 1928-Feb. 9, 2025
Harvey L. Thornton Jr., age 96, of Portland, Indiana, passed away on Sunday, Feb. 9, 2025, at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Center in Portland.
He was born on May 25, 1928, in Kentland, Indiana, to the late Harvey Sr. and Hattie (Isenhardt) Thornton.
Harvey is survived by his wife of nearly 65 years, Mary (Schoen) Thornton, whom he married on Feb. 27, 1960; his children, Roger (Virginia) Thornton of Wapakoneta, Ohio, Carol Ranly of Coldwater, Ohio, and Susan (Joseph) Reddoch of Fishers, Indiana; his grandchildren, Matthew (Tara) Thornton, Elizabeth (Josh) Byers, Erica (Eugene) Oh, Lydia (Quentin) Elsea, Hanna (Mitch) Bihn, Krista (Sam) Mulvihill, Alexandra Reddoch, Clarissa Reddoch and Gabriella Reddoch; his 11 great-grandchildren; his sister, Barbara Thornton; and his in-laws, Eileen (Carl) Barhorst, Janice Hemmelgarn, Harold (Theresa) Schoen, Patricia (Neil) Diller, James (Mary Ann) Schoen, Doris (Doug) Runyon, Linda (Adrian) Noll, Richard (Doris) Schoen, Marilyn (Eric) Greenrose, Dan (Peg) Schoen and William (Jane) Boeckman.



Thornton

In addition to his parents, Harvey was preceded in death by his son-in-law, Dale Ranly; his grandson, Nathan Ranly; his sister and her husband, Alletta Marie (Robert) Wrightsman; and his in-laws, Virginia Boeckman, Harold Hemmelgarn and David (Patricia) Schoen.
As a proud graduate of Madison Township High School, Class of 1946, he dedicated many years to the agriculture industry, both as a farmer and skillfully managing the Salamonia Feed Mill and the Dunkirk Elevator for the Indiana Farm Bureau. Harvey's connection to the land was profound, as he passionately tended to

his fields and spent countless hours outdoors, cherishing nature in all its forms.

On Nov. 2, 1950, Harvey enlisted in the United States Army. He served 11 months overseas during the Korean War. He was honorably discharged on Sept. 13, 1952. Upon returning home, Harvey joined the Portland American Legion.

Harvey was a man of many interests and talents. He could often be found feeding the birds, casting a line for fish, bow hunting in the quiet woodlands or outsmarting the pesky groundhogs that dared to disturb his homestead. His inventive spirit thrived on the farm, where he loved to tinker and build, creating solutions for everyday challenges.

Harvey also owned and operated the Fort Recovery Roller Palace for 16 years, where he shared his love for roller skating with the community and created lasting memories for many. His vibrant personality and zest for life will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

A celebration of Harvey's life will be held at 10:30 a.m. on Friday, Feb. 14, 2025, at Christ Chapel, Fort Recovery, with Pastor Quentin Elsea officiating. Burial, with military honors, will follow in Salamonia Cemetery.

Guests may visit with his family on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2025, from 3 to 6 p.m. at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, Fort Recovery. As well as on Friday from 9:30 a.m. until the start of the service at 10:30 a.m. at Christ Chapel.

Harvey's family would like to thank the Persimmon Ridge nurses and staff along with the Keystone Hospice nurses for their patience, compassion and skill in caring for Harvey. We also want to express our appreciation to Allison at Sprunger and Sprunger for her skillful handling of Harvey's financial affairs.

Memorial contributions may be given to Christ Chapel or the Fort Recovery Community Foundation, in care of the Nathan Ranly Scholarship Fund.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockman-boeckmanfh.com.

Timmie Bell

Dec. 16, 1964-Feb. 5, 2025
Timmie Bell, age 60, of Portland passed away on Sunday, Feb. 5, 2025, at his residence.

He was born in Hartford City on Dec. 16, 1964, the son of Jerry and Carolyn (Wyatt) Bell Sr. He was a 1983 Jay County High School graduate and had worked for Coca-Cola. He had taught hunter's education in 4-H.

Surviving are a sister, Deanna Cline (husband: Trent) of Portland; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents Jerry and Carolyn Bell Sr.; a brother, Jerry Bell Jr.; and a sister, Corina Boice.

There will be no funeral services. Memorials can be made to Jay County 4-H.

Baird-Freeman Funeral Home is handling the arrangements. Condolences may be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

Nellie M. West, Portland, March 22, 1923-Feb. 9, 2025. Services will be at 1 p.m. Friday at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Ronald D. Cook, Montpelier, July 20, 1957-Feb. 8, 2025. A memorial will be held at 4 p.m. Friday at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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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.

SERVICES

Today

Skiver, Timothy: 6 p.m., Reichard Funeral Home, 400 W. Deerfield Road, Union City.

Friday

Thornton, Harvey: 10:30 a.m., Christ Chapel, 2535 Wabash Road, Fort Recovery.

West, Nellie: 1 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Saturday

Fortman, Dolores: 10 a.m., Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, 403 Sharpshurg Road, Fort Recovery.

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Capsule Reports

Failed to notice

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Hartford City woman failed to notice a stopped semi truck along Indiana 26 and crashed into it about 11:30 a.m. Friday.

Karen L. Slater, 56, was driving her 2019 Mitsubishi Mirage west on the highway near its intersection with Indiana 1. She told police she didn't notice that the 2022 Freightliner Cascadia driven by 44-year-old Judson D. Couser of Dunkirk, New York, in front of her was stopped. She hit the back of the semi with her vehicle.

Slater complained of chest pain, and her vehicle was towed. The semi is registered to Xtra LLC of St. Louis, Missouri.

Turning accident

A Portland man turned into the back of a Portland woman's car along High Street about 6:18 p.m. Friday.

