

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Making progress

**Dunkirk discusses TIF plans, receives update on Glass Days**

By RAY COONEY

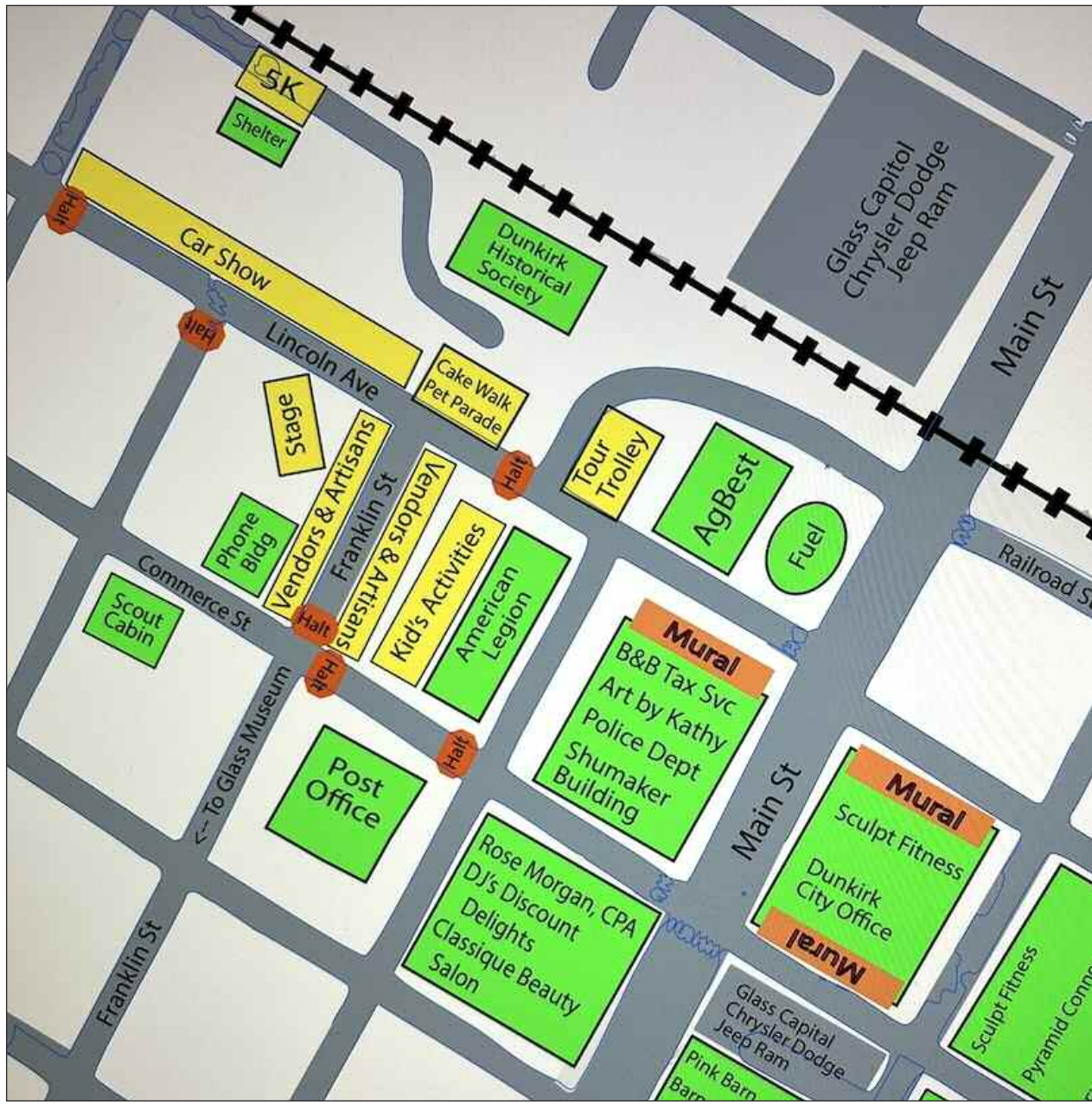
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city will take the next steps toward creating a tax increment financing (TIF) district and redevelopment commission next month.

During Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting, Mayor Jack Robbins reported on progress and provided an update on next steps.

Robbins told council members Jesse Bivens, Dan Watson, Christy Curts and Randy Murphy, absent Donna Revolt, that the closing for the purchase of about 10 acres of land was held last week. The city bought the property, located behind Pak-a-Sak (915 S. Main St.) and Dollar General (1001 S. Main St.), with the intent of pursuing housing and apartment development.

As part of that process, the city council agreed to move forward with creating a residential TIF district for the property. Such districts capture additional property tax revenue created by improvements — the increment — and set them aside to be used to help fund initiatives related to the district. A redevelopment commis-



Graphic provided

The above graphic provided by the Glass Days Committee shows where some of the activities are planned for this year's Glass Days festival. It will shift from Commerce Street on the east side of Main Street to the downtown area west of Main Street.

sion oversees those funds.

Robbins said there will be a presentation and documents regarding creation of the TIF district and redevelopment commission at the council's April 14 meeting. (Three redevelopment commission members

will be appointed by the mayor and two will be appointed by the council.)

The council also heard an update from Dru Hall of the Glass Days Committee regarding the festival that is planned for Aug. 16.

Hall reported that the

festival will shift to the area of Commerce Street west side of Main Street this year. (The re-born festival was initially held on the east side of the downtown area before expanding to both sides last year.) He said the intent is to keep everything together rather

than being split by Main Street (Indiana 167.)

Council granted the Glass Days Committee permission to install a new utility pole on city-owned property on the west side of the downtown area in order to provide electrical service for the festival. See **Progress** page 2

## Rights bill gets significant testimony

**Measure addresses entities like DCS, schools**

By CASEY SMITH

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Supporters of a controversial parental rights bill argued Monday that schools and state agencies should default to parents as the primary decision-makers for their children, and that Hoosier families need recourse when they believe their "authoritative" rights have been violated.

Up for debate in the House Judiciary Committee was Senate Bill 143 — a third attempt by Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, to codify that governmental entities "may not substantially burden a parent's fundamental right" to direct the "upbringing, religious instruction, education or health care" of a child unless it has a "compelling interest."

Brown said the bill is a response to parents whose rights have been violated by government entities — notably their children's public schools and the Department of Child Services (DCS). Several cases described in committee testimony involved cases in which DCS allegedly misidentified situations as abuse.

"What has happened is, when some DCS workers and people don't like the faith-based policies, the beliefs of some parents, they use those issues to take the child away. That's not how it's supposed to work," Brown said Monday. "Parents can take care of their children."

See **Testimony** page 2

## Conversation shared

By JOSEPH WILKINSON

New York Daily News  
Tribune News Service

Top secret U.S. military attack plans were accidentally sent to a reporter hours before they were carried out, according to a report published Monday.

High-level Trump administration officials, including Vice President JD Vance and Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth, discussed the plans in a group chat on the messaging app Signal. They accidentally included Jeffrey Goldberg, editor-in-chief of The Atlantic, in the chat.

"I didn't think it could be real. Then the bombs started falling," Goldberg wrote in an article published Monday. "I could not believe that the national security leadership of the United States would communicate on Signal about imminent war plans."

