

County looks at app for assessing its roads

Program utilizes cell phones to gather variety of data

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

County officials are considering an artificial intelligence program to determine the state of roads.

Jay County Commissioners tabled a decision Monday on an application created to help make road assessments.

Commissioners also awarded just over a \$1 million contract to Brumbaugh Construction for replacing the Seventh Street bridge over the Salamonie River in Portland.

Slater Rush, market manager of Vialytics, explained most counties and municipalities have been either been rating their own roads manually, having employees driving at a slow pace along roads to document cracks, patches and potholes, or hiring a contractor for the service.

Rush noted the program allows the county to handle the work in-house while automating the process.

If implemented, the application could be downloaded on smartphones, and those phones may be attached to a mount on highway department vehicles' windshields. Users can then record their routes.

Answering a question from commissioner Duane Monroe, Rush said vehicles using the application while recording can drive 40 mph and capture photos of the road every 10 to 12 feet. Photos are uploaded to the system once the smartphone connects to internet at the highway department.

See Roads page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Garage destroyed

A garage at Tabby Sprunger's 412 E. Race St. property was destroyed in a fire Sunday evening. Pictured above, the garage is engulfed in flames in a view from Race Street. At right, firefighters douse what remained of the fire in a view from Garfield Street. The call regarding the fire came in at 7:21 p.m. It was under control by 7:29 p.m. and out at 8:10 p.m. Twenty-one firefighters and three trucks responded to the scene. In addition to the garage being destroyed, there was damage to siding on the house on the property and another to the north at 403 E. North St.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Hoops aplenty

Lauren Ashley spins about 20 hula hoops during a Cincinnati Circus performance Saturday at Arts Place. Chris Baker and Ashley shared a variety of talents with the audience, including juggling, fire eating and aerial tricks.

U.S., Iran set to meet in Rome

Both sides describe talks Saturday as constructive

By DONATO PAOLO MANCINI  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service

The U.S. and Iran are expected to hold their second round of nuclear talks on Saturday in Rome, according to people familiar with the matter, following their first meeting in years in Oman over the weekend.

The talks are set to coincide with a visit to Italy by U.S. Vice President JD Vance, though it's unclear if he'll be involved in them, the people said.

Both Iran and the U.S. described Saturday's meeting in the Omani capital of Muscat — headed by Steve Witkoff, U.S. President Donald Trump's

main Middle East envoy, and Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi — as constructive. They agreed to meet a week later in a sign of easing tension after months of escalating rhetoric and Trump threatening to bomb Iran if it didn't agree to a deal.

Witkoff told Araghchi he had instructions from Trump "to resolve our two nations' differences through dialogue and diplomacy, if that is possible."

Iran's currency and stocks rallied on Sunday in response to the sides saying they'd hold further talks.

As diplomatic momentum builds around the negotiations, International Atomic Energy Agency Director General, Rafael Mariano Grossi, is expected to visit Tehran on Wednesday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Later in the week Araghchi is also set to visit Moscow to continue parallel nuclear talks with Russian officials, the ministry said in an earlier statement.

Deaths

Patricia Copeland, 83, Dunkirk  
Deloris Fultz, 79, Portland  
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 64 degrees Sunday. The low was 45.  
Tonight's low will be in the mid 30s with winds gusting to 30 mph. Expect sunny skies and a high in the mid 50s on Wednesday. Highs will climb into the 60s Thursday and 70s Friday. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Second Harvest Food Bank will host a free food tailgate at 10 a.m. Wednesday at Redkey Morgan Park.  
Income verification is not required.

Coming up

Wednesday — Details from next week's Dunkirk City Council meeting.  
Thursday — Results from the JCHS baseball game against New Castle.  
Friday — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Aviation meeting.

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# Obituaries

**Patricia Copeland**  
*Feb. 18, 1942-April 10, 2025*  
Patricia “Patty” A. (Craw) Copeland, 83, of Dunkirk, Indiana, passed away peacefully Thursday, April 10, 2025, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie, Indiana, with her devoted son, Todd, by her side.