See page 5

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Photo provided

Character Counts

Pictured above are kindergarteners awarded for showing fairness at East Elementary. In the front row are Gabe Campofiore, Georgia Phenis, Paisleigh May and Nadia LeMaster, and in the second row are Owen Bice, Jackson Nietfeld, Ben Gilbert and Nathan Arnold.

New lover scares wife for marriage

DEAR ABBY: My husband, "Leon," and I have been together for 13 years. He is bisexual — gay-leaning. I knew this when we got together. I am 51, and Leon is 32. We still love each other deeply, but he is also in a relationship with a man. His boyfriend is 21. We have an 11-year-old daughter together, and I have two grown kids from a previous marriage.

I was always OK with Leon having friends with benefits. But this new relationship has me feeling lost and confused. I don't want our marriage to be ruined because of his relationship with this man, but I'm afraid it might well happen. After having been married for so long, it feels like my best friend is being ripped from me also. We have been through a lot together. This tidal wave of emotions is getting the better of me. Please help. I don't know what to do. — LOSING HOPE IN IDAHO

DEAR LOSING HOPE: When you married Leon, you did it knowing it would be an open marriage. Neither you nor your husband took into account that he might meet someone he could fall deeply in love with. Under the circumstances, your feelings are understandable. Couples counseling may help you to adjust to the new reality, and I heartily recommend it. Your doctor should be able to refer you.

DEAR ABBY: I'm hurt and angered by the shunning I'm experiencing from my family because they disapprove of my incarcerated fiancé. I'm in my

Dear Abby



60s, and I have worked for 20 years as a counselor in higher education. I'm engaged to a wonderful man who is serving a life sentence in the South. We have been writing and talking via phone and video for more than two years.

We recently had our first visit. We love each other very much. I just moved to his state so we can visit every month and so I can be close to his family. My family has now blocked me on social media, on the phone and on email. Before they did it, they told me I'm mentally disturbed and said they want nothing more to do with me. I have tried several times to extend an olive branch, but they ignore me. Is there anything I can do to reconnect? — SHUNNED IN THE SOUTH

DEAR SHUNNED: Your relatives may feel the way they do because they are concerned for you, or the crime for which your fiancé was imprisoned frightens them for their own safety should he be released someday. Is he eligible for parole, or will your relationship continue to be a once-a-month visit in perpetuity? You appear to be an educated, caring individual. But do not count on reuniting with your family — at this point, their minds appear to be made up.

Marriage licenses

Anastasiia Fomina, 20, Bryant, and Daniel S. Fennig, 19, Bryant
Garrett B.L. Shepherd, 30, Dunkirk, and Leanna M. Vore, 32, Dunkirk
Noe R. Castillo, 47, Portland, and Stephanie D. Fleming, 47, Portland

Jessica J. Trusty, 31, Richmond, and Dustin A. Roser, 31, Portland
Klarisa M. Hemmelgarn, 24, Portland, and Alexander C. Serna, 24, Lafayette
Shyli J.R. Hickerson, 25, Dunkirk, and Devan S. Snowberger, 23, Dunkirk

Shyanne L. Keedy, 27, Portland, and John R. Smith, 31, Portland
Madison S. Payton, 22, Portland, and Esaul S. Jimenez, 23, Portland
Kaylynn M. Greer, 26, Redkey, and Abraham C. Rosas, 26, Redkey

Community Calendar

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

Today

WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time.
PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center.
BRYANT/NEW CORYDON SENIOR CITIZENS — Will meet at 11:30 a.m. Wednesday at the Bryant Community Center for a carry-in dinner. Meat is provided.
PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland.
COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evi-

dence-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.
JAY COUNTY CIVIC THEATRE — Holds its regular meeting at 5:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of each month in the boardroom at Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.
PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles' lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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 - BRIA

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 RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.
INDIANA UNIVERSITY HEALTH JAY HOSPITAL OSTOMY SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second Thursday of each month in Indiana University Health Jay Hospital Conference Room B. The group is for ostomy and intestinal diversion patients and their friends and family to offer mutual support and learn about the latest products and information.
JAY COUNTY TRAILS CLUB — Will meet at 7 p.m. the second Thursday of each month at Jay Community Center.

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.
EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.
ANNA'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.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday's Solution

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

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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Traveling cheese helped festivities

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from Feb. 9, 2005. Super Bowl parties and the food that comes along with them are a staple of early February for football fans. Sometimes, it's that little touch of home that can make all the difference in making the day special.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Sally was on the phone. It was a Sunday afternoon, one week before the Super Bowl.

"So, Dad, what're you doing this afternoon?"

It seemed an odd question.

Nothing much, I answered. Just sort of puttering around. Connie was busy with homework for a graduate course she's taking at Ball State University. I was mostly just trying to stay out of her way so she could study.

Well, said my youngest daughter, do you think you could find

Back in the Saddle



time to make me a cheese log for our Super Bowl party? In fact, could I find the time to make two of them?

Now, I'm not well known for my culinary skills.

In our kitchen, I always play the role of assistant while my wife gives direction. It's always worked out that way, and I haven't done too much damage yet.

But there are a couple of dishes I've made over the years that have been well received at carry-ins and the like.

One is an apple cake from a

recipe given to me by Mildred May. It's unofficially known as "Aunt Mid's Apple Cake" and has gotten rave reviews.

The other is a cheese log that I first made several years ago for our dinner club. Since then — often at Sally's urging — I've made it dozens of times. One year, I was ambitious enough to make several of them for our neighbors at Christmas.

But this was the first time I'd received a long distance request for a Super Bowl event.

When I stopped laughing, I agreed to give it a go, even though I had no idea where to find the recipe.

The next night, with the recipe in hand (Connie knew right where it was, of course), I spread out the ingredients on the countertop. Extra-sharp cheddar cheese, blue cheese, cream cheese, onion, cayenne pepper

(the secret ingredient that gives it kick), and pecans to cover the outside.