American airstrikes killed at least 53 people in Houthi-controlled parts of Yemen on March 15. President Donald Trump led the charge to ramp up military attacks on the Iran-

### Military attack plans were unintentionally shared with editor

backed group that controls Yemen's capital city.

The strikes began around 2 p.m. Eastern time on March 15, but Goldberg wrote that he learned before anyone else.

"The reason I knew this is that Pete Hegseth, the secretary of defense, had texted me the war plan at 11:44 a.m.," he wrote Monday. "The plan included precise information about weapons packages, targets, and timing."

Goldberg said he didn't initially believe the information was accurate. However, the actual strikes that day matched the information he received in the Signal chat.

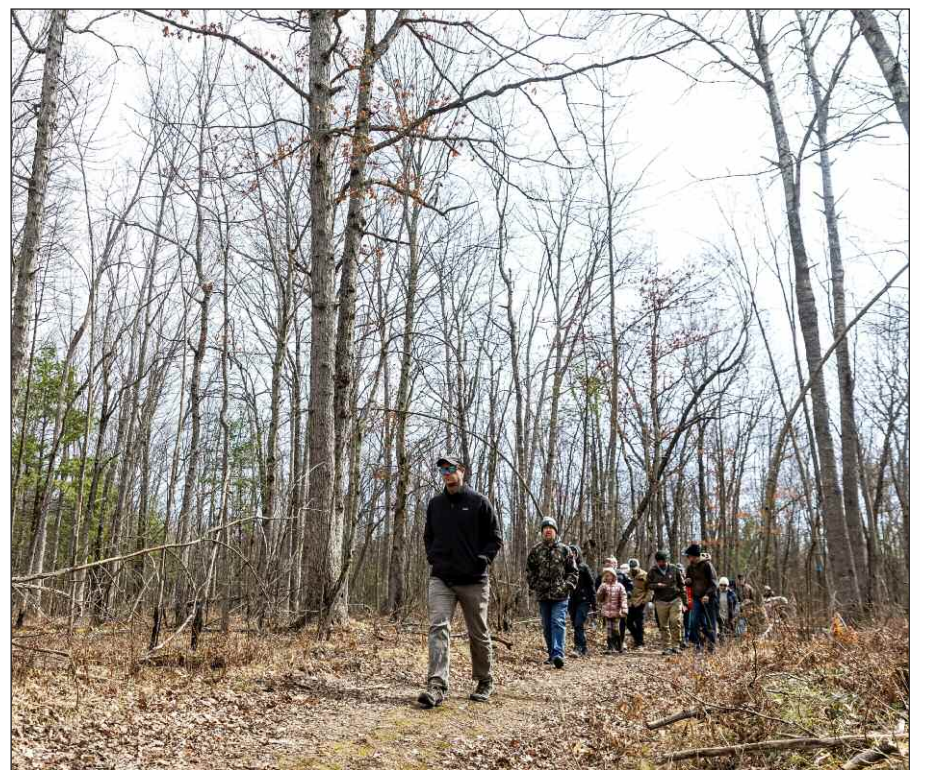
A Defense Department spokesperson later confirmed to Goldberg that

the chat was real and his accidental inclusion in it was under investigation. Goldberg said he was first invited to the chat by Trump national security advisor Michael Waltz.

"The information contained in [the texts], if they had been read by an adversary of the United States, could conceivably have been used to harm American military and intelligence personnel, particularly in the broader Middle East," Goldberg wrote. "I have never seen a breach quite like this."

Goldberg's specific inclusion in the chat was particularly interesting, because he and Trump have publicly butted heads in the past — something he notes in the article.

See **Shared** page 2



Tribune News Service/Isaac Ritchey

### Forest walk

Land Conservancy of West Michigan conservation director Justin Heslinga, at right, leads a group on a guided hike hosted by Old-Growth Forest Network and the conservancy at Richmond Woods Nature Preserve in Bitely on Friday. The preserve recently joined the Old-Growth Forest Network, which identifies woodlands with the potential to grow into older forests through intentional land management.

### Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 51 degrees Monday. The low was 37.

Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 30s under clear skies.

Expect mostly sunny skies Thursday with a high in the upper 50s and a slight chance of rain in the afternoon.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

Portland City Council has scheduled an executive session for 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, April 1. The meeting is being held under the section of Indiana Code that allows executive sessions for discussion of strategy regarding collective bargaining, litigation, the implementation of security systems or a real property transaction.

### Coming up

**Thursday** — Reporting on next week's Redkey Town Council meeting.

**Friday** — Coverage of this week's Jay County Redevelopment Commission meeting.

**Saturday** — Results from the Fort Recovery softball team's season opener.



# Progress ...

Continued from page 1  
In other business, council:  
•Heard comments from Robbins regarding Indiana Senate Bill 1, which addresses property taxes. He said he's unclear on how the bill, which is currently being considered by a House committee, will impact the city financially. He suggested that if the legislation passes — the 2025 session concludes April 29 — the county's various taxing units

should consider holding a joint session to receive more information.  
•Received an update from Watson regarding the wastewater treatment plant. He noted that work is still in progress on an insurance settlement for damage caused by a lightning strike. He also said city staff, Indiana Department of Environmental Management and officials from Ardagh met recently and are

working to address issues with chloride and oil discharge.  
•Learned from Hall that Dunkirk Kiwanis, West Jay Optimist Club and Dunkirk Church of the Nazarene will partner for monthly "mobile market" food give-aways beginning from 4 to 6 p.m. Wednesday, April 16, at West Jay Community Center. Small community food distributions will also be set for 3 p.m. May 12, Aug. 11

and Nov. 10 at the community center.  
•Heard from Bivens that the first new hydrants the city purchased via American Rescue Plan Act funds will be installed soon.  
•Learned from Robbins that there will likely be no need to change the city's council districts to account for population changes. He asked council to review the data so that it can be

addressed at the April 14 meeting.  
•Approved the following: a renewal of the city's contract with volunteer firefighters; a \$300 sponsorship for Dunkirk Public Library's reading program; payment of claims totaling \$150,207.16.  
•Received a thank you letter from the Doyle family for its support of the Joe Doyle Memorial Golf Tournament.

## CR almanac

Thursday 3/27	Friday 3/28	Saturday 3/29	Sunday 3/30	Monday 3/31
<b>58/46</b>	<b>75/58</b>	<b>68/58</b>	<b>68/48</b>	<b>52/30</b>
Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with wind gusts up to 20 mph.	Friday has a 50% chance of showers with highs in the lower 70s.	Saturday looks to be rainy with a 50% chance of thunderstorms.	Sunday has a 70% chance of rain with thunderstorms also possible.	Monday mostly cloudy with a 40% chance of showers.

