

# The Commercial Review

Portland, Indiana 47371

www.thecr.com

\$1

## Missing man was found dead Sunday

*Vehicle went off 300 North and stopped in Salamonie River*

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A Pennville man who had been missing for more than a week was found dead in his vehicle this weekend.

Lawrence E. Kirkpatrick, 73, was found in his vehicle in the Salamonie River about 3:30 p.m. Sunday. He was pronounced dead at the scene.

Kirkpatrick had been reported missing March 21.

Jay County Coroner Brayden Fields said Kirkpatrick is believed to have drowned as a result of the accident. There are no plans to conduct an autopsy on his remains.

According to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report, Kirkpatrick was driving his 2008 Jeep Patriot west on county road 300 North near its intersection with county road 750 West when his vehicle went off the south side of the road. It continued 225 yards across a field before going over an embankment and hitting a tree, the report says. His car then flipped and landed on its driver's side in the Salamonie River, submerging him underwater.

A farmer discovered the vehicle Sunday afternoon.

## Bridge \$ OK'd



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Commissioners approved funding Monday to replace a timber bridge on county road 600 West, just north of Indiana 26, with a culvert. Work to replace a similar bridge just to the north of the one pictured above is nearly complete. The road has been closed for several months because of concerns about the safety of the bridges.

## Culvert to replace existing structure

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

One bridge project has been completed, another is next on the list.

Jay County Commissioners approved a contract and funding related to bridge work on county road 600 West just north of Indiana 26. Approximately \$175,000 of the cost — it will need to be approved by Jay County Council — will be paid for with economic develop-

ment income tax (EDIT) dollars.

Jay County Highway Department officials have been looking into repairing or replacing old bridges along county roads, including replacing those on county road 600 West just north of Indiana 26 with culverts. Highway superintendent administrative assistant Stephanie Klarer explained Monday that work on one of the bridges is nearly complete, with

the county waiting for guardrails to be delivered and installed. The \$300,000 project was mainly funded through American Rescue Plan Act dollars.

Klarer noted the county received bids for work on the other bridge. She asked commissioners to purchase the culvert priced at \$275,729.20, with the highway department to pay the remaining costs for materials and a contractor to install it.

If the county didn't invest in the project now, she added, the work would be held off until it could apply for Community Crossings grant funding through Indiana Department of Transportation. (The highway department is already planning to apply for grant funding for a bridge replacement on county road 700 West next year, a project estimated at north of \$1.3 million.)

See **Bridge** page 2

## Hoosiers air frustrations at town halls



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Casey Smith

Republican U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz takes questions from a hostile crowd during a town hall on Friday in Westfield. Spartz, a third-term federal lawmaker who represents Indiana's 5th Congressional District north of Indianapolis, struggled for nearly two hours to speak over the yells and boos.

By CASEY SMITH  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Facing down a sea of her own seething constituents in Westfield on Friday, U.S. Rep. Victoria Spartz's town hall descended into a two-hour shouting match just minutes after it began.

Screams from the crowd were nearly constant, often drowning out the Republican representative as she took questions on a range of issues.

Constituents' fury was wide-ranging: from outrage over inflation, tariffs and the national deficit; to concerns over health care and decreased government services; heated opposition to federal deportation efforts and spending cuts directed by Elon Musk and his Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE); and frustration over President Donald Trump's response to the Signal scandal at the U.S. Department of Defense.

"You work for us!"  
"We don't trust you!"  
"You're a f\*\*\*\*\* liar!"

### Public officials have faced criticism at meetings and for lack of accessibility

"You're not listening to us!"

Spartz, a third-term federal lawmaker who represents Indiana's 5th Congressional District north of Indianapolis, struggled for nearly two hours to speak over the yells and boos.

And she isn't the only Indiana public official being criticized for access, or a lack thereof. Examples abound, from Attorney General Todd Rokita to state lawmakers and Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith.

Spartz's event came shortly after U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson advised Republicans to avoid town halls which have been

attracting vocal critics of actions by Trump and Musk, who is leading an effort to ferret out waste and fraud that has included firing federal employees, halting some government payments and uprooting programs.

Spartz, however, did not heed that warning and faced hundreds of angry — often hostile — Hoosiers at town halls on Friday and Saturday, the latter held in Muncie.

She threatened at several points during the town halls to stop hosting such events, but repeatedly asserted her desire "to hear all sides" from "everyone in my district." See **Frustrations** page 2

### Deaths

**Wanda Brochin**, 93, Coldwater, Ohio  
**William Upp**, 88, rural Portland  
Details on page 2.

### Weather

Jay County's high temperature hit 70 degrees Sunday, marking the third straight day at 70 or higher. There was about a half inch of rain.

Tonight's low will be in the lower 40s. Rain is expected Wednesday with a high in the lower 70s.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

### In review

United Way of Jay County and Second Harvest Food Bank will host a food tailgate from 10 a.m. to noon Wednesday, April 2, at Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 E. Votaw St., Portland. Income verification is not required.

### Coming up

**Wednesday** — Reporting from next week's Jay School Board meeting.

**Thursday** — Results from the FRHS baseball game against Franklin Monroe.

**Saturday** — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.



Obituaries

Wanda Brochin

Nov. 11, 1931-March 29, 2025  
Our Mother, Wanda M Brochin, 93, of Coldwater, Ohio, most recently of Troy, Ohio, passed away peacefully on Saturday, March 29, 2025, at Ohio's Hospice of Miami County, surrounded by her three daughters.



Brochin

Mom was born on Nov. 11, 1931, in Portland, Indiana, to the late Arlo and Mabel (Jessup) Gettinger. Mom married the love of her life, our dad, Alphonse "Al" Brochin on June 27, 1954. They shared 66 years together until Dad's passing on Feb. 7, 2021.

Mom is survived by her three daughters, Le Ann Eshelman and Jerry Saunders of Mans-

field, Ohio, and her son Jordan Eshelman of Mount Vernon, Ohio, Jim and Nancy Froning of Troy and their children Joshua and Grace Froning of Cincinnati and Chad Froning of Troy and Alexis and Bryan McDonagh of Grove City, Ohio, and their daughter Emrey, and Amy and Chris Cottrill of Wapakoneta, Ohio, and their son Bryce Cottrill and fiancée McKennah Fisher of Sidney, Ohio, and step-grandchildren Ashley, Ethan and Brittney.

Mom worked at Mersman's Furniture in Celina, Ohio. After retirement, Mom chose to work part-time at Jutte's IGA and Chief's Market in Coldwater. She enjoyed gardening and going to as many garage sales as possible. She was an active member of the Church of the Nazarene in Fort Recovery for many years.

Also surviving are Mom's sis-

ter, Dixie Amstutz; and sisters-in-law, Suzanne Gettinger and Bettie Ann Frazier.

A celebration of Mom's life will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, April 1, 2025, at Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home with Pastor Brad Ratliff officiating. Burial will follow in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in rural Jay County.

Guests may visit with the family on Tuesday from noon until the start of the service at 1 p.m. at the funeral home.

In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be given to a hospice of their choice or the Pleasant Hill Cemetery, perpetual care fund.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting brockmanboeckmanfh.com.

"For the things which are seen are temporary, but the things which are not seen are eternal."