For a little over an hour, while my wife watched Antiques Roadshow, I banged around the kitchen, mumbling to myself, swearing under my breath more than once, and occasionally shouting out questions when I needed guidance.

But before bedtime, two cheese logs were chilling in the refrigerator, wrapped in wax paper and aluminum foil.

The rest was up to the U.S. Postal Service.

At lunchtime Tuesday, I tucked the logs into a cardboard box, along with a box of crackers, sealed the whole concoction up with tape, and took it to the post office.

"Any perishables?" asked Thurman at the post office.

I shook my head, though I'm

not sure why. Maybe I was figuring that the cayenne pepper would act as a preservative. At any rate, before I knew it the package was Bloomington-bound via Priority Mail.

Later I found myself wondering what would happen if the package went astray. Would the package give off a cheesy odor in some postal sectional center?

I remembered a friend from college who had been taking a frozen turkey home for the holidays, only to have it lost by Greyhound. It never surfaced, and we always figured it had defrosted and gone bad in some backwater bus terminal.

I needn't have worried. The package arrived the next day, and the cheese log added to the festive occasion in Sally's dorm.

As for us, we settled for nachos.

Gaza is not ours to occupy

Pittsburgh Post-Gazette
Tribune News Service

President Donald Trump has proposed America occupy Gaza and forcefully resettle two million Palestinians in other nations. It is frequently a mystery how serious Trump is.

If he is serious, he ignores the long-term price the U.S. pays for inserting itself into other nations, especially those in decades-long conflicts. In Afghanistan, for example, where after two decades of occupation, the spending of \$2 trillion, and the death of 2,324 soldiers and many others as well, the U.S.-created government fell to religious extremists within hours of our departure, leaving the people of the country in the same condition as they were when America entered.

An occupation of Gaza is not likely to go better.

Pennsylvania Sen. John Fetterman recently signaled that he supports the "provocative" proposal, including the possible use of American troops, though he did not say how supportive he is. The Palestinians, he told the New York Times, "refused or have been unwilling to deliver a government that provided security and economic development for themselves." He apparently thinks America would do better for them.

His Republican counterpart, Sen. Dave McCormick, has not said anything.

But U.S. troops will not be able to quell the conflict. Both sides, Israel and the Palestinians, have sincere religious and historic ties to the region.

The Palestinians will not give up their home. The Israelis will not want the land to go to the U.S. Neither want America to control what they believe is theirs.

What matters is the reality the president ignored: Families have been torn apart; loved ones have starved; hostages have been murdered; women have been raped; hospitals have been bombed; children have been killed. The suffering is immense, and the flippancy with which the president discusses the situation is alarming.

And none of it touches upon the cost to America in funds and in life. Nor does it consider the cost of turning Arab nations into permanent enemies and hampering Israel's ability

Guest Editorial

The suffering is immense, and the flippancy with which the president discusses the situation is alarming.

to provide a necessary sanctuary for Jewish people.

In the best case, Trump's proposal is only a distraction from Elon Musk and his quasi-governmental DOGE team taking a wrecking ball to the government with the stated goal of trimming "waste." The National Institutes of Health is on the chopping block. So is the Department of Education.

This could also be an example of Trump's "deal-making." As David Shribman wrote on Sunday, he employs the "Madman Theory," first pioneered by President Richard Nixon in his dealings with the Soviet Union. This, at the least, is an actual strategy. Maybe the threat of U.S. boots on the ground will actually change Hamas' calculations.

Or he may in fact be sincere. His talk of buying Greenland, seizing the Panama Canal and incorporating Canada as the 51st state point toward this.

Whichever is true, the White House has already started to walk back his comments.

Sen. Fetterman has been praised and criticized in equal measure for his willingness to legislate alongside the new administration. We hope that this ability to compromise, not shown much in Washington these days, exists with a healthy measure of caution, especially with a president who has proven to be so reckless.



System is doing just fine

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The Trump administration is subjecting the U.S. constitutional system to a stress test. We're on the treadmill, with instruments recording everything that's happening.

Nearly every day since taking office, President Donald Trump has done something unlawful that makes the treadmill go a little faster. He has purported to ban birthright citizenship; fired 17 inspectors general; briefly frozen federal spending; and most recently, taken steps to shutter the U.S. Agency for International Development.

That's not counting the tariffs imposed on Mexico, Canada and China, which would probably-but-not-definitely be upheld by the courts as a lawful exercise of power delegated by Congress.

When these stressors are introduced into the system, the courts swing into action and block Trump's executive overreach. Congress protests — or is supposed to — that the president can't override federal laws that direct spending or establish agencies. If those things happen, the system equilibrates. Instead of degrading, the stress test shows the system works and what might need some fixing.

How long will the stress test continue? No one knows for sure. It's been two weeks and Trump still seems able to come up with a headline-capturing power grab every day or two. What is certain is that the president can't sustain this rhythm forever. At some point, Americans will demand that he start doing his main job, which is making the executive branch function.

If you're watching Trump closely, as I am, your heart rate has probably been going up. Mine certainly has. That's because the big question for our democracy right now is the

same one that arises during any stress test: Will our heart hold out?

My bet is on survival. So far, Trump's latest version of constitutional quasi-chaos hasn't swamped the system. I'm tempted to suggest that we try to manage our anxiety, even as we keep running harder. Anxiety, after all, can also raise your heart rate.

Consider what's happened so far. The president can't change the Constitution, so Trump's executive order claiming to roll back birthright citizenship is beyond his power. A court has already said so, blocking the order from going into effect. Trump could appeal all the way to the Supreme Court, but it's not going to make any difference. The high court is not going to announce a brand-new, made-up interpretation of the 14th Amendment.