## Lotteries

<b>Powerball</b> Monday 17-40-47-50-55 Power Ball: 6 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$484 million	Daily Four: 2-7-7-4 Quick Draw: 2-4-8-9-12-24-33-34-36-41-44-52-58-60-63-67-69-70-73-74 Cash 5: 1-7-15-30-37 Estimated jackpot: \$221,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$344 million	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 7-9-1 Pick 4: 7-1-2-6 Pick 5: 8-8-6-7-3 Evening Pick 3: 5-5-1 Pick 4: 3-7-5-7 Pick 5: 1-5-6-3-1 Rolling Cash: 22-23-30-35-39 Estimated jackpot: \$296,000
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 8-5-3 Daily Four: 4-5-3-0 Quick Draw: 6-14-15-21-22-26-29-30-35-37-38-44-49-53-59-65-66-72-75-77 Evening Daily Three: 2-6-6	

## Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.57 April corn.....4.59 May corn.....4.67	April beans .....10.10 Wheat ..... 5.03
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.84 April corn.....4.84 May corn.....4.84	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.68 April corn.....4.70 Beans.....10.05 April beans .....10.07 Wheat .....5.08
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.77 April corn .....4.77 Beans .....10.07	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.60 April corn .....4.60 Beans.....9.77 April beans .....9.82 Wheat .....5.05

## Today in history

In 2018, Portland Mayor Randy Geesaman received a letter indicating that the city has been awarded \$30,000 from the Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs. At the time, the grant covered the cost of creating an official redevelopment plan with the help of a professional planning firm.  
In 2018, Jay County Solid Waste Management District educator Bettie Jacobs informed the district board that she and director Samantha Rhodehamel were working with Jay School Corporation to find a home for at least 2,000 books from the former library at Pennville Elementary School.  
In 2020, Randolph County added its name to the list of Indiana counties with confirmed cases of COVID-19. Two presumptive positive cases were reported by the Randolph County Health Department. At the time, Jay and Blackford counties were two of just 23 counties in Indiana without reported cases of the virus.  
—The CR

## Citizen's calendar

<b>Today</b> 5 p.m. — Jay County Redevelopment Commission, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	Development Corporation Board, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 6:30 p.m. — Portland City Council executive session, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St., Portland. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St.
<b>Monday</b> 9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland. 3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.	
<b>Tuesday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County	

# Testimony ...

Continued from page 1  
"They can receive medical advice, and they don't need DCS to take the child out of the home to administer that medical advice or that medical care that's happening today."  
The House committee approved the bill 9-3 along party lines, sending it to the full chamber.  
Although "it's not perfect," Brown called the bill "a first step" to "at least make our agencies understand how important it is to consider the parents —

how the parents are the primary caregivers — and we need to look to them first, instead of last, when we look at what we're going to do in the future."  
Critics called the legislation "too broad," however. Among the opponents, Chris Daley with the American Civil Liberties Union of Indiana worried that Brown's bill could create new liability for government employees and could hurt the privacy rights of LGBTQ+ youth, specifically.  
But some parental rights advocates were additionally opposed,

saying the proposal "does not go far enough."  
Cindi Hajicek, executive director Purple for Parents United, maintained that the current bill actually empowers governmental entities to interfere with a child's upbringing — as long as the state can persuade a court that a compelling interest justifies those actions.  
"This bill doesn't secure parental rights," Hajicek said. "It just tells the government exactly what it has to do to restrict them. It doesn't tell them no — it just tells them how."

## Felony arrests

**Common nuisance**  
Four Jay County residents were arrested Monday for maintaining a common nuisance and related charges.  
Travis JA Myers, 48, 326 E. High St., Dunkirk, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with a Level 4 felony for dealing methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$19,000 bond.  
Austin M. George, 33, 1212 N. Franklin St., Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with a Class B misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class C misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. He was being held on a \$33,000 bond in Jay County Jail.  
Briggett R. Lykins, 44, 1117 W. 400 North, Portland, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with a Level 5 felony for possession of methamphetamine and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She was being held in Jay County Jail on a \$34,000 bond.  
Tina R. McCombs, 63, 326 E. Ohio St., Dunkirk, was preliminarily charged with a Level 6 felony, along with a Level 6 felony for possession of a narcotic drug and a Class A misdemeanor for possession of paraphernalia. She was being held on a \$4,500 bond in Jay County Jail.

## Shared ...

Continued from page 1  
He was identified in the group only as "JG," similarly to how director of national intelligence Tulsi Gabbard was identified as "TG."  
The chat revealed disagreements about the Houthi bombing strategy, with Vance and Hegseth noting that it didn't match up with other administration priorities.  
However, a message from someone with the username "SM" backed the strategy and ended further discussion.

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**Thursday**  
**Atkinson, Lucy:** 10 a.m., Lighthouse Church, 201 S. Van Buren St., Monroe.

**Monday**  
**Smith, Marilyn:** 1 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

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# Brick Street Market returns in April

It's that time of year for another Fort Recovery tradition. Psi Iota Xi will host Brick Street Market from 10 to 2 p.m. April 26 in downtown Fort Recovery.

More than 30 vendors will be set up along Wayne Street, including food trucks and booths for children. Friends of the Fort Recovery Library will also host a puppet show from 10 a.m. to noon in front of the library, and an art show with Fort Recovery Middle and High School students' work will be on display at the library. For more information, contact

## Taking Note

Psi Iota Xi at [theta.zeta.fortrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:theta.zeta.fortrecovery@gmail.com) or visit Fort Recovery Psi Iota Xi on Facebook.

## WOW scholarships

Win on the Wabash Super Raffle will be awarding 20 seniors this year from the local area

with \$1,000 scholarships. Seniors who have demonstrated a dedication to volunteerism and community service throughout high school will be awarded.

Requirements are students must be a United States citizen, must have logged community service hours throughout their high school career and must be a senior enrolled in school in Jay County, Mercer County, Ohio, Darke County, Ohio, Auglaize County, Ohio, or Shelby County, Ohio.

The deadline to apply is Monday.

## Program offered

ReSprout Therapy is launching a program to provide free developmental checkups to newborns and toddlers.

The program, a partnership with The Portland Foundation and the Early Years Initiative, will provide free checkups for children younger than 4 years old.

Parents will receive a report card on their child's skill mastery and areas for improvement during checkups, and children will receive a free developmental toy from Topsy Turvy Toys. There

will also be a Spanish interpreter available to assist families.

## Deadline approaching

It's not too late to apply for Jay County Solid Waste Management District's scholarship program.

The district will be awarding two Jay County High School seniors with \$250 scholarships. To qualify, students must have volunteered with a group or organization manning recycling drop off centers throughout Jay County during their high school career. Applications are due before Monday.

# Grandpa anticipates delicate conversation

DEAR ABBY: My son just told me his daughter, age 26, is getting breast enhancement surgery. My question is, how do I address that when next I see her, probably in several months? It's not like commenting on a new hair color or hairdo. Old men commenting on female anatomy, particularly that part, are not looked upon favorably.

As I see it, there are two ways that this goes. One, she mentions it to me — probably not likely to happen. So, since she got the surgery to make a visible difference, how should I react? Two, she does not mention it. Without an

## Dear Abby



very well may — tell her she looks terrific. Look her in the EYE when you say it. If she does NOT raise the subject, play it cool and keep your lips zipped.

DEAR ABBY: For two years, I've been having an affair with my married neighbor, "Reed." All of a sudden, his stepdaughter broke up with her boyfriend because he cheated on her, and now Reed has broken it off with me — saying he needs to be a role model to his kids. I'm sorry his daughter is hurting, but if she hadn't broken up with her boyfriend, Reed

would still want this between us. Please tell me what I should do to get over him. — CUT OFF IN FLORIDA

DEAR CUT OFF: Look inward. Examine the reason you started an affair with someone who was unavailable. While it may have been fun in the short term, if you wanted anything more, it was a sad waste of time. When Reed saw the pain his daughter's boyfriend's cheating caused her, I suspect he realized how much his behavior could affect his family. Or, he was tired of sneaking around. By ending this

affair, he has done you both a favor. Once you recognize it, you can move on.