William Upp

Jan. 22, 1937-March 29, 2025  
William Charles Upp, age 88, of rural Portland passed away on Saturday, March 29, 2025.

He was born in Portland on Jan. 22, 1937, the son of Vaughn and Dollie (Hudson) Upp. He graduated from Portland High School in 1955 then served in the U.S. Army. He married Berniece Fields on Dec. 12, 1964. He worked in law enforcement.

Surviving are his wife of 60 years Berniece; a son, William Bradley Upp; two daughters, Maria Garringer and Elizabeth Inman (husband: Rusty), both of Portland; four grandchildren, Justin Upp (wife: Katie) of Muncie, Madalyn Garringer (fiance: Jarrod Hubble) of Pendleton, Carson Snyder and Sophia Upp of Portland.

He was preceded in death by

his parents; and a brother, Michael "Mickey" Upp.

Funeral services will be Thursday, April 3, at 4 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home with Pastor Mike Hodson presiding. Burial will follow in the Weimer Cemetery with military graveside rites. Visitation will be Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m.

Memorials can be made to the choice of the donor.

Condolences May be expressed at bairdfreeman.com.

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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.

CR almanac

Table with 5 columns: Wednesday 4/2, Thursday 4/3, Friday 4/4, Saturday 4/5, Sunday 4/6. Includes weather icons and high/low temperatures.

Lotteries

Powerball: 29-30-37-42-49-50-51-57-58-59-65-66-70-75-76-78-79. Estimated jackpot: \$20 million. Mega Millions: 24-25-27-32-34-36-39-42-46-50-53-54-61-67-73-74. Hoosier: Sunday, MIDDAY, DAILY THREE, DAILY FOUR, QUICK DRAW. Ohio: Sunday, MIDDAY, DAILY THREE, DAILY FOUR, QUICK DRAW. Estimated jackpot: \$130,000.

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery: Corn 4.54, May corn 4.58, June corn 4.67. POET Biorefining Portland: Corn 4.74, May corn 4.74, June corn 4.75. The Andersons Richland Township: Corn 4.66, May corn 4.66, Beans 10.28.

Today in history

On April 1, 1972, the first Major League Baseball players' strike began; it lasted 12 days. In 1972, Pennville marshals arrested five individuals — ages 15 through 19 — for illegal possession of alcoholic beverages. In 1976, Apple Computer was founded by Steve Jobs, Steve Wozniak and Ronald Wayne. In 2013, the Fort Recovery High School baseball team dropped a nine-inning heartbreaker 2-1 to the Celina Bulldogs. In 2022, Max Chenoweth was named Jay County FFA's 2022 Agriculture Hall of Fame inductee. —The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works executive session, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. Wednesday 7 a.m. — Jay County Health Board, health department office, 504 W. Arch St., Portland.

Frustrations ...

Continued from page 1 "You don't have to scream," Spartz told Friday's crowd in Westfield. "I'm glad that we have people that came here — and I understand your frustration. ... That's why I have these town halls. We want to have these conversations. But if people just come here because they want to scream, it's not productive."

Some of Spartz's GOP colleagues have been less inclined.

Republican U.S. Senators Jim Banks and Todd Young, as well as Reps. Mark Messmer and Marlin Stutzman, are among those being criticized for not holding or attending town halls.

Banks, specifically, ignited a political backlash last week after he skipped a constituent-led "Empty Chair Town Hall" and instead sent donuts — a move critics called "a dismissive stunt."

"The idea of people having access to government in a variety of ways is foundational to American representative democracy. On one hand, it shouldn't have to be required — it should just go without saying that in a representative form of government law, public officials should speak to the people who put them in office," said Gerry Lanosga, professor of journalism at Indiana University and board member for the Indiana Coalition for Open Government.

"What we're kind of seeing now is partly pushed by officials who get into office and just don't want to engage with citizens more than beyond the ballot box," he continued. "I think it's a real concern. And I think it's a real sort of black eye on American democracy if public officials want to insulate themselves from the voices of people."

'Chaotic,' 'frustrating'

During the weekend town halls, Spartz emphasized that her office

"has an open door policy" and "wants to hear from you all."

In Westfield, multiple constituents pushed back: "You never respond!" some said. Others left angrily in the middle of the event, shouting that Spartz "doesn't actually want to hear from you — she doesn't care what you think!"

In a post to X on Saturday, Spartz rebutted.

"I don't think (the) radical left has learned yet that shouting and screaming is not going to work — no one is going to be intimidated," she wrote. "I still appreciate everyone who came to my town halls this week & hope at least some on the left were able to hear common sense policies we are trying to implement benefiting all Americans."

Elsewhere in recent weeks, other members of Indiana's congressional delegation have been absent from "empty chair" town halls across the state.

One of those hosted last week by Indivisible Northeast Indiana — part of a progressive national movement to "mobilize local activists to resist extremist policies" — drew hundreds to the Allen County Public Library in Fort Wayne.

Indiana House Minority Leader Phil GiaQuinta and state Rep. Kyle Miller; both Democrats, took the stage to answer questions from the public. Three of Indiana's Republican congressional lawmakers — Banks, Stutzman and Young — were represented by empty chairs.

Banks, Indiana's junior U.S. senator, instead sent donuts to the crowd.

He said on X that the Indivisible group consists of Democrats who are "anti-Trump/Banks," and that town hall attendees seemed "really angry."

"So I sent my favorite donuts hoping to lighten the mood," Banks said.

A video about the donut delivery showed some at the event laughing

and eating the donuts. Others weren't so receptive.

"I'm going to throw up on them," said one attendee. Another asked, "Why isn't he here?" referring to Banks, while a third man said, "Tell him to go to hell."

Jim Carpenter, co-founder of Indivisible Northeast Indiana, said in a statement that "the parlor trick of offering donuts" was "a waste of taxpayer money" and "ironic coming from someone pledging to eliminate fraud and waste in the federal government."

When asked about the town halls, Banks's staff gave the Indiana Capital Chronicle a single response: "No taxpayer dollars were used to purchase donuts."

Young, separately, had met with the Indivisible group following a protest in front of his office.

A spokesperson for the senator told the Capital Chronicle that he "regularly meets with Hoosiers in a variety of formats, including attending meetings and events across Indiana, hosting constituent coffees, and holding virtual meetings with Hoosier groups when the Senate is in session." Additionally, Young's staff "meets with individuals and groups in all 92 counties."

In Evansville, hundreds of protesters gathered earlier this month in "frustration" over refusals by Messmer, Indiana's 8th District representative, to hold a town hall or engage with constituent concerns.

Hoosiers also pushed back after staff for U.S. Rep. Erin Houchin, who represents Indiana's 9th Congressional District, "put a pause" on regularly scheduled office hours with constituents in Bedford.

This story was edited for length. For the full version, visit indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Bridge ...

Continued from page 1 Commissioners Chad Aker and Duane Monroe both voiced support for repairing or replacing bridges. Aker suggested utilizing money from the highway department's culvert fund as well as the county's cumulative capital development and EDIT funds.

Commissioners agreed to contribute \$175,000 out of the EDIT fund and \$100,000 out of the cumulative capital development fund toward the culvert purchase. (Their decision requires an additional appropriation from council.) The highway department will pay for remaining costs, including materials, assembly and the \$28,000 construction contract with Link Dozing of rural Portland also approved by commissioners Monday.