Should the fired inspectors general choose to sue for their jobs back, they would likely win on the grounds that the law requires the president to inform Congress before taking such action. That would be nice for the rule of law. But they might choose not to sue since all Trump would have to do is fire them again, this time giving Congress proper notice.

As for the ill-fated spending freeze, which also could have been done legally if Trump had given notice to Congress, a court blocked it within hours. Trump then folded and lifted it.

That brings us to USAID, a federal agency responsible for delivering humanitarian aid around the world. Trump can't unilaterally shut down

a federal agency created by Congress, as former senior White House lawyer Tess Bridgeman has pointed out. Money appropriated by Congress for specific purposes must be spent for those purposes under the Impoundment Act. Civil service employees can sometimes be let go from their jobs when there is a reorganization leading to a reduction in force; but that's not what's happened here — at least so far. If Trump doesn't follow the law regarding USAID, there will be more lawsuits, which he will lose.

Those taking notice of all this systematic (and unnecessary) illegality are understandably concerned that Trump might ignore court orders. That would generally count as a constitutional crisis — the real thing, not the stress test.

Yet Trump, who did not ignore court orders in his first term, is unlikely to defy a judicial decision. The Supreme Court has six conservatives, three of them Trump appointees. The single worst thing he could do to alienate the justices would be to ignore a court order. No matter how conservative the justices might be, their primary identity comes from their role as interpreters of the Constitution and laws. They might tolerate a lot from Trump, but they won't tolerate direct defiance of the authority of the judiciary.

Relying on Trump to act rationally might seem like a poor idea. Nevertheless, it's worth remembering that the flurry of the last two weeks is intended to make headlines. Fear for the system can be combined with serious worries about the effects of Trump's policies — all of which leads to panic and more headlines. For now, let's take the stress test one burst at a time, and try to keep breathing.

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Feldman is a Bloomberg Opinion columnist. He is a professor of law at Harvard University.



Noah Feldman

The Commercial Review



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—Thomas Jefferson

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Invaders ...

Continued from page 1
Conspiracy Dan, played by 13-year-old Craig Redmond of Dunkirk, is a man who wants to warn the world about the extraterrestrial visitors before it's too late.

Redmond likened his character's demeanor — a black suit, white undershirt and slicked back hair — to that of Sterling. He also noted it's his first time in a major role, having previously performed in Jay County Civic Theatre's productions of Disney's "Descendants" and "Finding Nemo Jr.," "A Christmas Story" and "The Sound of Music."

"It's kind of fun being the main character," he said.

Maci Homan, 9, Portland, plays Sweet Bonnie, who is learning about alien encounters. She enjoys poking fun at her counterpart on stage.

"She acts very sweet to Conspiracy Dan but she also teases Conspiracy Dan throughout the show about himself," explained Homan, who previously performed in "Finding Nemo Jr." and "The Sound of Music."

The half-hour show includes a list of various smaller roles for each skit demonstrating otherworldly experiences that Conspiracy Dan warns Sweet Bonnie about.

Blake King, 11, performs as a scientist and an ice cream shopkeeper who

are each a part of some supernatural situations. Evelyn Garringer, 12, Eaton, plays Farmer Ma, Juliet and Emily, who all find themselves facing alien encounters.

"Everybody's just really funny," said Garringer. "(They) do a good job of playing their characters."

The cast began rehearsals in January. Flashing forward to today, Littler said cast members have come out of their shells.

"I feel like they've become a lot more confident in their stage presence," she said. "Seeing everybody grow into their characters has been really exciting ... I think the biggest growth has been with people just getting out of their boxes and having fun with the characters."

Tickets are \$5 per person and available by visiting bit.ly/JCCTAliens, calling (260) 726-4809 or visiting the Jay County Campus of Arts Place, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland.

Littler encouraged folks to come out to the show to learn more about the dangers of a potential alien invasion.

"It's got a super important warning that everyone needs to hear about how there are aliens already on planet Earth," she joked. "I think everyone needs to come — so they know the reality of what's going on."



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Craig Redmond plays the lead role of Conspiracy Dan in Jay County Civic Theatre's production of "Everyone Gets Abducted By Aliens: A Cautionary Tale." Tickets are \$5 and are available at bit.ly/JCCTAliens.

Access ...

Continued from page 1

In August, commissioners and Jay County Council heard a request from the company for a \$2.4 million match in American Rescue Plan Act dollars to go toward installing broadband infrastructure to unserved and underserved locations across Jay County. (Nearly a year ago, council and commissioners agreed to commit \$3.9 million toward the Mainstream project to install 395 miles of fiberoptic or fixed wireless internet across the county, with the decision hinging on receiving Indiana Next Level Connections grants, but Mainstream was not awarded the grant.)

Marshall noted that the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program does not require a local match. She said she anticipates if Mainstream receives an abundance of awards, it would like to fully cover the county with access to broadband. That would include about 2,000 addresses, she continued. If it were to propose a full-county project, she added, Mainstream would likely request another match from the county.

"If you're adding 500 addresses to what they were previously estimating, 184, that's a big difference, and that means we're going to save a lot of money," she said. "So I assume the proposal is going to change now."

Relatedly, a local internet service provider shared his pitch for installing more broadband in Jay County.

Mike Boley, president of Wabash Mutual Telephone Company, explained he is applying for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment funding in order to provide fiber internet to about 200 locations in eastern Jay County.

Wabash Mutual Telephone Company, a cooperative service, has been in business since 1911. Its reach extends to Mercer

County along the state line, as well as in Wabash and Noble Townships of Jay County.

Commissioner Duane Monroe, who works for electric utility company Jay County REMC, said he's familiar with Boley and vouched for his business.

"What I do like is all their stuff's underground, none of it's overhead, and we've never really had any issues with them," he said. "I think it's great they're doing it, coming over into our area and helping us."