Patty was born in Muncie, Indiana, on Feb. 18, 1942, the daughter of the late Arlene A. (Weyrick) and Vaughn E. Craw. She was a graduate of Dunkirk High School and worked for Kerr Glass in Dunkirk, Indiana, for over 37 years before her retirement in 1997. She was a member of Local #96, Dunkirk American Legion Auxiliary Post #227, former member of Dunkirk Moose Lodge and former Senior Queen of Glass in Dunkirk, Indiana.

Patty was extremely social



Copeland

and well-known throughout the community. She loved her morning breakfasts with her friends at Milton's Family Restaurant and evenings at McDonald's, community events like the annual Glass Days Festival, the Concert in the Park, and anything Wizard of Oz.

Patty has always worked hard for everything she had, provided for her boys and made sure to always check in on her mother. She enjoyed family trips to Branson, Missouri, the Indy 500, watching The Andy Griffith Show, game shows, Indiana Pacers, Chicago Cubs and Indiana University basketball.

We will miss this outgoing, hardworking, caring, devoted daughter, mother and grandmother who loved Dunkirk, Indiana, to the core. Her town loved her just the same.

Patty is survived by one son, Todd Copeland (Ashley Surpas); three grandsons, Jackson Pierson, Thomas and Josh Reagan; and several nieces,

nephews, extended family members and friends.

She is preceded in death by her parents; two sons, Chris Pierson and Stephen Pierson; and two brothers, Terry Dull and Lawrence "Sparky" Dull.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday, April 15, 2025, from 2 to 6 p.m. at MJS Mortuaries – Redkey Chapel. Funeral services will follow at 6 p.m. with Pastor Randy Davis officiating. Burial will be held privately in Dunkirk IOOF Cemetery.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dunkirk American Legion Post #227.

Arrangements have been entrusted to MJS Mortuaries.

## Deloris Fultz

*March 20, 1946-April 11, 2025*  
Deloris (Outcalt) Fultz, age 79, a resident of Portland, passed away unexpectedly on Friday, April 11, 2025, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie.

Deloris was born March 20, 1946, in Portland, Indiana, the

daughter of Jesse and Lucille (Simons) Outcalt. She graduated from Governor I.P. Gray High School, where she met and later married her high school sweetheart, Roger Fultz.

Survivors include:  
Her husband — Roger Fultz, Portland, Indiana  
Her children — Chris Fultz (wife: Jean), Westerville, Ohio, and Kirk Fultz, Portland, Indiana  
Sister — Diane Daughtery, Atlanta  
Grandchildren — Benjamin Fultz, Centerburg, Ohio, Katherine Stearns (husband: Kory), Nashotah, Wisconsin, Morgan Fultz, Westerville, Ohio, and Jacob Fultz, Westerville, Ohio  
Nephew — Jeff Roberts, Topeka, Kansas  
Niece — Sherry Kirkpatrick, Atlanta, Georgia

She was preceded in death by



Fultz

her parents, Jesse and Lucille Outcalt.

Deloris was a wife, mother, grandmother, sister and aunt. She loved all animals, taking care of her garden and yard and spending time with family and friends. She will be truly missed by those who knew and loved her.

Visitation will be held on Tuesday from 4 to 7 p.m. at Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home in Portland. Funeral services will be held on Wednesday at 10 a.m. at the funeral home. Pastor Larry Eads will officiate and burial will follow at IOOF Twin Hill Cemetery in Pennville.

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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				
Wednesday 4/16	Thursday 4/17	Friday 4/18	Saturday 4/19	Sunday 4/20
<b>56/35</b>	<b>68/56</b>	<b>78/58</b>	<b>61/44</b>	<b>61/53</b>
Sunny skies are expected Wednesday when the high will be around 56 degrees.	Thursday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the upper 60s.	Warm temperatures on Friday when the high will be in the upper 70s. Chance of showers.	There's a 50% chance of rain, with a slight chance of thunderstorms Saturday.	Mostly sunny on Sunday. Another slight chance of showers.