In related news, Klarer noted that the highway department recently had a small structure inspected on county road 300 North between county roads 400 East and 450 East. She shared plans to replace

it with a culvert, a roughly \$250,000 expense, and formally convert the structure into a bridge.

"It is a dire need — the shoulders need to be closed off," she explained, noting heavy traffic along county road 300 North.

She talked about potentially applying for Community Crossings grant funding for the project. Klarer shared hopes for civil engineering company SJCA of Indianapolis to conduct a small structure inventory for the county, pointing out the county currently doesn't have one in the books.

Also, commissioners approved a \$4,202.22 task order with SJCA to inspect the detour in Jay County before and after bridge work planned on Indiana 18 just west of Bryant starting this month. (Mapped by Indiana Department of Transportation, the local traffic detour routes along county roads 50 West, 650 North and 250 West.)

New leaders named

Indiana Capital Chronicle Gov. Mike Braun on Friday announced two new agency heads for the Indiana Department of Transportation (INDOT) and the Indiana Office of Technology.

A third agency — the Indiana Department of Revenue — is still waiting for permanent leadership. Lyndsay Quist will lead INDOT as the second commissioner under Braun after Redkey native Kent Abernathy, who held the role from Jan. 13 to March 28.

Jay County Conservation Club World Famous Fish & Chicken Fry. April 5, 2025 • 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm. 6243 S. 325 W Portland, IN

Jay County FFA Annual BANQUET. 6:30 p.m. Friday, April 4, 2025. in the Jay County Junior-Senior High School auxiliary gym. A dinner with options of pork chops or cod will be provided. Awards and a live auction will follow the dinner.

SERVICES

Today

Brochin, Wanda: 1 p.m., Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

Beck, Lois: 3 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Thursday

Upp, William: 4 p.m., Baird-Freeman Funeral Home, 221 N. Meridian St., Portland.

Service listings provided by PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO OFFICE PRODUCTS 120 N. Meridian St. Portland, Indiana 47371 (260) 726-9201 progressiveofficeproducts.com

# Veteran's involvement will be remembered

By JAMES FULKES  
The Commercial Review

On a recent unseasonably warm, albeit windy Friday afternoon, in a cemetery south of Redkey, it came to pass.

You see, for 35 consecutive years now, every Memorial Day,

I've had the honor and privilege of participating in Redkey's annual Memorial Day ceremonies.

At first, I just fell in with the squad of riflemen or color guard as

**Fulkesy  
Mayhem**



needed, along with the rest of the veterans.

Our line was comprised of World War II, Korea, Vietnam and Gulf War-era veterans, among others.

After a few years of sim-

ply participating, it became my duty to be the public speaker for our group.

From the very first year I addressed the gathered public, up until this past Memorial Day, I always would remind and insist that all of our attendees to really seek out and take the time to get the stories of any World War II veterans in their families, because we were going to live to see the day when we would no longer have any of them left.

Then, I would always point out and give a moment of honor to any World War II veterans we had in attendance.

Thankfully, up until Memorial Day in May 2024, I always had at least one who still faithfully attended every year, and had never missed a year during my years of participation.

Our final Redkey World War II veteran was aged 99 on Memorial Day of 2024.

He turned 100 in November.

He served in World War II in Gen. George Patton's army in both North Africa and Sicily.

He returned home and lived a long and productive life.

He was a personal friend and mentor to me as a youthful American Legion Post commander almost 30 years ago.

Yes, the day finally came.

On a windy day last month, we laid our final Redkey American Legion

World War II veteran to rest next to his late wife in Hillcrest Cemetery south of Redkey.

Goodbye, Herb Heston. I knew this day would come.

I'm honored to have known you.

As long as I am physically able, your sacrifice and service, along with all of your generation of World War II veterans will not be allowed to fade into obscurity on Memorial Day, or any other day.

# Man pines for romantic relationship with friend

DEAR ABBY: I fell in love with my best friend. When I told her 10 years ago, she distanced herself. We were still friends, but she went on making bad choices in her relationships, and I never found anyone who could compare to her. We reconnected recently and have once again become very close. I still love her, and I always will.

She doesn't share the same feelings I have, and while I want to ask her why, I haven't asked because I don't want to lose her again. Am I wrong for settling for our amazing friendship? How can I convince her that we could be much more than just each other's best friend without losing her? — LOVESICK GUY IN THE EAST

**DEAR LOVESICK GUY:** When a woman distances herself after a man tells her he wants romantic involvement, it usually means she is not physically attracted to him. It doesn't mean she doesn't "like" him or that they don't have much in common. However, it DOES mean that if you want more out of a relationship, you will have to look elsewhere to find it.

**Dear Abby**



cial day? It appears you weren't joking after all when you said you were "off the hook." My thought is you should be honest with yourself about your motivations, then dismount from your high horse, write the darn speech and make it heartfelt.

**DEAR ABBY:** How can I get my neighbor to stop buying us pies? Her husband died a year ago. He had Alzheimer's for many years before his passing. We are more than happy to help her with things around her house because we believe helping others is the right thing to do. We don't eat many sweets and don't want the excess calories. Health is a high priority. I have asked her to stop with the sweets, but she keeps buying us this stuff as a thank-you. A verbal thanks would be enough. — PIE-FREE ZONE IN ILLINOIS

**DEAR PIE-FREE:** The next time your well-meaning neighbor brings a pie to your home, remind her that you and your family avoid sweets FOR HEALTH REASONS and a verbal thank-you is more than enough. If she persists after that, tell

her that instead of the pie you would appreciate a fruit salad or a nice zucchini. (It's worth a try.)

**DEAR ABBY:** I lost my wife 14 years ago. We were married for 26 years. Our two children are now adults. I have since remarried and moved to another state. My children love and respect their stepmother. I have five step-grandchildren who live within 15 minutes of my current home. I love them, and they love me as well. My first wife's gravesite is in the small town where we used to live, about 90 miles away.

My question concerns my final resting place. Do I request burial with the mother of my children, or at a place of my current wife's choosing near my current home, ultimately to be buried next to her? How about cremation, where my ashes could be split between two gravesites? I don't care, but I want to make a choice that will make everyone comfortable. What have others done in this situation, as I suspect this issue is not uncommon? — PLANNING AHEAD IN DELAWARE

**DEAR PLANNING:** Your

question is a tough one because I'm sure you want to make everyone happy and avoid any conflict after your death. Your idea about cremation so your ashes can be divided between the two gravesites seems sensible to me. However, because I am not an expert when it comes to funeral arrangements, I took your question to the Funeral Consumers Alliance (funerals.org), which had one more question for you. It was: "Have you spoken with your wife, your children and extended relatives about it?"

Once you have had these important family discussions and a decision is made, make sure your wishes are documented in a disposition form from your current state of residence. Doing so could prevent family drama at the time of your death. Kudos to you for planning ahead.