Aker noted another benefit with Boley — he isn't asking for a match from the county. He asked about providing a letter of recommendation for Boley to apply. Marshall said giving a letter of recommendation to a different project would "level the playing field" for both companies applying for Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment dollars.

"I think we owe it to our county, our people, to sign off on this, in my opinion," Monroe said.

Commissioners then agreed to sign the letter for Boley.

Also Monday, commissioners signed a service agreement with Jay County Development Corporation.

Commissioners agreed at their last meeting to move forward on an agreement and provide \$100,000 in funding to the organization. The contract, which runs through June 30, is similar to one the county and

Jay County Development Corporation agreed to in the second half of 2023. (Last year, both parties didn't reach an agreement and the county didn't contribute money to the organization.)

Plans are for Jay County Development Corporation and the county to consider another agreement and additional funding through the end of 2025 in the next few months.

Also, East Central Indiana Regional Planning District recently announced Darlesia Lee will be taking over community coordinator Nate Kimball's job after he resigns Feb. 28. Kimball introduced Lee, who is training with Kimball until his departure. She expressed her excitement for shifting into the position.

"I am a local community advocate and now a community developer," she said, noting she's been connecting with local officials and community members to begin her work.

In other business, commissioners Monroe, Aker and Doug Horn:

- Agreed to meet at 3 p.m. Feb. 20 to review requests for economic development income tax (EDIT) dollars.

- Heard about plans to create contracts between the county and homeowners in the owner-occupied rehabilitation program stating the county is not responsible for work completed by contractors on homes.

Lee introduced as new community coordinator

Felony arrests

Common nuisance

Two Portland residents were arrested Monday for maintaining a common nuisance.

Misty D. George, 48, 995 S. Boundary Pike, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony for the alleged crime, as well as a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana. She was released from Jay County Jail on a \$4,500 bond.

Cody J. Hatzell, 39, 997 S. Boundary Pike, was also preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, as well as a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He was released from Jay County Jail.

- OK'd moving forward with CivilCon of Jefferson for engineering related to replacing the bridge on county road 600 West north of Indiana 26 with a culvert.

- Approved the following purchases: \$348,000 for Jay County Highway Department to buy a 2025 John Deere road grader from West Side Tractor Company in Fort Wayne, with the department planning to trade in its 1989 and 1994 graders and the new equipment expected to arrive in May; \$58,810 to replace a book scanner in Jay County Recorder's Office, with auditor Emily Franks noting the purchase will be reimbursed by insurance; \$6,000 to Mike Bishop's The Paint Company of Dunkirk in exchange for painting Jay County Treasurer's Office; an additional \$5,000 to Hays and Sons Complete Restoration of Muncie in order to purchase carpet squares for the recorder's office; and \$1,650 for additional coats of paint to be used in the recorder's office.

- Received a 2024 end of the year summary from Jay/Portland Building and Planning director John Hemmelgarn. Last year, 271 permits were issued with 175 of them issued for rural areas of Jay County. Approximately 18 new home permits were issued — 16 were in rural parts of the county — and 30 commercial use permits, six of which were in rural portions of Jay County. The total declared construction value for 2024 came to \$20.5 million.

- Agreed to take former commissioner Brian McGalliard off Jay County Country Living's bank account authorization list and put Jay County treasurer Janel Foreman on the list.

- Gave permission for deputy coroner Michael Brewster to sign a Verizon bill for coroner Brayden Fields while he is on vacation in March.

Capsule Reports

Continued from page 2

Jennifer E. Weitzel, 43, told police she turned her 2005 Chevrolet Tahoe from Meridian Street onto High Street heading west. As Weitzel continued down the road, 21-year-old Fermin Gonzalez driving a 2016 Dodge Durango out of a parking space along the road struck the back of Weitzel's car.

Gonzalez was arrested for driving without a license, a Class C misdemeanor. He was being held on a \$1,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

The vehicle he was driving was towed, with damage estimated between \$2,500 and \$5,000.

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly

BRACE YOURSELF - HERE COMES THE BIG ONE!

LET IT SNOW

THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

VALENTINE

2-12

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“... and one for the principal too, and the bus driver and the cafeteria lady ...”

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

The investigative process

East dealer. North-South vulnerable.

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

EAST
 ♠ 8 5 4 2
 ♥ J 9 5
 ♦ 7 3
 ♣ Q 7 6 3

SOUTH
 ♠ K Q J
 ♥ 10 7 2
 ♦ K 8 6
 ♣ A J 10 4

The bidding:
 East South West North
 Pass 1♣ Pass 1♥
 Pass 1NT Pass 6NT
 Opening lead — jack of diamonds.
 Assume you're in six notrump and win West's diamond lead with the queen. Your sure winners are three spades, two hearts, three diamonds and two clubs — a total of 10 tricks, so you need two more.

Obviously, your best chance of picking up two additional tricks lies in clubs, where you have a two-way finesse for the queen. If you knew the location of the queen, it would be easy to trap the damsel by finessing in the right direction, and your troubles would be over. Locating the queen deserves your closest attention, because misguessing which way to finesse could cost you 1,740 points.

However, it is much too early, after only one trick has been played, to make what will amount to an irrevocable decision in the club suit, since you know next to nothing about the East-West hands. You therefore begin an investigative campaign hoping to learn more about the opposing distribution.

Accordingly, at trick two you cash the ace of hearts and then lead a low heart from dummy. West takes your ten with the queen and returns a diamond to dummy's ace.

You cash the king of hearts, and when the suit divides 3-3, you also cash dummy's eight, pitching a club after East discards a spade. You then play the A-K-Q of spades and king of diamonds, dummy and East both discarding clubs.

All your worries are now over, because you have obtained a complete count of the hand. West is known to have started with six diamonds (East showed out on the third round of the suit), three spades and three hearts, and therefore began with at most one club.