Lotteries	
<b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$96 million	16-22-23-25-29-33-45-49-50-52-53-54-55-56-64-65-66 Cash 5: 12-16-32-41-43 Estimated jackpot: \$185,500
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$100 million	
<b>Hoosier</b> Sunday Midday Daily Three: 4-3-4 Daily Four: 9-7-0-1 Quick Draw: 2-5-9-10-19-28-29-30-39-47-50-52-60-62-66-68-71-77-78-80 Evening Daily Three: 9-6-5 Daily Four: 9-6-1-7 Quick Draw: 2-12-13-	<b>Ohio</b> Sunday Midday Pick 3: 0-3-4 Pick 4: 9-5-3-7 Pick 5: 2-1-9-1-9 Evening Pick 3: 3-8-8 Pick 4: 8-8-9-7 Pick 5: 4-0-3-4-2 Rolling Cash 5: 1-5-11-17-32 Estimated jackpot: \$246,000

Markets	
<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.96 May corn .....4.99 June corn .....5.04	May beans .....10.47 Wheat ..... 5.03
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....5.04 May corn.....5.11 June corn .....5.13	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.94 May corn.....4.96 Beans .....10.45 May beans .....10.48 Wheat .....5.07
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....5.00 May corn .....5.00 Beans .....10.47	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.86 May corn.....4.91 Beans .....10.28 May beans .....10.33 Wheat .....4.90

**Today in history**

In 1452, Leonardo da Vinci was born in Anchiano, near Vinci, Florence, Italy. Da Vinci is famous for the paintings “Last Supper” and “Mona Lisa.”

In 1912, the Titanic, a British luxury passenger ship, sank on its way from Southampton, Hampshire, England, to New York City. The ship was damaged when it struck an iceberg on its maiden voyage.

In 1926, Robertson Aircraft flew its first mail route between Chicago and St. Louis. Charles A. Lindbergh was the pilot for the flight. The company was one of several that later developed into American Airlines.

In 1955, Ray Kroc opened his first McDonald's franchise in Des Plaines, Illinois. The business has grown to more than 38,000 locations worldwide with more than 13,500 in the U.S.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar	
<b>Today</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Aviation, airport, 661 W. 100 North.	<b>Monday</b> 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., Portland.
<b>Thursday</b> 6 p.m. — Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.

# Roads ...

Continued from page 1

The artificial intelligence program identifies and classifies 15 types of road damage, according to its website, while also detecting and documenting defective traffic signs, manhole covers and water drains. Along with inventory management, the application also manages work orders, Rush added, a feature he said was regularly used by employees.

Rush said Vialytics helps counties to continually make road condition assessments, shifting from a reactive to a proactive approach for handling road repairs.

“By getting them to use the Vialytics system, you can continuously do those assessments and identify where issues are starting to arise and address them before they become much more costly,” said Rush.

Highway department administrative assistant Stephanie Klarer said Pavement Surface Evaluation and Rating (PASER) road rating system now requires a certification. She said the highway department reached out to engineering firm USI Consultants to help with the work.

Ben Beer of USI Consultants explained his company partners with Vialytics. He noted that Indiana Department of Transportation Community Crossings grants require communities to make road assessments every two years. Beer spoke highly of Vialytics, suggesting the county contract directly with it. (He

pointed out that if the county were to hire USI Consultants to assess roads, the company would still use Vialytics' program.)

A three-year contract with the company would cost \$33,840 annually, with an additional \$500 setup cost for the first year.

Commissioners president Chad Aker noted he attended a presentation by Vialytics to highway department officials. He said he sees the program as a benefit for determining needs for resurfacing roads as well as helping with liability issues, such as establishing proof of signs for road closures and detours.

Monroe noted his workplace Jay County REMC uses a similar data management system, capturing photos of utility poles across the county.

“There's so much data that you can pull up at your fingertips,” he said. “But I also know that data's only as good as what you put in it.”

Monroe said he would like to connect with other county commissioners to hear their perspectives on the program, which is used by several counties in Indiana.

Commissioners table discussion on the contract until the next meeting.

Also Monday, commissioners awarded a \$1,025,000 contract to Brumbaugh Construction of Arcanum, Ohio, for work on the Seventh Street bridge.

Jay County received \$1.03 million

in March from Indiana Department of Transportation's Community Crossings grant program for rehabilitating the bridge over. The project also includes adding a sidewalk on the north side of the bridge. Aker said Portland officials have agreed to contribute toward that expense.

Jay County Commissioners also signed a \$13,900 agreement in January with the property owners at 402 W. Seventh St., in order to grant an easement related to replacing the bridge. An additional \$7,500 is factored in to pay for trees to be removed in the process.