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

# Community Calendar

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

**Today**

**COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP** — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

**BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE** — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

**A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the

meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

**ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS** — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

**Wednesday**

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

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

**PORTLAND ROTARY**

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

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

**COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING** — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

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

**A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE** — A faith-based recovery group for

all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

**Thursday**

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

**CELEBRATE 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.

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

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

**Saturday's Solution**

8	9	6	1	7	3	2	5	4
5	4	7	2	6	9	1	3	8
2	1	3	5	8	4	9	7	6
9	5	8	7	4	2	6	1	3
1	3	4	6	5	8	7	2	9
7	6	2	9	3	1	4	8	5
3	8	1	4	2	6	5	9	7
4	7	9	3	1	5	8	6	2
6	2	5	8	9	7	3	4	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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Contact Lindsey at [L.Cochran@thecr.com](mailto:L.Cochran@thecr.com) or (260) 726-8141

**The Commercial Review**



# Treat breach as the danger it was

Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

Imagine you're a senior manager for a company. You and other members of your corporate braintrust, working in different locations, hop on a group text to discuss strategic plans relating to your chief competitor, but you mistakenly add to the group a business reporter with whom you've spoken in the past. That reporter then blows the cover on your company's secret planning in a widely read expose.

Do you keep your job after this inadvertent yet brutal mistake? We all know the answer to that.

The country just saw a similar scenario play out in a far higher-stakes setting, with the accidental inclusion of the editor-in-chief of The Atlantic in a discussion over messaging app Signal between many of President Donald Trump's top administration officials. The Atlantic's Jeffrey

## Guest Editorial

Goldberg said he was privy to information on an impending attack on Houthi insurgents in Yemen, including timing, specific targets including individuals, weapons systems being deployed, sequencing of planned events and even the identity of a heretofore-unknown CIA operative who was to be CIA Director John Ratcliffe's liaison for the operation.

For his part, Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth responded, "Nobody was texting war plans." Goldberg's description of what was discussed amounts to what any reasonable person would

conclude were "war plans," so one of these men isn't telling the truth. The Senate Intelligence Committee has the means to find out — and should.

The U.S. attacks that began March 15 on the Iran-backed Houthis, who repeatedly have fired at American and other nations' ships in the Red Sea, weren't derailed by the breach, Trump said Tuesday. He described the inclusion of Goldberg on the Signal chat, which the White House confirmed, as a "glitch." The president said national security adviser Mike Waltz, who apparently was the one to mistakenly loop in Goldberg, was "a good man" who had "learned a lesson."

What lesson is that? Not to use a commercial app — vulnerable to interception from any sophisticated adversary that can hack a private phone — for highly sensitive if not classified discussions

involving national security and warfare? To limit the number of officials needing to participate in such a virtual meeting to those really needing to know? (Why exactly did the treasury secretary need to be briefed ahead of time on this matter?)

Trump didn't say. He did say later Tuesday that he'd asked Waltz to probe whether anyone can "break into" the Signal app.

The president's response wasn't sufficient. The Trump administration is simply lucky that the outsider made privy to these secrets was someone as responsible as Goldberg. To his credit, Goldberg waited until well after the military exercise began to inform the public of this breach, and he's been careful to betray no individuals or secrets even as he's done his duty as an American to alert the public to how this administration is conducting such critical business.

For Goldberg's troubles, Trump officials like Hegseth responded by vilifying him and disparaging him as a journalist. Other Trump administration officials, like Ratcliffe, have denied that the breach was even a serious mistake.

The administration's defensive crouch bordering on hostility won't make this story go away, nor should it. Trump 2.0 isn't the first time a presidency, Democratic or Republican, has confronted such an embarrassing revelation. There's a way to handle such messes: Take accountability and outline steps to prevent any recurrence.

This was a dangerous error, and there should be serious repercussions. In addition, the public must be assured these sorts of internal deliberations will in the future occur only in a secure setting.



# Is the GOP regretting Morales decision?

By NIKI KELLY  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

The heat is on Indiana Secretary of State Diego Morales. Questionable spending and missteps have, in recent weeks, captured the attention of lawmakers in charge of his budget for the next two years.

Things are adding up, and Republicans known for fiscal conservatism are taking note.

Morales' office said Thursday he "stands by all the financial decisions the office has made."

To be clear, some of the information isn't novel — but seems to have gained new life recently. For instance, the Indianapolis Star broke the news in Feb. 2023 that Morales hired his brother-in-law for a position with a six-figure salary. It isn't illegal under nepotism laws because in-laws aren't covered. But optics are another thing altogether.

And in Oct. 2023, the Capital Chronicle first revealed Morales' liberal use of "spot bonuses." Indiana executive branch agencies adhere to guidance from the State Personnel Department when it comes to the bonuses, which dictates that awards range from \$100 to \$1,000 to recognize outstanding performance "on the spot."

That year, the Secretary of State's office doled out 80 bonuses to 68 employees — out of a staff of roughly 75. They ranged from

Niki Kelly



\$500 to \$12,000, for an average of \$4,540 per employee. Nearly a dozen employees received two bonuses from Morales within the 10 months scanned by the Capital Chronicle, and one got two in one month. Morales' brother-in-law received a total \$12,500 from two bonuses.

Morales said the bonuses were needed due to promises made before his tenure for salary adjustments.

Rep. Ed DeLaney seized on these things when questioning Morales during a House Ways and Means budget hearing on Jan. 15. The video has made the rounds on social media.

The Indianapolis Democrat also focused on another Capital Chronicle story about no-bid technology contracts in which the winners then gave campaign contributions to Morales. No-bid contracts are not illegal.

Morales indicated he thought DeLaney's questions were inappropriate for the setting, replying that "we don't mix political and official business."

Sen. Fady Qaddoura, another

Indianapolis Democrat, continued the questions in Senate Appropriations on March 18. Only this time, Morales didn't show up — sending his deputy instead. Lawmakers were told Morales was on economic development trip, according to State Affairs Indiana.

Qaddoura noted it was the second time Morales had missed a meeting before the panel, and that every other elected statewide official showed up.

"It's not the job of the secretary of state to be traveling for economic development," he said.

Morales was still on the trip Tuesday when he missed a prayer breakfast for which his office was a sponsor. But he sent his staff to take photos of his table for social media.

Well, it turns out he was in India. That's according to a post on X from the Indo-American Chamber of Commerce, and a press release issued by Morales on Thursday.

Republicans also took Morales' office to task.

Sen. Liz Brown, R-Fort Wayne, started with questions on bonuses, leading to a promise that no new bonuses are planned.

Sen. Chris Garten, R-Charlestown, then pointed to paper maps that Morales' office printed with his name in large, bolded letters.

Staff said less than \$15,000 was

spent on the maps, which were distributed at the Indiana State Fair and to county offices.

Garten said maps should be printed by the Indiana Department of Transportation.

"I have no idea why we've spent any amount of taxpayer money on a road map that nobody knows is a road map because, quite frankly, to me, it looks like a campaign sign," Garten said. "The biggest thing on here is a name."

He went on to say Morales' budget should be decreased by whatever amount was spent on the maps, and dinged the office for overaggressive compliance fines.

That's not Morales' only promotional spending, though.

The office previously spent \$35,000 to send glossy spiral-bound election security guides to hundreds of election administrators, lawmakers, law enforcement officers and others across the state. They were accompanied by a lanyard and card saying "Blow the Whistle on Election Interference" with Morales' name. Federal election funds were used.

Morales' office sent a statement to me on Thursday saying, "The Secretary of State's Office is committed to its outreach efforts through the distribution of informational materials like papers, pamphlets, and brochures. Featuring the elected official's name on the materials fosters trust and

accountability, much like the annual mail sent by members of the Indiana General Assembly to their constituents."