So, you lead the ten of clubs to the king and finesse the jack on the way back with total confidence that it will win the trick. That's all there is to it!

Tomorrow: Gazing into the future.
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Peanuts

I'M SORRY, MA'AM... I WASN'T PAYING ATTENTION

I ACCIDENTALLY STEPPED ON A BUG ON MY WAY TO SCHOOL TODAY

I FEEL SO GUILTY... I HATE TAKING A LIFE...

PUNISH ME, MA'AM... GIVE ME AN "F" IN SOMETHING!

2/12

Rose is Rose

I MADE SURE THAT YOU'RE DRESSED FOR THE COLD WEATHER, RIGBY!

I PREFER THE SPRING FASHION TRENDS

2-12

Agnes

ONCE I'VE WRITTEN MY VALENTINES DAY LOVE SONG, I WILL START TO FLOOD ALL MEDIA WITH IT.

MEDIA?

YOU KNOW... THINGS LIKE TV, RADIO, BIG ROAD SIGNS, CEREAL BOXES, CHEAP PENS, POP-UPS ON THE WEB...

WHAT IF PEOPLE DON'T LIKE THE SONG?

HA! LIKE I'M PLAYING IT FOR 'EM BEFORE THEY BUY IT? AM I CRAZY?

GOOD STRATEGY.

Hi and Lois

WHAT DOES THAT BUMPER STICKER SAY?

"BABY ON BOARD"

THAT KID MUST HAVE A BIG EGO.

2-12

Between Friends

ARE YOU STILL SEEING STEVE?

NO... WE BROKE UP A WHILE AGO

TOO BAD I THOUGHT HE WAS A GOOD GUY

HE IS A GOOD GUY - HE'S CHARMING, CONSIDERATE AND HE LOVED ME

SO WHY WOULD YOU BREAK UP? OH, WAIT - DON'T TELL ME...

HE'S CHARMING, CONSIDERATE AND HE LOVED YOU

Blondie

ONE OF TOOTSIE'S BEAUTY MAGAZINES WAS SENT TO OUR HOUSE BY MISTAKE!

WHAT?

DAGWOOD, YOU SHOULDN'T BE LOOKING THROUGH OUR NEIGHBORS' MAIL - IT'S NOT RIGHT!

"HOW TO LOOK 10 YEARS YOUNGER WITH THESE SIMPLE HOME REMEDIES"

NOTHING WRONG WITH A LITTLE PEEK, THOUGH!

2-12

Snuffy Smith

I OBJECT TO TH' LENGTH OF TH' SENTENCE, JEDGE, ON TH' GROUNDS IT'D POSE A HARDSHIP ON MY FAMBLY !!

HMM...LET ME PONDER THAT FER A MINUTE...

HA-HA-HA-HEE-HO !! TAKE HIM AWAY, SHERIFF !! HA-HO-HEE !!

Beetle Bailey

WHAT'S WRONG?

I'VE BEEN TRYING TO FILL OUT THIS FORM FOR AN HOUR

DID YOU TRY THIS?

BLING

I'D BE PLEASED IF I DIDN'T FEEL SO USELESS

2-12

CRYPTOQUIP

LQND TEG FMBRR LQBFANT EI
 VNSGBRX XDU X MEEZQ BF
 RXMMBDC BV GM, VQXV UEC
 BF X RBSGEI RBZANI.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: SPIRITED, DETERMINED COURAGE AND GRIT DISPLAYED BY FOLKS FROM DUBLIN: THE PLUCK OF THE IRISH.
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals G

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Havana's vehicles
 5 High tennis shot
 8 Pitt of "Money-ball"
 12 Spoken partner
 13 Shock villain
 14 Shake-spearean groups
 15 Military bar fight
 17 Order by classes
 19 Vehement protest
 21 High school subj.
 22 Poi base
 23 Likely battery
 28 Cowboy in "Toy Story"
 31 Indy winner A.J.
 33 Away from SSW
 35 Peevish fit

DOWN

1 Club in a Manilow song
 2 Web addresses
 3 Sheepish remarks
 4 Choir members
 5 From Vientiane
 6 Personal Jan. 1
 7 Make drunk eateries
 8 Casual masked mammals
 9 Masked mammals
 10 Lab gel
 11 "Finding Nemo" fish

36 Seized fellows
38 Business mag
40 Punker Vicious
41 Shacks
43 Cyclades isle
45 1912 Olympic legend
47 Relatives of loons
51 Mine, to Marcel
52 Spoofs
54 Dresses in
55 Org. with a style manual
56 Squad
57 Celeb's aide
58 Tummy muscles

59 Young fellows
16 Killer whale
20 Motor City labor org.
23 Ghana's cont.
24 "The Bells" writer
25 Violent storms
27 Blackbird
29 Nero's 502
30 Since Jan. 1
32 Sight-seer
34 Bafflers
37 NASCAR advertiser
39 Business abbr.
42 1965 march site
44 Capital of South Korea
45 "I did it!"
46 Med. plan options
48 - fide (genuine)
49 Okla-homa city
50 Bygone jets
53 Cleric's tunic

Solution time: 23 mins.

W I P E R T S L O T S
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 F A A H E X O T T E R
 L A D W A S
 S A T A Y C A F T A N S
 A R I Z C O G R O N A
 L I L Y P A D N A K E D
 S U B R O W
 S P O U T J A G G A P
 O A R S L I Z S M I T H
 A R E A A M E A V I D
 P E O N G I S N E T S

Yesterday's answer 2-12

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
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Scores ...

Continued from page 8
Based on early data, 135 million viewers watched the second quarter, between 8 and 8:15 p.m. ET. The Eagles led 24-0 at halftime, which likely led to some viewers tuning out in the second half. The game had the ingredients

of another ratings record-setter, with Taylor Swift to cheer on boyfriend Travis Kelce, the Chiefs' star tight end. President Trump heightened the anticipation by being the first sitting commander-in-chief to attend a Super Bowl.