Other bids for the project were as follows: Milestone Contractors of Portland, \$1,429,678.04; Beaty Construction of Boggstown, \$1,228,000; and HIS Constructors of Fairland, \$1,195,480.

Klarer noted that per state grant guidelines, the paperwork needs to be completed by the end of the month. She asked commissioners to approve a contract Monday, with commissioners noting an engineer needs to review it first.

Commissioners tabled the decision on the project. Later in the meeting, after a representative from engineering firm EGIS reviewed the bids and recommended Brumbaugh Consulting, commissioners approved the contract.

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*For more news from commissioners' meeting, see Wednesday's newspaper.*

# Felony courts

## Unlawful handgun

A man was sentenced to four years in prison for unlawful carrying of a handgun.

Chad M. Sluder, 28, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to four years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Sluder was fined \$1 and assessed \$189 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for possession of marijuana and a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle with a suspended license were dismissed.

felony, and operating a vehicle while intoxicated, a Class C misdemeanor.

Reynolds was sentenced to 425 days in Jay County Jail with all but 60 days suspended and given 20 days credit for time served. He was assessed \$189.50 in court costs, fined \$1 and ordered to pay a \$200 alcohol and drug countermeasures fee. Reynolds was placed on probation for one year.

As part of his plea agreement, a Class A misdemeanor for operating a vehicle with an alcohol concentration of 0.15% or more was dismissed.

## Intimidation

A Portland man was sentenced to jail for intimidation and other charges.

Derek A. Reynolds, 46, 512 North Commerce St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to intimidation, a Level 6

SERVICES

Today

Copeland, Patricia: 6 p.m., MJS Mortuaries, 109 S. Meridian St., Redkey.

Wednesday

Fultz, Deloris: 10 a.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

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Thank You

We don't really know where to begin. These past days God has brought so many good people to us. When tragedy strikes, so many wonderful and caring people just show up. It is quite overwhelming and so comforting at the same time just to know someone really cares.

This whole community of Jay County and also others from Mercer and Randolph County has certainly proved that to us. Just out of nowhere people, equipment to help clean up, and food shows up... it is just amazing! Our hearts are aching right now and we have grown tired and weary, but with all of you being here and giving us so much support, it has given us the strength and comfort to know everything will be okay.

God has protected all of us from any harm throughout all of this. God bless each and every one of you and THANK YOU from the bottom of our hearts, we are truly blessed.

Mike & Karen Timmerman & Family

Abby E. Small, O.D.

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# Let mistakes happen, move on with life

By OLIVIA SMITH  
The Commercial Review

“It’s so easy to get stressed out about life that you forget to live it.” — Mel Robbins, “The Let Them Theory”

Sometimes we get so caught up in our anxiety or daily to-dos that we forget that we will never have this moment back. We yearn for the past in the present forgetting that one day this time in our lives will be missed. Life is full of stressful situations that we make

*You’re  
On Your  
Own,  
Kid*



worse by trying to control the outcomes of it. We try to control things that are not in our control at all and it makes us more stressed than we need to be.

Last week was a long

week, and I was really struggling with people in general. It felt like the smallest thing would make me annoyed, and then I would get frustrated at myself for being annoyed at something dumb.

I started listening to the Mel Robbins’ audiobook my dad has been recommending for weeks, and it really changed my perspective.

A lot of my frustration was with things I couldn’t

control. One of my friends didn’t think I was making the right choices, another was struggling with issues of her own.

Things that I could not fix or control were taking up so much time and space in my head. I found myself worrying about other people’s issues and doubting myself at every turn.

Two things helped me get out of that mindset.

The first was advice from my parents telling me that I am going to

make mistakes and that I know what is best for me. And the second was the audiobook. When I started implementing the “let them” mindset, I relaxed.

Let them think you are making a mistake.

Let them deal with their own problems. Be a good listener but do not try to figure out their issues for them.

Let the professor waste time.

Let that person not like you.

There are things that you physically cannot control no matter how much you think or worry about it. So just let it happen. Let the mistakes be made and trust that you know what is best for you.

Because if that is true, that means the person you are worrying about and trying to solve their problems knows themselves well enough to make the best decisions for themselves without your help.