It added that the office returned \$400,000 to the General Fund at the end of fiscal year 2024. The office is currently on track to return a similar amount to the state at the end of the current fiscal year.

"It's not unusual for questions to arise in legislative committee hearings that require research and follow up. We appreciate thoughtful questions from legislators about any aspect of our budget and operations and respond as promptly as possible," the statement said.

It remains to be seen whether another Republican will step up to challenge Morales in 2026. He was chosen at a party nominating convention over sitting Secretary of State Holli Sullivan in 2022. GOP delegates voted against Sullivan, who then-Gov. Eric Holcomb had appointed into the role — as a revolt against him and his pandemic-era policies.

I wonder if they are now regretting that decision.

Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999.

Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

# The Commercial Review

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—Thomas Jefferson

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Photo provided

## Jars donated

Lutheran Health network collected nearly 6,000 jars of peanut butter through its Jars of Love drive this month. The total of 5,984 jars set a new record for the drive, surpassing the 3,392 collected in 2024. The peanut butter was donated to area facilities including Wells county Food Bank and community Harvest Food Bank. “We’re proud to support our food banks each year and what a tremendous effort all of our hospitals and offices gave to the drive,” said Lorie Ailor, CEO of Lutheran Hospital, in a press release. “We want to thank all of our community team members who stepped up this year to help support the need in our community and make a positive, healthy impact on our neighbors and families we serve.”

# US Aggregates launches program

A local industry has launched a new program to encourage sustainable practices.

US Aggregates has created a new Sustainability Champions program as part of its effort to reduce its environmental footprint and promote efficiency.

Through the program, each US Aggregates location will have a “sustainability champion” to lead initiatives and share sustainable practices. The “champions” will serve as liaisons between parent company The Heritage Group and the 18 US Aggregates locations.

“They will help to lead projects that will make a positive impact on their plant’s environmental footprint,” said environmental manager Laurie Webb in a press release. “These volunteers have stepped-up to help make this new program a success, and I can’t wait to see what we will accomplish this year!”

The program will focus on limiting the company’s environmental impact via energy, waste, water and other areas.

“Sustainability champions” include Colten Swanson in Portland, Autumn Remley in Ridgeville and Zach Hayden in Linn Grove.

### Firm opens

Grant Source has opened for business in Berne.

The firm owned by Shawn Hamrick focuses on grant-writing. It plans to “work hand-in-hand

with local communities, focusing on community development through grant writing, research, and nonprofit management.”

“Getting back involved with a local nonprofit and seeing the need for community growth while traveling throughout Northeast Indiana started the wheels turning,” Hamrick said in a press release. “Looking into how I could do my part, grant writing was the answer. I’ve been involved with serving my community locally and with a nation-

## Business roundup

al board and nonprofit. Adding to my engineer experience and documentation expertise, I want to use my knowledge to assist communities and nonprofits.”

Grant Source will work primarily with planning and construction grants, including grant research, grant writing, nonprofit implementation plans, nonprofit assessment, strategic planning, document creation and grant tracking.

### NP joins staff

Mercer Health has added nurse practitioner Benjamin Gudorf to its staff.

Gudorf will work out of Mercer Health Medical Group’s Galleria office in Celina, Ohio. He is experienced in primary care and specializes in diabetes, education and sleep medicine.

The Galleria office is located at 909 E. Wayne St., Suite 124, Celina.

For more information, visit [mercerv-health.com](http://mercerv-health.com).

### Advance shifting

Advance Auto parts announced last week that it has completed the store closure phase of its transformation plan and will now return to a growth model.

The closures included the company’s location on Meridian Street on the north side of Portland. The company said more than 75% of its stores are now in markets where it has the No. 1 or No. 2 position based on store density.

Advance said it expects to open 30 new locations this year and at least 100 by the end of 2027.

“Advance Auto Parts is on the path to accelerate store growth and focused on the fundamentals

of selling auto parts,” said Shane O’Kelly, president and CEO of Advance, in a press release. “We are excited about what’s to come for Advance. Our team members are committed to providing the right parts and the right service for our PRO and DIY customers in their communities.”

### Events scheduled

A series of events designed to connect local businesses and industries with students will be held next month.

Jay County Junior-Senior High School’s career fair is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Thursday, April 3. Interview day will follow from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, April 23, with signing day by appointment.

The events focus on students having the opportunity to meet and interview with local businesses and industries.

For more information, or to be a part of the event, email organizer Kyle Love at [klove@jayschools.k12.in.us](mailto:klove@jayschools.k12.in.us).

### I&M offers advice

Indiana Michigan Powers offered tips recently for being prepared for severe storm season.

Tips include:

- Identifying a safe area in the home
- Planning to check on senior citizens
- Deciding what to do if there is an electrical outage
- Making an emergency kit with non-perishable food, water, a flashlight, batteries and other key items
- Securing loose objects such as outdoor furniture
- Ensuring proper ventilation for lanterns, heaters or fuel-fired stoves

For more information, visit [indianamichiganpower.com/safety](http://indianamichiganpower.com/safety).

### Recommended against

The European Medicines Agency’s Committee for Medicinal Products for Human Use

recently issued an opinion against recommending donanemab for marketing authorization.

Donanemab is a treatment for early symptomatic Alzheimer’s disease. Lilly said it plans to seek re-examination from the committee.

“Europeans living with early symptomatic Alzheimer’s disease and their loved ones urgently need additional treatment options. Today’s disappointing CHMP opinion means they must keep waiting,” said Ilya Yuffa, executive vice president and president of Lilly International, in a press release. “Lilly remains confident in the safety and effectiveness of donanemab and the value it can bring to patients with early symptomatic Alzheimer’s disease. We hope that through the re-examination process, we will be able to continue our discussions with the agency to bring donanemab to the millions of people across Europe suffering from this relentless, fatal disease.”

### Planning to divest

Dollar Tree announced last week that it has reached an agreement to sell Family Dollar to Brigade Capital Management and Macellum Capital Management for just over \$1 billion.

The deal is expected to be complete in the second quarter of 2025. Family Dollar will keep its headquarters in Chesapeake, Virginia.

“This is a major milestone in our multi-year transformation journey to help us fully achieve our potential,” said Dollar Tree CEO Mike Creedon in a press release. “We will continue to grow and optimize our Dollar Tree business to maximize value for Dollar Tree associates, customers, and shareholders with an enhanced focus on compelling initiatives, including our expanded assortment, significant planned new store openings across the United States, and

transactions that advance our growth strategy.”

### Offering course

Radius Indiana will host its Economic Development for Community Leaders conference from April 22 through 24 at French Lick Resort Conference Center.

The event will include educational sessions on topics including real estate development, population attraction programs, business retention and attraction, workforce, marketing, business finance and incentives, and community development and business district revitalization. It is open to community leaders and local and state officials interested in learning more about economic development.

“We are excited to once again offer our economic development course to our communities, and we welcome our neighbors from surrounding counties as well,” said Jeff Quyle, Radius Indiana president and CEO, in a press release. “Our program features classic elements of economic development and introduces community leaders to new topics that can impact the growth and vitality of cities and towns.”

To register, or for more information, visit [radiusindiana.com](http://radiusindiana.com) or call (812) 277-9778.