DEAR ABBY: Keith and I met online close to a year and a half ago. We live 400 miles apart and have visited each other a couple of times since. I'm a single mom in my mid-30s and live close to family. Keith's around the same age and lives very close to extended family of mine.

I have recently realized that I may be in love with him. I would like to confess my feelings and move to where he is if my feelings are reciprocated. How do I approach this

subject? I'm tired of going through the motions. I need something good and constant in my life. I don't want to always wonder "what if?" — READY TO TAKE A STEP

DEAR READY: Has Keith ever told you that he misses you after these visits? If he has, it would be an indication that your feelings are reciprocated. If he hasn't, start by telling him how much you have enjoyed your visits and that you miss HIM. How he responds is important because it may open the door to where you want to take your friendship.

## Sorority news

Zeta Alpha chapter of Delta Theta Tau sorority met on Thursday, March 13, 2025. President Sue Ann McLaughlin opened the meeting with the following attending: Kathy Nelson, Sharon

Hammers, Mary Miller, Susan Louck, Jackie McCollum, Bonnie Seward, Bobbi Louck, Jana Brighton, Linda Lowe, Shelbi Blankenbaker, Piper Blankenbaker and Lorrie Younger.

We received several thank you notes from those remembered by our sisters. A slate for the 2025-2026 nominated officers was exchanged. We are looking forward to par-

ticipating in the Beta Province Convention this fall. Our annual anniversary party will be next month in April with exciting activities. April will also bring our geranium sales.

Refreshments were provided by hostesses Sharon Hammers and Jackie McCollum. Kathy Nelson was our Lucky Lady, and Jackie McCollum won the Pot of Gold.

## 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. The club 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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village

Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge. 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.

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 — BRI-

ANNA'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

LAWYERS IN LIBRARIES — Free and confidential consultations with a lawyer are available from 10 a.m. to noon at Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland. Consulting is available on topics including divorce, custody, guardianship, tenant-landlord issues, bankruptcy, debt collection, estates and immigration. Those interested in participating should sign up in advance at the library, 315 N. Ship St., Portland, or by calling (260) 726-7890.

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.

MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY OF THE DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 4:30 p.m. Thursday, March 28, at Jay County Historical Society. Contact regent Kathy Selman at (260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678 for questions.

DEMENTIA SUPPORT GROUP — Meets at 5:30 p.m. at Persimmon Ridge Rehabilitation Centre, 200 N. Park St., Portland.

### Friday

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

## Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

### Tuesday's Solution

7	5	8	3	9	4	1	2	6
3	6	9	1	8	2	4	7	5
1	2	4	7	6	5	3	8	9
9	1	2	4	5	3	8	6	7
4	8	6	9	7	1	5	3	2
5	7	3	6	2	8	9	1	4
6	3	1	2	4	9	7	5	8
8	9	7	5	1	6	2	4	3
2	4	5	8	3	7	6	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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# Slowing down is not a bad thing

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from March 25, 2015. Quick connection has its benefits. But there is also something to be said for the benefit of slowing down. Every once in a while, set your phone aside and slow down.*

By JACK RONALD  
The Commercial Review

News travels faster these days. Scandals are unveiled, reviled and forgotten in the blink of an eye.

The jury is still out on whether that's a good thing or a bad thing. But it's real.

As I write these words, the TV broadcast of the Oscars is going on in the other room.

In some ways, it's appropriate that there's a month-long time lag between this composition and its publication. Because that's the way it used to be.

And because I've been thinking about the pop culture time lag

## Back in the Saddle



that used to be the norm.

Sure, when I was a kid, the Oscars were broadcast on live TV just as they are today. That hasn't changed.

But these days, the folks at The Ritz have already screened nearly all of the nominated movies before the Oscars are presented.

Once upon a time, that wasn't the case.

The movies, it seemed, traveled by pony express.

A blockbuster would open in New York or Los Angeles for a period of weeks. Then it might

play in markets like Chicago or Boston or Philadelphia for another period of weeks, maybe overlapping with the first presentation. Then it might make its way to Cincinnati or Atlanta or Indianapolis. Then, painfully slowly if you liked movies, it could show up on screens in Fort Wayne or maybe even Muncie. And then the Hines would get its chance or the Main in Dunkirk. For a little screen like The Key in Redkey, more than half a year could pass between the initial release and a local chance to see the movie.

So what did we do in between if we were movie fans?

We dreamed. We imagined. And we anticipated.

One of my buddies — Tom — was a devoted newsstand purchaser of a magazine called Screen Stories.

It wasn't the usual fan magazine. Instead of (or in addition to)

articles about movie stars and their divorces and foibles, it provided plot synopses to movies that had been released but hadn't yet been screened in Podunk.

Buy a copy of Screen Stories and you could read all about the plot of "El Cid" or "Kitten with a Whip" or "The Guns of Navarone" in advance. It was the print equivalent of having someone at an early screening with a video camera and the ability to market pirate copies.

And for those of us frustrated in those days by the slow pace of media delivery, it was something of a blessing. If you read Screen Stories — and I read Tom's copies pretty closely — you knew something about the movies even before the movies came to town, and that's a great help if you are an insecure teenager who would like to be considered cool at least once in awhile.

Today, of course, all that's gone.

The tidal wave of media content washes over us every day until we're numb. Movies reach small towns like those in Jay County in record time.

Then again, another factor enters in: Age.

With every passing year, we find ourselves less and less connected to popular culture. Name a recording artist, and I'm likely to respond with a blank stare. And with the Oscars, it's just as bad.

This year, as I can still hear from the other room, my wife and I had only one connection to the awards. Reese Witherspoon had been nominated for her role in "Wild."

And how did we know that? We had read the book.

That's another of those slow-delivery media that deserves a mention now and then.

# Go on offense for democracy

By SULMA ARIAS  
OtherWords

No matter who we voted for, no one wants to see our grandparents forced onto the street, our schools without teachers, or our babies dying because there are no more hospitals. Yet all of these things will happen in the United States if deep cuts to essential programs like Social Security, SNAP, Medicare, and Medicaid take effect.

Greedy oligarchs like Elon Musk think democracy is just another shiny toy their billions can buy — that there's no politician or public institution they can't bend to serve their will. They want deep cuts to lifesaving services to fund massive tax breaks for the super-rich and for giant corporations.

They also want to dismantle our democratic institutions as fast as they can, so the harm is done before the people who will suffer most — you and I — have time to respond.

Republican leaders are trying to push nearly \$1 trillion in cuts to essential services through Congress, while Musk chainsaws his way through the federal agencies that protect our water, air, and health. Many lives will be lost as a result.

But Musk's real goal is to distract us from the nearly \$5 trillion in tax breaks for corporations and the rich that he and other billionaires want President Trump to make permanent.

Lawmakers and progressive organizations have been slow to react to the speed and barbarity of these actions. Many of us are mired in a mix of shock, anger, and disbelief, while a sense of fear and frustration is setting in among the broader public. Most still don't understand the scope of the destruction underway — or are simply ignoring it, hoping it won't touch them or their loved ones.

This is all about to change.