# Son asks for help in grieving loss of parents

DEAR ABBY: I am a single man with no siblings. My elderly father passed away eight months ago. My mother is now in hospice with a life expectancy of weeks to months. My parents have lived long and productive lives, and I’m proud of both of them. We have always been very close. Since their terminal illnesses, I have managed to function fairly well.

My problem is with certain “triggers.” For example, I can no longer go to the beach because I always remember my father’s voice welcoming me home when I returned. The worst one is when people see my childhood photos and say, “Your parents must have loved you a lot.”

I know these people mean well, but I can’t help grieving

*Dear  
Abby*



over the bond I had and have lost with my parents. I plan to seek counseling, but I would appreciate any advice you would have about reducing the effect of these triggers. — THEIR SON IN SAN DIEGO

DEAR SON: Please accept my sympathy for the loss of your father. You may need help coping with the pain of losing him, as well as dealing with your mother’s sad prognosis. When a loved one dies,

there are, of course, bitter-sweet memories. Managing them is an individual process.

If you haven’t joined a grief support group, I urge you to find one. If the group setting doesn’t provide enough help for the overwhelming emotions you are feeling, a licensed psychotherapist can offer more support. The people helping your mother with her hospice care surely can suggest some resources for you. Please don’t put it off. Start now.

DEAR ABBY: How long would you give your partner to get a full-time job? What if that partner was helpful in other areas of the household, brought in rental income from a home he

owned and helped with the kids? I am in a predicament.

My spouse has been working as an adjunct professor since we met and has remained in that career for 17 years without benefits or a salary that can support us. We have children now, and I have been working my tail off for more than 10 years to provide a lifestyle for our family.

Would you let your husband continue in his dream of adjunct professor, or make him get an additional part-time job to bring in more income? And would you leave this person if he didn’t want to do more to help provide for the family? — EXHAUSTED IN PENNSYLVANIA

DEAR EXHAUSTED: Would leaving your husband

improve your lifestyle? You and your husband should consult a financial adviser and discuss your situation. From what you have written, your husband doesn’t sit around doing nothing. He may be doing his best to contribute in other ways. If the numbers don’t add up, it is possible he may need to do something more to generate income. But a word of caution: Do not issue an ultimatum unless you are ready to follow through.

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](mailto: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.

JAY COUNTY PAS-TORS AND CHAPLAINS — Meet at 11:30 a.m. on the third Tuesday of each month in the chapel at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital.

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

FRIENDS OF JAY COUNTY LIBRARY — Will meet at 6 p.m. the third Tuesday of each month at the library.

A BETTER LIFE – BRI-ANNA’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 ANONY-MOUS — 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 MORN-ING 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.

COMMUNITY REIN-FORCEMENT AND FAM-ILY TRAINING — A non-

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

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Begin-nings, 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 infor-mation, 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**

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those strug-gling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feel-ings 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.

STITCH AND CHAT-TER QUILT CLUB — Meets from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the third Thurs-day of each month at Jay Community Center. Show and teal is at 1 p.m. The club is open to all ages

and is for anyone who wants to sew. Bring unfinished projects and a sewing machine. For more information, call Nan Weesner (260) 766-9334.

EN AVANT CLUB — Meets at 1 p.m. on the third Thursday of each month.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF — Meets from 1 to 2:30 p.m. the third Thursday of each month. The support group serves to help indi-viduals who have lost a loved one to suicide. To register, contact Stephanie Patterson at (260) 251-3259.

ORGAN TRANS-PLANT SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 3 p.m. on the third Thurs-day of each month in the IU Health Blackford main conference room.

CELEBRATE RECOV-ERY — A 12-step Chris-tian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridi-an 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 at 6:30 p.m. the third Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for par-ents, friends and rela-tives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vin-cent Randolph Hospital,

Winchester, in communi-ty room 1. For more infor-mation, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452.

**Friday**

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

DUNKIRK HISTORI-CAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Friday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St.

**Saturday**

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

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

DUNKIRK HISTORI-CAL SOCIETY — Is open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on the third Saturday of each month at Webster Depot, 132 W. Railroad St., Dunkirk.

**Sunday**

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

**Monday**

PORTLAND BREAK-FAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for break-fast at Richards Restau-rant.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Beginner

## Saturday’s Solution

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

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



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# Education request sustainable \$\$\$

By JAKE ALLEN

Each year, over 90% of Indiana's school-aged children — more than one million students — attend our public schools. These students will grow up to be our coworkers, neighbors, and community leaders. Their success is Indiana's success. That's why we must ask ourselves: are we giving our schools the resources they need to prepare the next generation? That is a prevailing question being debated by the Indiana General Assembly.