### Conference scheduled

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host its 2025 Indiana Workers’ Compensation Conference April 23.

The event, which will include tips on handling claims, controlling insurance costs and mental health, will run from 8:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at Ritz Charles in Carmel. There are in-person and virtual options available.

For more information, or to register, visit [indianachamber.com](http://indianachamber.com).

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**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly

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**THE FAMILY CIRCUS** By Bil Keane

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**Contract Bridge** By Steve Becker

**The old misdirection play**

North dealer. East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
 ♠ K Q 8  
 ♥ 10 9 7 3  
 ♦ K J 5 2  
 ♣ Q 6

**EAST**  
 ♠ A 7 6 4 3  
 ♥ 8  
 ♦ 10 7 3  
 ♣ A 8 7 3

**SOUTH**  
 ♠ J 5  
 ♥ K Q J 5 2  
 ♦ A Q 4  
 ♣ J 10 4

The bidding:  
 North East South West  
 Pass Pass 1♥ Pass  
 3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass

Opening lead — ten of spades.

When declarer discards on one of dummy's winners, it is natural to assume that he is weak in the suit in which he discards. For this reason, it is normal for the defenders to attack that suit, if practical, as soon as they regain the lead.

Declarer took advantage of this standard defensive tactic on the accompanying deal and succeeded in bringing home a seemingly hopeless contract.

East won the opening spade lead with the ace and, hoping West's ten was a singleton (or a doubleton, in which case a ruff might later be negotiated), returned the spade three. South, looking at three more certain losers, won with dummy's queen and decided that his only chance lay in trying to divert the opponents' attention from the club suit. So at trick three, he cashed the king of spades and discarded the four of diamonds!

Declarer next led a trump to his king, losing to the ace, whereupon West shifted to the nine of diamonds. South won with the ace, cashed the Q-J of trump and queen of diamonds, then led a low trump to the ten and discarded two clubs on the K-J of diamonds to finish with exactly 10 tricks.

Although South is entitled to full credit for his ingenuity, West should not have fallen victim to the ruse. First of all, if declarer had any diamond losers remaining, they could not possibly get away. Second, and even more important, East's return of the spade three at trick two, in a situation where West might have been able to ruff, was a suit-preference signal, directing West to return a club if he did ruff.

Finally, if West had simply ducked the first trump lead, East would have been able to signal for a club shift by discarding the club eight on the second round of trump.

Tomorrow: A self-inflicted wound.  
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**Beetle Bailey**

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**4-1 CRYPTOQUIP**

DMK'OQ BQPPWCF RQ BNQOQ'L  
 SNWBQ TOQAWTWBUBWMC  
 AMRWCF HMSC MKBLWHQ WC

UTOWP? LUD WB WLC'B LCMS!  
 Yesterday's Cryptoquip: COMIC STRIP ABOUT AN ANNOYING TOOTH DOCTOR WHO'S ALWAYS BUGGING PEOPLE: "DENTIST THE MENACE."  
 Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals S

**CROSSWORD** By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**

1 Profound insurer  
 5 "Tasty!" actress  
 8 Easy win Fanning  
 12 "Garfield" dog  
 13 — de cologne  
 14 Holiday lead-ins  
 15 Lily and Herman of '60s TV  
 17 Wrestler John  
 18 "A mouse!"  
 19 Mythical flyer  
 21 "Nick of Time" singer  
 24 Read quickly  
 25 Celestial bear  
 26 Bread warmers  
 30 Disco guy on "The Simpsons"  
 31 Elite Navy group  
 32 Female hare  
 33 Trendy types  
 35 Tale teller  
 36 Painter Holbein

**DOWN**

1 —  
 2 Sch. URL  
 3 Aachen article  
 4 Old Spanish coin  
 5 Timid college freshmen  
 6 Scratch  
 7 "Rent" and  
 8 Withdraw a statement  
 9 Exceeding  
 10 Bistro  
 11 Unpaid TV ads  
 16 Hanoi holiday  
 20 Mama — (French bubbly)  
 21 Hurry

**Solution time: 22 mins.**

J	L	O		P	R	U	D	E		R	A	D				
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D	E	V		U	N	L	E	T		C	P	A				
S	S	E		P	A	S	S	E		E	S	T				

Yesterday's answer 4-1

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## Medal ...

Continued from page 8  
Hutzler was seeded last in the shot put — athletes qualify for the state relays via a series of indoor meets throughout March — but made the most of her opportunity. Throwing in the same facility that hosted the NCAA Division II indoor national championships a few weeks earlier, Hutzler launched her best toss of the indoor season at 33 feet, 3 1/4 inches. That was good enough to push the senior all the way up to 18th place and ahead of sectional rival Ruth Sherk of Delta by more than a foot.

“We knew that she had it in her; (it was) just to get it out during this (meet),” said Imel. “We tried to reduce pressure on her, just tell her to have a good time out there, work on some stuff. She popped off for 33 feet, which is her best this year so far.”

It was about a foot off of her career-best mark.

“I’m just really proud of her,” Imel added. “She had a really great attitude.”



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County's Jordyn Hutzler launches the shot put during the Hoosier State Relays on Saturday. The senior turned in a season-best throw of 33 feet, 3 1/4 inches, to climb from her No. 24 seed to an 18th-place finish.

## Torpedo ...

Continued from page 8

“It’s just about making the bat as heavy and as fat as possible in the area where you’re trying to do damage on the baseball,” Lehardt told Brendan Kuty of The Athletic on Sunday.

The bats may look abnormal and perhaps even illegal at first glance, but they’re not breaking any rules. Yankees manager Aaron Boone confirmed on Sunday that the bats are “within Major League standards.”

Not every Yankee is adopting the new model, though.

Reigning American League MVP Aaron Judge — who slugged three home runs in Saturday’s win, nearly hitting a fourth to make more history — doesn’t want to make any changes.

*‘It’s probably just placebo. A lot of it is looking up at your bat and you see how big the barrel is. But it’s exciting. I think any .001 percent mentally that can give you confidence helps.’*

—Anthony Volpe,  
New York Yankees shortstop

“What I did the past couple of seasons speaks for itself,” Judge said. “Why try to change something if you have something that’s working?”

Whether the adjusted barrel is leading to results or not hasn’t been proven just yet. In this game, as Boone acknowledged, it’s about winning in the

margins, so staying ahead of the curve and pinpointing any sort of advantage is always going to be a plus.

“It’s probably just placebo,” Volpe said. “A lot of it is looking up at your bat and you see how big the barrel is. But it’s exciting. I think any .001 percent mentally that can give you confidence helps.”

## Sports on tap

### Local schedule

**Today**  
Fort Recovery — Track quad meet at Marion Local — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Franklin Monroe — 5 p.m.; Softball at Russia — 5 p.m.; JV softball at Russia — 5 p.m.