The harms caused by these deep cuts to essential services affect so many of us, in all walks of life, that constituents' anger is boiling over. For many Americans, it's never been clearer that this is a fight between the very richest of the rich — the top 1%, who control nearly 16 times as much wealth as the bottom half — and the rest of us.

## Sulma Arias



It's not about who you voted for. It's about who gets to live with dignity.

Grassroots, member-led groups like the one I lead, People's Action, are stepping up to defend working people. We won't wait on the sidelines while our members' families and communities get hurt.

We brought our members from 60 congressional districts to Washington to tell lawmakers directly how these cuts will affect their families. And as members of Congress return home to their districts, we're making our voices heard loud and clear that they must work for us, not for the greedy few.

The oligarchs underestimate the resolve of these millions of people from every background, who rely on essential programs like the Veterans Administration, Social Security, SNAP, Medicare, and Medicaid.

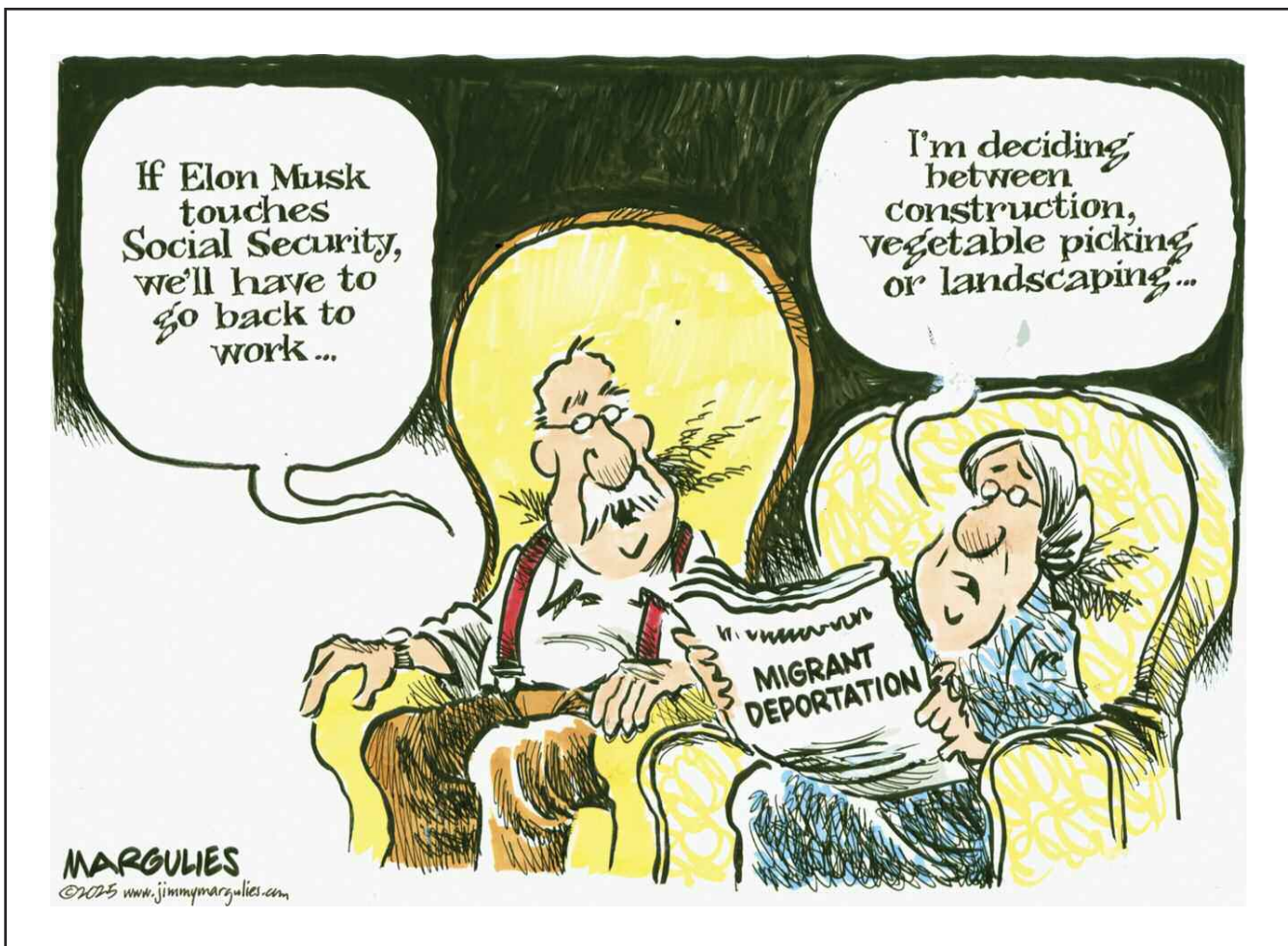
We do have the power to stop this, but only if we organize. Millions of people are starting to push back, and community groups need to be ready to help them make sense of this moment, and channel their anger and frustration into effective ways to strengthen our democracy.

Grassroots groups can show people how to find a new sense of community at the state and local levels, as well as ways they can participate in a national strategy to defend and expand the programs we all rely on. I urge you to find one in your community.

The stakes couldn't be higher. The longer we wait, the more harm that will be done — and the more lives that will be lost. It's time for every one of us to go on the offense to save our democracy.

.....  
*Arias is executive director of People's Action, the nation's largest network of grassroots power-building groups, with more than a million members in 30 states.*

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



# Anniversary finds us less prepared

The Virginian-Pilot  
Tribune News Service

It's been five years since the world came to a sudden halt. Outbreaks of a deadly coronavirus — first in China, then in Italy and Iran, and then seemingly everywhere at once — prompted the World Health Organization to declare the virus a global pandemic on March 11, 2020, bringing the full scope of danger into clear view.

We could not know what would follow — the unimaginable death toll, the hardship of isolation and the fraying of our social fabric — nor could we predict the heroism and courage of those who worked tirelessly to protect public health, help their neighbors and save lives.

But five years on, we are less prepared for another outbreak, which scientists say is inevitable in an ever-changing world. So it is valuable to consider what we learned, what mistakes were made, and what's needed to protect us in the future.

The New York Times reported, on Jan. 1, 2020, about a respiratory illness that had sickened scores of people in Wuhan, China. Authorities there were tight-lipped about the scope and severity of the disease — silence that would imperil the world — but it was evident early on that this was no ordinary flu strain affecting one of China's most populous cities.

In mere weeks, the WHO declared the virus a global emergency as other countries reported cases. Travel restrictions were imposed, and screenings at transit centers — airports, train stations — sought to contain the spread. But the insidious nature of the ill-

## Guest Editorial

ness rendered those efforts fruitless.

The virus was everywhere. And on March 11, the WHO labeled it a pandemic, the first declared since HIV/AIDS 38 years earlier. At the time, there were 118,000 COVID-19 cases reported in 114 countries and 4,291 total deaths.

As in other parts of the country, Hampton Roads and Virginia took extraordinary measures to protect public health, which included restrictions on businesses, schools and even outdoor recreation.

Some — moving schools to virtual learning, restricting non-essential businesses — were effective in slowing the spread of infection. Others, such as closing beaches, parks and playgrounds, were well intentioned but flawed. In hindsight, school closures lasted too long; prolonged isolation took a dangerous toll on our population.