The lopsided outcome of Sunday's contest was reminiscent of the run of terrible Super Bowl matchups of the mid-1980s, when there were five consecutive blowouts decided by 19 points or more. Fox scored a record price of \$8

million for some of the commercials on the game. Viewers surveyed in USA Today's annual Super Bowl Ad Meter chose a Budweiser commercial featuring the beer brand's iconic Clydesdale horses as their favorite.

The halftime show featuring Pulitzer Prize-winning hip-hop artist Kendrick Lamar was polarizing on social media, but provided the liveliest conversation of the night amid the Chiefs' dismal performance on the field.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Alyvia Muhlenkamp swims the consolation heat of the 100-yard breaststroke during Monday's sectional that the Patriots hosted. Muhlenkamp finished 14th with a time of 1 minute, 28.1 seconds, in her first sectional appearance.

Conquered ...

Continued from page 8
The highest JCHS individual finish on Monday came from Fisher in the 100 butterfly. The junior swam a 1:05.26 to claim fourth in the event. Second through fourth place were only separated by 0.74 seconds, and the close competition helped Fisher to a comfortable lead over the bottom half of the finals. (Delta's Annie Jackson won the event for a fourth straight year with a 59.58.)

Fisher also swam in the 50 freestyle, finishing eighth with a time of 27.50. "I think since second through sixth were all really close in times, that really just pushed me to try and stay up there," Fisher said. "Just getting into the finals is very exciting. Even if I didn't get the time I wanted in my 50 free, just being top eight is exciting."

Also swimming in two finals races as an individual was Byrum. The freshman also competed in the 100 butterfly, placing sixth in 1:08.49. Earlier in the meet, Byrum swam the 200 individual medley. Her time of 2:32.59 earned seventh, ahead of Delta's Katie Shue by 0.4 seconds.

While Byrum would have liked to finish a little

stronger, she was glad to experience swimming in the sectional finals in all four events - she was also a part of the 200 medley relay - as a freshman.

"It was a really nice experience," Byrum said. "One that I was hoping to experience this year, but wasn't completely certain. ... I'm just thankful for my teammates for supporting me, keeping me optimistic and helping me through this season."

Katilyn Fisher and Kenzie Huey were the other two Patriots to compete in the finals. Fisher placed eighth in the 100 butterfly (1:09.69), while Huey came in seventh in the 100 backstroke (1:10.15). (Maddy Snow and Kali Newell also scored fourth and 13th in the 1-meter diving on Saturday.

Huey, Lauren Fisher, Byrum and Sophia Hoevel combined for a 2:02.31, which was good for fifth in the 200 medley relay, while Millsbaugh, Kaitlyn Fisher, Huey and Ariel Beiswanger got seventh in the 200 freestyle relay with a 1:54.50.

Jay County had nine more placements in the consolation heats. Most notably, Millsbaugh secured a pair of ninth-

place finishes with times that were better than some of the tankers in the finals. Her 2:32.05 in the individual medley would have climbed up to fifth, while a 1:11.20 would have secured eighth in the 100 backstroke.

Other placements came from:

•Hoevel: ninth in the 100 freestyle and 12th in the 200 freestyle

•Beiswanger: 11th in the 200 freestyle and 11th in the 500 freestyle

•Kaitlyn Fisher: 11th in the 200 individual medley

•Snow: 12th in the 100 breaststroke

•Alyvia Muhlenkamp: 14th in the 100 breaststroke

The Patriots will graduate four tankers including Snow, Huey and Millsbaugh, all of whom competed in the finals.

The rest of the Patriots' core is set to come back with a group of incoming freshmen that leaves Slavik optimistic for the future.

"We've got a large junior group of girls that are going to make good leaders and a strong group of freshmen coming in next year," Slavik said. "I think that's a good starting point to look ahead for the future for this team. The future is bright for them."

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Thursday
Fort Recovery — Boys bowling sectional at Dayton - 9 a.m.

TV sports

Today
10 a.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500 (FS1)
2:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Everton at Liverpool (USA)
6 p.m. — College basketball: St. John's at Villanova (FS1)

6:30 p.m. — College basketball: Iowa at Rutgers (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA: San Antonio Spur at Boston Celtics (ESPN); Indiana Pacers at Washington Wizards (FDSN Indiana)
7 p.m. — College basketball: Louisville at N.C. State (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona 500 (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Washington at Ohio State (BTN)

9 p.m. — College basketball: LSU at Arkansas (ESPN2)
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Golden State Warriors at Dallas Mavericks (ESPN)
10 p.m. — College basketball: Wyoming at New Mexico (FS1)

Thursday
10 a.m. — College softball: Florida State at Missouri (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — College softball: Clemson at Missouri (ESPN2)

4 p.m. — College softball: Clemson at Auburn (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Duel 1 at Daytona (FS1)
6:30 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Nebraska at Maryland (BTN)
7 p.m. — Women's college basketball: Texas at Kentucky (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Daytona (FS1)
8 p.m. — Four Nations hockey: Finland at USA (ESPN)
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Miami Heat at Dallas Mavericks (ABC); Oklahoma City Thunder at Minnesota Timberwolves (TNT)

8:30 p.m. — College basketball: Maryland at Nebraska (BTN)
8:45 p.m. — NASCAR Cup Series: Duel 2 at Daytona (FS1)
9 p.m. — College basketball: Memphis at South Florida (ESPN2)
11 p.m. — LIV Golf: Adelaide (FS1)
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AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Doors will open at 8 a.m. day of auction for preview. RICHARD STACHLER</p>	<p>Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kayden Khayyatta AU12400069</p> <p>100 JOBS WANTED</p> <p>AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489.</p> <p>110 HELP WANTED</p> <p>TOWN OF REDKEY is accepting applications for Town Marshal and or Deputy. Experience preferred but not mandatory. Apply at the Redkey City Building. Applications accepted from February 6th through February 14th.</p> <p>130 MISC. FOR SALE</p> <p>SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm.</p> <p>PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. 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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 22 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. 9211 Broadway, Merrillville, IN 46410 (219) 769-1892 CR 1-29-2-5,12-2025-HSPAXLP</p>	<p>LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com</p> <p>230 AUTOS, TRUCKS</p> <p>WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocumis Salvage</p>

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Sports

Conquered conference foe

Jay beats Starfires at sectional after falling twice in regular season

By **ANDREW BALKO**
The Commercial Review

The Patriots were upset with their results against the Starfires.