### TV sports

**Today**  
2:45 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Wolverhampton Wanderers at West Ham United (USA)  
3 p.m. — College Basketball Crown tournament: Cincinnati vs. DePaul (FS1)  
5:30 p.m. — College Basketball Crown tournament: Oregon State vs. UCF (FS1)

6:30 p.m. — High school girls basketball: McDonald’s All-American Game (ESPN2)  
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Texas Rangers at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)  
7 p.m. — College Basketball NIT: UC Irvine vs. North Texas (ESPN)  
7:05 p.m. — MLB: Arizona Diamondbacks at New York Yankees (TBS)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA: Phoenix Suns at Milwaukee Bucks (TNT)  
8 p.m. — NHL: Detroit Red Wings at St. Louis Blues (FOX)  
8:30 p.m. — College Basketball Crown tournament: Colorado vs. Villanova (FS1)  
9 p.m. — High school basketball: McDonald’s All-American Game (ESPN)

9:30 p.m. — College Basketball NIT: Loyola Chicago at Chattanooga (ESPN2)  
10 p.m. — NBA: Minnesota Timberwolves at Denver Nuggets (TNT)  
11 p.m. — College Basketball Crown tournament: USC at Tulane (FS1)  
11:15 p.m. — CACCACAF Champions Cup: Los Angeles Galaxy at Tigres UANL (FOX)

**Wednesday**  
12:40 p.m. — MLB: Texas Rangers at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)  
2:45 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Manchester City at Leicester City (USA)  
6 p.m. — Women’s college basketball WBIT Championship: TBD vs. TBD (ESPN2)

7 p.m. — NBA: New York Knicks at Cleveland Cavaliers (ESPN); Charlotte Hornets at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)  
7 p.m. — College Basketball Crown tournament: TBD vs. TBD (FS1)  
8:30 p.m. — NBA: Atlanta Hawks at Dallas Mavericks (ABC)  
9:30 p.m. — NBA: Detroit Pistons at Oklahoma City Thunder (ESPN)  
9:30 p.m. — College Basketball Crown tournament: TBD vs. TBD (FS1)  
9:30 p.m. — NHL: Colorado Avalanche at Chicago Blackhawks (TNT)  
9:30 p.m. — CACCACAF Champions Cup: Vancouver Whitecaps at Pumas UNAM (FOX)  
11:30 p.m. — CACCACAF Champions Cup:

Los Angeles FC at Inter Miami (FOX)

### 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 Bellmont 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.

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### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

### Public Notice

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**  
Sealed bids will be received by the Board of Commissioners of Jay County at the Jay County Courthouse, Auditor’s Office, 120 North Court Street #2, Portland, Indiana 47371 until Monday April 14, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. EDT for the following:  
Rehabilitation of Bridge No. 139  
On Seventh Street  
Over Salamonie River  
Jay County, Indiana  
Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at a commissioners meeting in the Jay County Courthouse on April 14, 2025 at 9:00 a.m. EDT. Bids received after Monday April 14, 2025 at 8:00 a.m. EDT will be returned unopened. Bids received by facsimile machine will not be accepted. Only bids from those Contractors who are registered on the Indiana Department of Transportation’s current listing of Prequalified Contractors for this type of work included in this project will be considered.  
Construction shall be in accordance with the bidding documents which are on file with the County Highway Department. Said documents may be examined by prospective bidders at the following locations:  
Jay County Highway Department  
1035 East 200 North  
Portland, Indiana 47371  
Egis BLN USA, Inc  
8320 Craig Street  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46250  
Bidding documents are available for purchase and/or viewing through the Egis BLN USA, Inc. online plan room at http://www.blncplanroom.com beginning at 12:00 p.m. EDT on Wednesday March 19, 2025. Further information will be posted there on the Job Details page of the job posting. Order options and prices will be listed on the order page. Partial sets will not be available. Addenda will be posted to the plan room for downloading and a notification of each addendum will be emailed from the plan room to each plan holder.  
Bid Documents: All bids shall be accompanied by (1) Bid Form included in the bidding documents (2) completed Form 96 (Ind. State Board of Accounts - Rev.) with required attachments (3) Non-discrimination affidavit as required by the laws of the State of Indiana, and (4) Bid security, as described below (5) Other bidding documents as described in the instructions to bidders.  
Bid Security: Bid Security in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Bid shall accompany each Bid. Bid Security may be in the form of a Bid Bond (A-310), certified check or cashier’s check. If the Bidder withdraws a bid within sixty (60) days after the opening date, without consent of the Owner or fails to execute a satisfactory contract within ten (10) days after notice of acceptance, the Owner may declare the Bid deposit forfeited as liquidated damages.  
Bonds: The successful Bidder will be required to furnish Performance and Payment Bonds for 100% of the Contract Sum. The Owner reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid and to waive any irregularities in the bidding. All bids may be held for a period not to exceed sixty (60) days, or as otherwise stated in the Contract Documents before awarding the contract.  
Jay County is an Equal Opportunity Employer in accordance with I.C. 22-9-1-10 and shall not permit discrimination against any employee or applicant for employment to be employed in the performance of the contract, with respect to his or her hire, tenure, terms, conditions or privileges of employment or any matter directly or indirectly related to employment, because of his race, religion, color, sex, disability, national origin, or ancestry.  
All out-of-state corporations must have a certificate of authority to do business in the State. Application forms may be obtained by contacting the Secretary of State, State of Indiana, Statehouse, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204.  
Chad Aker, Duane Monroe, Doug Horn  
Jay County Board of Commissioners  
CR 3-21, 4-1-2025-HSPAXLP

### Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:  
IN THE JAY  
CIRCUIT COURT  
2025 TERM  
No. 38C01-2503-EU-000008  
In the Matter of  
the Unsupervised  
Administration of  
the Estate of:  
Joyce A. Louck, Deceased  
**NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION**  
Notice is hereby given that Steven F. Louck was, on the 26th day of March, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Joyce A. Louck deceased, who died on March 16, 2025. All persons who have claims against this estate, whether or not now due, must file the claim in the office of the Clerk of this Court within three (3) months from the date of the first publication of this notice, or within nine (9) months after the decedent’s death, whichever is earlier, or the claims will be forever barred. Dated at Portland, Indiana, this 27th day of March, 2025.  
Melissa Elliott  
Clerk of the Circuit Court,  
For Jay County, Indiana  
HINKLE, RACSTER,  
SCHEMENAUR & LAN-  
DERS  
121 W. High Street Portland,  
IN 47371  
Attorney  
CR 4-1,8-2025-HSPAXLP

### 250 PUBLIC NOTICE

### 260 PUBLIC AUCTION

## PUBLIC AUCTION

Located at 505 West Line Street, Geneva, Indiana on Saturday morning  
**MAY 3, 2025**  
9:30 A.M.  
**REAL ESTATE:**  
1 ½ story home with 3 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom and 1426 square feet of living area. Home has gas forced air furnace with central air, gas water heater, a water softener and a partial basement. The kitchen has nice oak cabinets with space for a table along with a dining room. There is a 24’ x 26’ 2 car detached garage with heat and water, a small utility barn with a walk in cooler and a 32’ x 48’ pole barn that has a workshop with heat and water. This property sits on 2.06 acres. This property has been well maintained and has a spacious yard.  
10% nonrefundable deposit day of sale with balance due at closing. Seller will provide warranty deed and Owners Title Insurance. Buyer will assume taxes due and payable in November 2025 and thereafter. Any inspections must be done prior to sale date and are at potential buyers expense. Any statements made day of sale take precedence over previously written or oral statements. Owner confirmation day of sale.  
For more information or private showing contact  
LOY REAL ESTATE KIM LOY BROKER 260-726-2700 OR GARY LOY AUCTIONEER 260-726-5160.  
**REAL ESTATE WILL SELL AT 9:30 A.M.**  
Personal property will sell immediately following real estate.  
**KEN & MARCELLA DOHERTY, Deceased**  
By Lois Debolt and Penny Hirsch  
LOY AUCTION AC31600027  
AUCTIONEERS  
Gary Loy AU 01031608  
Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
CR 4-1-2025

### Visit Us At: thecr.com

# Sports

# Alig just misses medal

## Senior hurdler leads five Patriots at indoor state meet

By RAY COONEY

The Commercial Review

INDIANAPOLIS — A school record.