But COVID-19 killed at least 7 million people worldwide, including an estimated 1.2 million Americans. It's believed the virus infected more than 80% of U.S. residents; an untold number, believed to be in the tens of millions, suffer lasting effects from the disease, an array of symptoms referred to as "long-COVID."

Those numbers would be far greater were it not for the strong measures taken and the remarkable work of health professionals and medical researchers who found

ways to battle the disease. Best practices were shared, effective therapeutics deployed, and a vaccine developed in remarkable time under the Trump administration and distributed under the Biden administration helped stem the tide.

The vaccine was the greatest achievement in the pandemic, success that stemmed from focused federal leadership of Operation Warp Speed, determined work by private industry, seamless cooperation by state and local officials, and a public eager to see things return to normal.

But it's impossible to believe that so many would have died were those same elements evident in other areas of our pandemic response. Recall states bidding against each other for protective equipment and other needs for lack of a coordinated federal response, or state officials emerging as a more trustworthy source of reliable health information as President Donald Trump pushed unproven remedies and sowed distrust in public health systems that stood in stark contrast to the work of Operation Warp Speed.

Politicization of the COVID-19 response reduced the appetite for a thorough review or an honest accounting of how to improve. As a result, the nation is less prepared for another pandemic, and a larger portion of the public is apt to be skeptical of efforts to confront future outbreaks, even when such measures are necessary.

Five years on, our communities and our nation haven't come to terms with the overwhelming trauma inflicted by this virus. Until we do, we will be less likely to forcibly and collectively confront the next one, which will undoubtedly come.

# The Commercial Review



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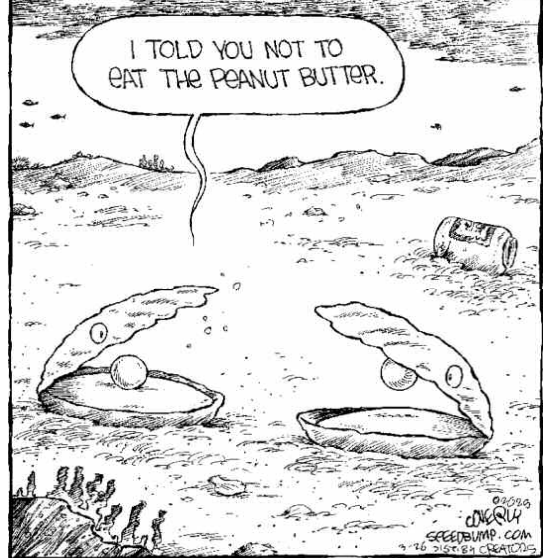
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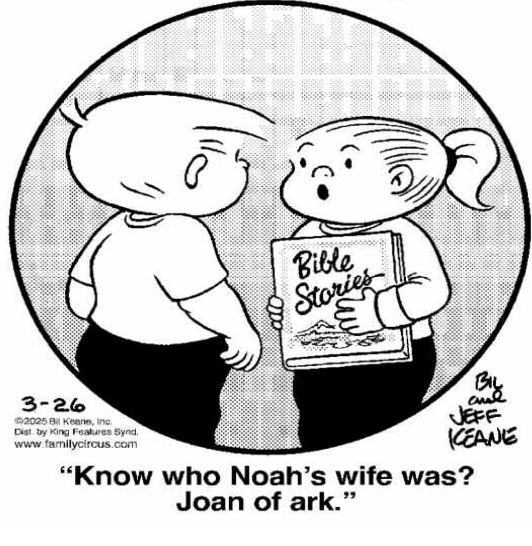
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—Thomas Jefferson

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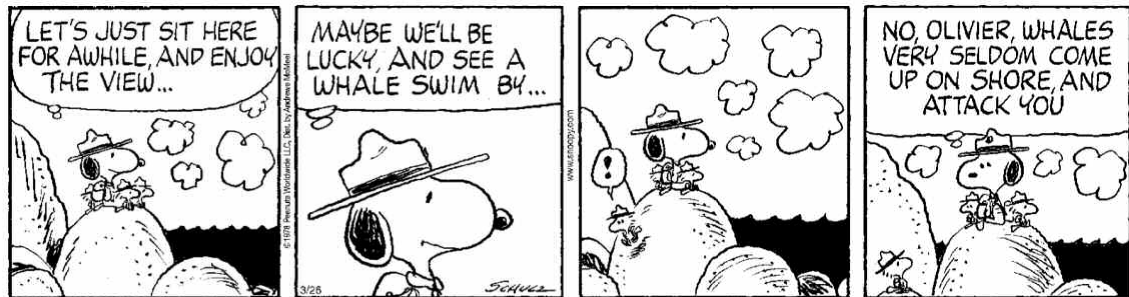
**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly



**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane



**Peanuts**



**Rose is Rose**



**Agnes**



**Hi and Lois**



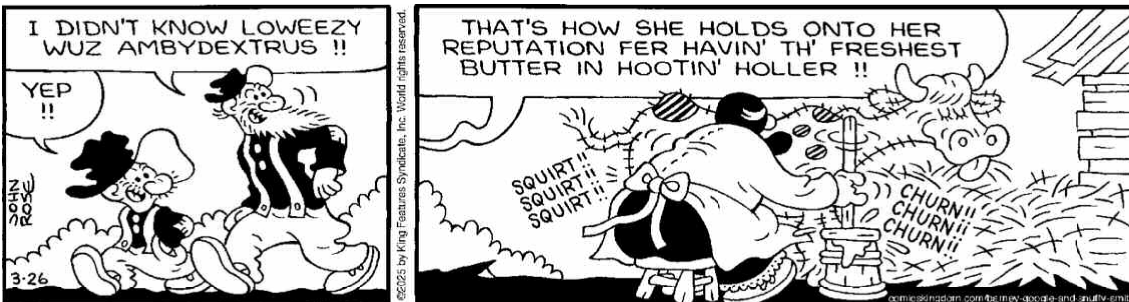
**Between Friends**



**Blondie**



**Snuffy Smith**



**Beetle Bailey**



**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**Putting it all together**

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

Consider this deal where the only problem is which way to take the two-way heart finesse. South wins the opening club lead with the ace, draws trump, cashes the K-Q-A of diamonds and exits with a club. If West's jack holds the trick, the contest is over because he is forced to return a heart and thereby relieve declarer of the guess in that suit. So let's assume East overtakes the jack with the king and continues with the ten. South ruffs and now must decide which way to take the heart finesse.

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1♠ Pass 3♠ Pass  
6♠  
Opening lead — queen of clubs. There are hands where declarer must guess which of two feasible lines of play to pursue. In such cases, though, there are frequently clues that point declarer in the right direction. Essentially, what declarer does from the outset is to try to assemble all the information he possibly can about the defenders' hands before he must commit himself one way or the other.

Despite East's alert defense, South's sequence of plays has yielded enough information to assure success. West has thus far shown up with precisely three spades, two diamonds and two clubs — neither more nor less — and so must have started with exactly six hearts. Crosschecking this, East has shown up with precisely one spade, five diamonds and six clubs — so he must have started with a singleton heart. Accordingly, South cashes the king of hearts as East follows with his only heart, then takes a heart finesse through West with total confidence that the finesse will succeed.