They lost to the Allen County Athletic Conference foe in both the dual contest and in the conference meet.

The sectional gave the Patriots the opportunity to redeem themselves, and they made the most of it.

The host Jay County High School girls swim team got revenge on the South Adams Starfires while finishing fourth at the IHSAA Sectional 7 tournament on Monday.

The sectional finals was originally scheduled for Saturday, but got delayed due to weather before being made up on Monday.

The Patriots finished with 234 points to beat out South Adams with 177 for fourth place. After beating the Vikings by 5.5 points last season, Patriots trailed Huntington North by seven for third place. Delta dominated the field with 523 to win its third consecutive sectional title, a feat that was last completed by Jay County at Sectional No. 7 from 2019-21. Norwell was the runner-up with 347.

"The biggest thing was, we got beat by South Adams in our conference so the girl's biggest goal was to finish ahead of South Adams," said JCHS coach Matt Slavik. "After the prelims we thought, 'Hey we can try and take Huntington North too.' We came within 10 points of that.

"As a team finish, I'm super pleased. ... We came back and had a lot of great swims. It's hard gearing everything up for Saturday and then having it moved to Monday, but it was still a good way to finish the season."



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School freshman Brooklynn Byrum swims the backstroke leg of the 200-yard individual medley during the IHSAA Sectional 7 Jay County hosted on Monday. Byrum competed in four events, placing seventh in both the IM and 100 butterfly to help the Patriots to finish fourth with 234 points.

The first-place finisher in all of the swimming events earned berths to the state tournament at IU Natatorium on Friday, while the top four divers from Saturday's compe-

dition moved on to Tuesday's regional at Hamilton Southeastern. Delta claimed 10 of the 11 state berths, and Bluffton's Gabriella Coyne claimed the other first-place

finish in the 100-yard breaststroke.

Jay County's highest finish came from the 400 freestyle relay team of Brooklynn Byrum, Aubrey Millsbaugh, Lauren Fish-

er and Sophia Hoevel. The Patriot relay took third place with a time of 4 minutes 0.24 seconds, which trailed Delta's team by 13.5 seconds for the top spot.

See **Conquered** page 7

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GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

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Rates do not apply to special sections. Ads must run in February.

Schwieterman, Brunswick get ACAC honors

The Patriots didn't look the way they have for the past decade.

But still they had two players worthy of recognition in the Allen County Athletic Conference.

Hallie Schwieterman and Elizabeth Brunswick of the Jay County High School girls basketball team were both recognized when the ACAC released its all-conference teams on Tuesday morning.

Schwieterman, a sophomore guard, was named to the ACAC 1st team. She led the Patriots to a third-place finish in conference with an ACAC record of 4-2.

The sophomore led the Patriots (10-13) with 18.8 points, 5.5 rebounds, 4.0 steals and 2.4 assists per game.

She was the youngest player to make the first team, which was filled out with three juniors and three seniors as well.

Juniors to make the first team include Ava Stafford of Adams Central, Bluffton's Konley Ault and Woodlan's Alyssa Anderson. Seniors to receive first team recognition were Isabella Stout and Maryn Schreiber of Bluffton and Southern Well's Ashlie Needler.

South Adams and Her-

itage did not have any first team selections.

Jay County didn't have any players make the ACAC 2nd Team. Selections were Kate Fisher (Adams Central), Danica Fuller (Heritage), Laney Trausch (South Adams), Collena Reeves (Southern Wells) and Brooke Kneubuhler (Woodlan).

Brunswick was listed as an honorable mention alongside freshmen from South Adams (Anna Lehman) and Southern Wells (Kaylee Davis).

Brunswick was second on the team with 7.3 points, 5.1 rebounds, 2.2 assists and 1.8 steals per game.

Super Bowl LIX scores 126 million viewers despite blowout

By **STEPHEN BATTAGLIO**

Los Angeles Times
Tribune News Service

The Super Bowl may have developed immunity against a terrible game.

Early Nielsen data and a projection from Fox and the NFL showed 126 million viewers watched Sunday's telecast of the Philadelphia Eagles' 40-22 drubbing of the Kansas City Chiefs in Super Bowl LIX.

If the total holds up when final official numbers are issued, the game would be up slightly from last year's record of 123.7 million viewers who watched the Chiefs' 25-22 win over the San Francisco 49ers on CBS.

Fox said an average of 13.6 million viewers watched the game on Tubi, the company's free ad-supported streaming platform, which carried the event for the first time. Another 900,000 watched

on the NFL's streaming app.

Last year, Nielsen recorded the TV audience on CBS as 120 million viewers. That figure would be well above the 111 million viewers who watched Sunday's game on TV networks Fox, Telemundo and Fox Deportes, based on early data.

The Super Bowl was streamed on Paramount+ and the NFL streaming app in 2024, both of which require a subscription.

The availability of a free, widely distributed streaming platform to carry the Eagles-Chiefs telecast likely brought in more casual fans. Tubi had around 97 million active users in January.

The Super Bowl has regularly topped 100 million viewers since 2009 and fluctuated based on the competitiveness of the game.

See **Scores** page 7