A season best. Big-meet experience.

The Jay County High School track team got plenty out of its trip Saturday to Indiana State Fairgrounds.

Adam Alig led a group of five Patriots who competed in the Hoosier State Relays at Fall Creek Pavilion, breaking his own record in the 60-meter hurdles and narrowly missing a state medal.

“This is a springboard for our outdoor season,” said JCHS coach Joe Imel, whose team also had Alig competing as part of the 4x200 relay and Jordyn Hutzler throwing in the girls shot put. “We’re here with a couple sectional opponents, a few conference opponents. This should hopefully give them the confidence to set them up to have a pretty good season.”

Competing in the small school meet for the first time Saturday — the relays are split by IHSAA football classes, with 4A and above in the large school meet and 3A and below in the small school — Alig broke his own school record and the other Patriots improved on their seeds.

Alig came closest to securing a state medal in the 60 hurdles despite a slow start out of the blocks. He found himself near the back of the opening heat before charging hard over the final two hurdles. He turned the race for third place in the heat into a photo finish, ending up fifth just 0.04 seconds behind Jaden Park of West Lafayette and 0.03 seconds

behind Divine Olikagu of Illiana Christian.

He was just 0.06 seconds off the time needed to advance to the finals and earn a state medal.

“He’s just a hard worker,” said Imel. “He’s gotten faster. He works on his form. He puts in the time in the weight room. He’s a great kid. I’m surrounded by really, really great kids.”

That effort rubs off on the rest of the team, he said.

“I’m just thankful that we were able to give them this experience,” he added.

Alig also ran the second leg for the JCHS 4x200 relay team, making the cut following the three-turn stagger in second place after Gabe Pinkerton ran a tight opening leg with the rest of the field. John Cook slipped to the back of the four-team heat late in the third leg before senior Caden Gambill was able to pull back to third on the final lap.

Their time of 1 minute, 38.83 seconds, moved the Patriots up two spots from their seed to finish in 21st place despite one of their regular team members missing the meet because of a planned vacation.

“We were still less than a half-second away from their best time, which is our school record,” said Imel. “I’m really proud of the guys. This is the first time that we’ve had guys come to indoor state for I have no idea how long. I’m just real proud of them. ...

“I’m just happy for the boys who were able to compete, to be out here on this big, huge stage, and to know it’s not too big for us. We ran well.”

See **Medal** page 7



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Adam Alig of Jay County High School runs the second leg of the 4x200-meter relay Saturday during the Hoosier State Relays in Fall Creek Pavilion at Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis. He teamed with Gabe Pinkerton, Caden Gambill and John Cook for 21st place in the event and also finished 13th in the 60 hurdles.

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# Former Kokomo star enters transfer portal

By SHREYAS LADDA

The Kansas City Star  
Tribune News Service

Kansas freshman forward Flory Bidunga will enter the transfer portal, his guardian Dillon Craft confirmed to The Star.

But — notably — Craft didn't rule out a return to Lawrence.

“Flory will enter the portal with intentions to return to Kansas,” Craft said in a text message to The Star. “After discussing this as a family, we have decided this is the best decision for Flory’s future. We will evaluate our options and are open to a return to Kansas.”

The potential loss of Bidunga would be a big one for the Kansas Jayhawks. The freshman big man averaged 5.9 points and 5.4 rebounds in 16.3 minutes per game last season. Incoming five-star freshman Darryn Peterson even mentioned Bidunga as the player he'd most like to play alongside.

Bidunga primarily played backup center for the Jayhawks but showed flashes in the few games he started in KJ Adams' absence.

The move to enter the transfer portal is surprising. A source close to Bidunga told The Star last Sunday that Bidunga was

not considering entering the portal. The source didn't anticipate that stance changing, pending Bidunga's upcoming meeting with KU coaches.

According to Craft, Bidunga will meet with KU's coaching staff Sunday. In a conversation later Saturday, Craft, who said he observed negative social media reaction to the portal news, told The Star, “We just have to keep our options open.”

“Kansas remains strongly in consideration, but at the same time, we don't know what the roster is going to look like next year,” Craft continued. “Flory can pick. We're going to meet with Kansas tomorrow, but we have to have options because the transfer portal is going to move quickly.”

“If Flory were to leave Kansas, we have to have options quickly because these other schools are moving quickly for other bigs. They're moving quickly, so we've got to move quickly. So if we go into the portal now, we can hear what other people have to say. We can hear how other people are going to develop them.”

Craft insisted reports of Bidunga entering the portal to shop NIL deals were

false, but did acknowledge the greater importance of NIL to a student-athlete.

“NIL is important from an investment standpoint, and it means something,” Craft said. “It means that the school that pays you, they're going to invest in you and make you a priority because they're spending that money. It's no different than the NBA and free agency — they're going to pay somebody \$80 million because they know that they're a priority and they're going to help their team win.”

Bidunga was a five-star recruit, ranked No. 14 by 247Sports and No. 17 by ESPN, in the recruiting class of 2024. He was the highest-rated prospect in KU's 2024 recruiting class and finished as the Jayhawks' highest-rated freshman signee since Quentin Grimes in 2018.

In his senior season at Kokomo (Indiana) High School, he averaged 19.0 points, 12.9 rebounds, 4.4 blocks and 3.2 assists per game and led his school to a 25-4 record and 4A sectional title.

Bidunga was also named the 2024 IndyStar Mr. Basketball in the state of Indiana.

Craft did not give a timeline for Bidunga's decision.

# Yankees debut 'torpedo' bats

By MAX GOODMAN

nj.com

Tribune News Service

NEW YORK — To Yankees shortstop Anthony Volpe, using the “Torpedo” bat design is a no-brainer. He “bought in,” giving the new-look barrel a shot.

“So far, so good,” Volpe told reporters in front of his locker in the Yankees' clubhouse on Sunday morning. “The bigger you can have the barrel where you're going to hit the ball makes sense to me.”

The bats went viral on social media during the Yankees' historic nine-homer barrage on Saturday, a bombardment of the Brewers that featured long balls from Volpe, Cody Bellinger and Jazz

Chisholm Jr., who are all using their own models with the thicker barrel.

“I think the benefit for me is I like the weight distribution personally,” Bellinger said. “The weight's closer to my hands, so I feel as if it's lighter in a way. So that for me was the biggest benefit. And then obviously the bigger the sweet spot, the bigger the margin for error.”

As ex-Yankees infielder Kevin Smith noted in an enlightening thread on X/Twitter on Saturday, Aaron Leinhardt — who served as the Yankees' MLB analyst last season — is the brainchild behind the bat. Leinhardt, a former MIT physicist, is now the Marlins' field coordinator.

See **Torpedo** page 7