Tomorrow: A valuable convention.  
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**3-26 CRYPTOQUIP**

UWCQC DHBWA KVFSQ YCSQZ  
BV ZWVPFX AWCT JCCX AV  
XCKVZHA VQ ASIC VPA DVJCT?  
ZJVU YSJIZ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHEN SCIENTISTS DISCOVERED THAT EARTH CIRCLES THE SUN, THAT WAS A REVOLUTION REVELATION.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: W equals H

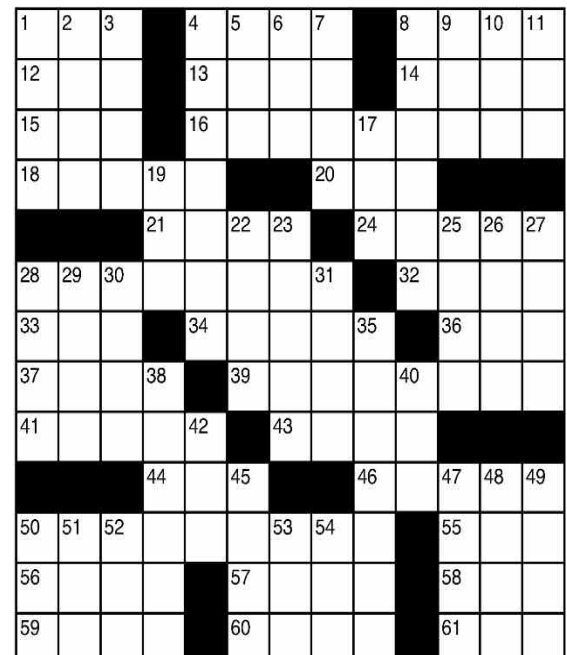
**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

- |  |                      |                          |                             |
|--|----------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                          | 41 Talking points?   | 2 Opera house solo       | 23 Enlightened Buddhist     |
| 1 Passing craze                        | 43 Labels            | 3 "Phooey!"              | 25 Asian desert             |
| 4 Group of actors                      | 44 Yearbook gp.      | 4 Online "humanity" test | 26 Dutch cheese             |
| 8 Lingerie trim                        | 46 Apple products    | 5 "Do — say!"            | 27 Achy                     |
| 12 Glass of public radio               | 50 Watch, e.g.       | 6 Observe                | 28 Trace                    |
| 13 On the Aegean, say                  | 55 Luau              | 7 Mexican entree         | 29 Norway's capital         |
| 14 October birthstone                  | 56 Jacob's brother   | 8 Yogurt variety         | 30 Oboe, for one            |
| 15 California wine, for short          | 57 Bikini tops       | 9 Mil. address           | 31 Nickelodeon's "Explorer" |
| 16 Employment based on completed units | 58 Last (Abbr.)      | 10 Parked vehicle        | 35 Most jittery             |
| 18 Famed restaurant guide              | 59 Journey Marie     | 11 Antlered animal       | 38 Get smart                |
| 20 Klutz                               | 60 Popcorn seasoning | 17 Hearing thing         | 40 Recipe abbr.             |
| 21 Golden State sch.                   | 61 Sault — Marie     | 19 Arctic sea-bird       | 42 Dadaist Jean             |
| 24 Shows fury                          | <b>DOWN</b>          | 22 Whip                  | 45 Sis and bro              |
| 28 Toil away                           | 1 Champagne sound    |                          | 47 Musical composition      |
| 32 Hoo-ha                              |                      |                          | 48 Knucklehead              |
| 33 British verb ending                 |                      |                          | 49 Locale                   |
| 34 "... who lived in —"                |                      |                          | 50 Asian holiday            |
| 36 Soap unit                           |                      |                          | 51 Leb. neighbor            |
| 37 Passel                              |                      |                          | 52 Avril follower           |
| 39 Big struggle                        |                      |                          | 53 Historic period          |
|  |                      |                          | 54 Ripken of baseball       |

Solution time: 23 mins.



Yesterday's answer 3-26



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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Wabash Township, Jay County, Indiana Cash and Investments Combined Statement - 2024

Table with columns: Local Fund Number, Local Fund Name, Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2024, Receipts, Disbursements, End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2024. Rows include Governmental Activities and various fund items like Rainy Day, Fire Fighting, Township Assistance.

State of Indiana SS: Jay County I, Jason M. Rosenbeck, Trustee of Wabash Township, Jay County, Indiana, do solemnly affirm under the penalty of perjury that the preceding report is complete, true and correct; that the sum with which I am charged in this report are all of the sums received by me; and that the various items of expenditures credited have been fully paid in the sums stated; that such payments were made without express or implied agreement that any portion thereof shall be retained by or repaid to me or any other person. I further affirm that a complete and detailed annual report, together with all accompanying vouchers showing the names of persons having been paid money by the township, have been filed as required by law in the office of the County Auditor, and that copies of such annual report are in custody of the Township Board and the State Board of Accounts. Said report is subject to inspection by any taxpayer of the township.

Jason M. Rosenbeck, Wabash Township Trustee Telephone:260-251-9848 Date this report was to be published March 26, 2025

Subscribed and sworn (or affirmed) to before me, the Chairman of the Township Board of Wabash Township at its annual meeting this 11th day of February, 2025 Sarah M. Davidson, Wabash Township Board Chairman

This report was received, accepted, and approved by the Township Board at its annual meeting, this 11th day of February, 2025 Wabash Township Board: Sarah M Davidson, Beverly Westgerdes, Jane Martin CR-3-26-2025 -HSPAXLP

Public Notice

Knox Township, Jay County, Indiana Cash and Investments combined Statement

Table with columns: Local Fund Number, Local Fund Name, Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan. 1, 2024, Receipts, Disbursements, End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec. 31, 2024. Rows include TOWNSHIP FUND, TOWNSHIP ASSISTANCE, TOWNSHIP FIRE, PAYROLL DEDUCTIONS, GRAND TOTAL.

CR 3-26-2025 - HSPAXLP

Public Notice

Greene Township, Jay County, Indiana Cash and Investments Combined Statement - 2024

Table with columns: Local Fund Number, Local Fund Name, Beg. Cash and Inv. Bal. Jan 1, 2024, Receipts, Disbursements, End Cash and Inv. Bal. Dec 31, 2024. Rows include Township General Fund, Firefighting Fund, Rainy Day Fund, Township Assistance Fund, Levy Excess Fund, Payroll Withholdings Fund, GRAND TOTAL.

CR 3-26-2025 -HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

Notice is hereby given that the Tax Duplicates for the several taxing units of Jay County, for the year 2024 payable 2025, are now in the hands of the County Treasurer, who is ready to receive the taxes charged thereon. The following table shows the rate of taxation on each \$100.00 worth of taxable real personal property. First installment is due on or before and delinquent after May 12, 2025. Second installment is delinquent after November 10, 2025.

Large table with columns: Tax Rates (Penn, Dunkirk, Bearcreek, Bryant, Greene, Jackson, Jefferson, Knox, Madison, Salamonina, Noble, Pike, Richland, Redkey, Wabash, Wayne, Portland) and rows for various tax categories like Co Cum Capital Dev, JEMS, County General, County Health, Cumulative Bridge, Jay Co Jail Lease Payments, Reassessment, County Total, Twshp Cum Fire, Twshp Fire Fighting, Twshp General, Twshp Poor, Twshp Recreation, Township Total, Library Debt Service, Library General, Library Total, School Education, School Operation, School Debt Service, School Pension Debt, School Total, Corp Aviation/Airport, Corp Cum Cap Improv, Corp Cum Capital Dev, Corp Police Pension, Corp General, Corp Parks & Recreation, Corp Park Bond, Corp Street (MVH), City Total, Total Tax Rate.

State of Indiana, Jay County, SS: I, Emily Franks, Auditor of Jay County, hereby certify that the above is a correct copy of all tax levies for the taxes collectible in the year 2024 pay 2025. Emily Franks, Jay County Auditor

# Success indoors



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Anna Roessner of the Fort Recovery High School track team crosses the finish line ahead of the field in an event during the OHSAA district meet at Spencerville in 2024. Roessner won a pair of state titles during the indoor season and finished as the runner-up in a third.

## Anna Roessner won a pair of indoor track state championships

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

Anna Roessner had a strong indoor track season in 2024, setting up a run to the state finals once the Indians hit the outdoors.

In 2025, she didn't wait for the outdoor season as she brought home some new gold hardware.

Roessner capped off the indoor track season at the Ohio Association of Track and Cross Country Coaches Division VI state meet, claiming the championship in two events and finishing as the runner-up in one more.

The indoor track season treated Roessner well last year prior to her breakout outdoor season. Last year's progression pushed the FRHS senior to focus on her offseason and indoor training even further.

"I think that mentality is a lot of it," Roessner said. "I did all the same

training but I think this year I really focused on putting 100% effort into everything I did. I'm trying to eat better, just in general be more confident at meets and telling myself 'I trust myself, I trust the process, I trust my training and I trust in God and it'll go from there.'"

She's already seeing the fruits of her labor.

During the indoor state meet, she brought home the first place medal in the 60-meter dash and the

400 dash. Roessner also placed second in the 200 dash.

In the 60 dash, Roessner ran a 7.58 to beat Audra McMichael of Spencerville by 0.44 seconds. She topped the 400 dash by a similar margin as her 56.42 second time beat out Oberlin's Olivia Hudson by 0.38.

"I was pretty excited," Roessner said. "I think I didn't have as much competition in the 60, so I went in like, 'I need to win this.' I went in pretty

confident so that wasn't surprising to me.

"The 400 I was pretty happy about because it's not my favorite race because it's really hard."

Roessner's 24.56 time in the 200 dash finished behind Izzy Zahn (24.21) of Coldwater. The 0.35 second difference was an improvement from the 2024 outdoor season, when Zahn won the 200 state title by a 0.54 second margin. (Roessner finished third in the outdoor 200 dash and beat Zahn

for fifth place in the 100 dash last season.)

There are some key differences between the indoor and outdoor seasons, including who can all participate, which events are put on — the 60 dash isn't in the outdoor season — and who runs the events as the former isn't sponsored by the OHSAA.

So, while it isn't a guarantee that Roessner's recent success will directly translate to the high school season, her and

FRHS track coach Christy Diller are hopeful it is a good sign of what's to come.

"Indoor has clearly been a good thing for her," said Diller. (Roessner was coached by Ty Waters during the indoor season as Fort Recovery students participate on a club team.) "Does that translate to outdoor? Not always. Now, in her case last year she was able to translate that very well and I have super high hopes for this year."

The first look at Roessner during the outdoor season will come on Tuesday, April 1, when the Indians will open up their season with a quad meet at Marion Local.

Her brother, Isaac Roessner also competed at the indoor state meet — he was one of just two sophomores. He placed 12th in the long jump (18 feet, 9 inches) and 15th in the 400 dash (55.54).

*'I was pretty excited. I think I didn't have as much competition in the 60, so I went in like "I need to win this." I went in pretty confident so that wasn't surprising to me. The 400 I was pretty happy about because it's not my favorite race because it's really hard.'*

—Anna Roessner

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Thursday**  
Fort Recovery — Softball vs. Memorial — 5 p.m.; Baseball scrimmage at Parkway — 5 p.m.

**Friday**  
Fort Recovery — Softball vs. Bradford — 5 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
12:30 a.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN2)  
2 p.m. — Alpine World Cup: Giant Slalom (USA)

3 p.m. — World Figure Skating Championships (USA)

5 p.m. — College basketball CBI championship (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — College basketball NIT: Kent State at Loyola Chicago (ESPN2)

7:30 p.m. — NBA: Los Angeles Lakers at Indiana Pacers (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — NHL: New Jersey Devils at Chicago Blackhawks (TNT)

9 p.m. — College basketball NIT: UAB at UC Irvine (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — NBA: Boston Celtics at Phoenix Suns (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NHL: Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers (TNT)

### Thursday

2 p.m. — Alpine World Cup: Women's Slalom (USA)

3 p.m. — World Figure Skating Championships (USA)

3:05 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at New York Yankees (ESPN)

4:05 p.m. — MLB: Philadelphia Phillies at Washington Nationals (NBC)

6 p.m. — Women's college lacrosse: Ohio State at Michigan (BTN)

7 p.m. — NBA: Indiana Pacers at Washington Wizards (FDSN Indiana)

7:09 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: BYU vs. Alabama (CBS)

7:10 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Los Angeles Dodgers (ESPN)

7:39 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Maryland vs. Florida (TBS)

8 p.m. — Women's college lacrosse: Northwestern at North Carolina (BTN)

8 p.m. — World Figure Skating Championships (USA)

8:30 p.m. — College hockey: Minnesota vs. UMass Amherst (ESPN2)

9:39 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Arizona vs. Duke (CBS)

10 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at Colorado Avalanche (ESPN); Edmonton Oilers at Seattle Kraken (NBC)

10:09 p.m. — NCAA Tournament Sweet 16: Arkansas vs. Texas Tech (TBS)

### Local notes

**Registration open**  
Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.

There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.

The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Belmont High School and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.

.....  
To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com.

# MARCH SPECIALS

## MID-SIZED ADS, MASSIVE DEALS

Don't need a quarter-page, half-page or full-page ad, we've got you covered!  
In March, you can get our mid-sized ads at a steep discount.  
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2x7 — \$73	4x6 — \$125
3x6 — \$94	5x5 — \$130 <small>(regular price — \$325)</small>

Add color for \$30

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

## The Commercial Review

Contact Lindsey at [L.Cochran@thecr.com](mailto:L.Cochran@thecr.com) or (260) 726-8141

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# Everybunny's Favorite EASTER COLORING CONTEST

Join us in spreading the Easter cheer through the strokes of your crayons and the magic of your imagination. Submit your masterpiece to The Commercial Review's Easter Coloring Contest and let the colors of celebration blossom!  
Your colored picture will be on display in our office and The winners will run and be announced on April 19th!



- COLORING CONTEST RULES**
1. Contest age groups are 6 & under, and 7-10
  2. Crayons, colored pencils or markers may be used. Adults may assist in completing the entry form, but not in the coloring.
  3. Entries must be in by April 15, 2025
  4. Submissions are considered property of this newspaper and may be printed by this newspaper.
  5. Decisions of the judges are final.

**SEND ENTRY FORM AND COLORED PICTURE TO:**

2025 Easter Coloring Contest  
The Commercial Review/News & Sun  
P.O. Box 1049  
Portland, IN 47371

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