Public K-12 education makes up nearly half of Indiana's state budget, reflecting its importance. Yet few public systems are more complex or less understood than school funding. As lawmakers again consider tax reform, it's essential that taxpayers understand what's at stake — and why sustainable school funding matters.

Indiana's current fiscal approach leaves our public schools in a tightening squeeze.

Jake Allen



As the state caps property tax revenues, with further constraints pending, local governments — especially schools — are left to absorb the impact. Potential budget shortfalls could force districts to freeze teacher salaries, defer maintenance, increase class sizes, and eliminate programs that enrich student learning.

The financial foundation for every school district includes three critical funds, two of which, the Operations Fund and the Debt Service Fund, rely on local property taxes. Operations cover day-to-day costs — support staff, transportation, fuel, utilities, insurance. Debt Service

repays bonds for capital projects like renovations and new construction. The third critical fund is known as the Education Fund, and it contains the monies provided by the state, which are primarily used for teacher compensation. Together, these three funds represent the backbone of local school budgets.

In 2024, Indiana's average school property tax rate was roughly \$1.03 per \$100 of assessed property value. But the costs of running a school district — fuel, buses, insurance, utilities — have surged well beyond that. School buses cost 60% more than just a few years ago. Fuel prices have doubled. Insurance premiums have more than doubled and continue to rise, driven by increasing property values.

Yet local property tax revenue hasn't kept up. A state-imposed cap limits how much property tax collections can grow. In 2023, that growth cap was 5%. In 2024, it dropped to 4%. Proposed legis-

lation would constrict the levy dollars in 2026 even further.

This mismatch — between rising costs and capped revenues — puts districts in a very difficult position. In Mooresville alone, we estimate a \$2 million loss over the next three years if the proposed property tax relief measures pass. It's worth noting that Mooresville Schools has held a tax rate of \$0.7874 for fifteen consecutive years. This rate is in the bottom 20% of schools in the state — and has been intentionally held flat to better serve our community taxpayers. Now, imagine how much the costs of goods and living have increased since 2010.

So how are schools managing? Increasingly, districts are redirecting money from the Education Fund — which is primarily intended for teacher salaries and benefits — to cover essential operational costs like transportation and utilities. The state permits an annual transfer of up to 15 percent from the Education Fund, and in 2024, more than 10 percent

of these funds — totaling over \$900 million — were used in this way.

At the same time, state leaders are pushing mandates to increase teacher pay — while restricting the very funds districts rely on to operate.

We all want well-paid teachers and high-quality schools. But we can't get there if we do not provide our schools with the resources they need. Fiscal responsibility is not just about balancing state budgets — it's about ensuring communities can thrive.

Indiana's students, and its taxpayers, deserve a funding framework that keeps pace with the times. We must prioritize a long-term, sustainable solution — one that honors our commitment to public education and the future of our state.

\*\*\*\*\*

Allen is a member of the Our Public Schools Work board of directors and superintendent of Mooresville Schools.

## Reform funding, do not reduce it

Bloomberg Opinion

Tribune News Service

Six months before World War II ended in Europe, President Franklin D. Roosevelt wrote a letter to his top science adviser: Could the wealth of technical knowledge developed for combat, he asked, spur the peacetime economy and improve public health? The resulting treatise, presented to Congress in 1945, established the nation's commitment to funding university research.

Today, the federal government covers more than half of universities' R&D spending, much of which flows through the National Institutes of Health. The agency spent more than \$35 billion on almost 50,000 grants in 2023. NIH-funded research has supported lifesaving innovations from the hepatitis B vaccine and cancer therapies to MRI scans and gene-editing technology.

According to the current White House, drastic changes are needed to this system. Too much federal money is being wasted on "facilities and administration," officials say, when it should be supporting research directly. Their basic criticism isn't crazy. But their proposed solution threatens to impede essential scientific research without achieving its stated goals.

NIH grants are divided into direct and indirect costs. The former are expenses tied to a specific project, such as equipment and materials. The latter might include costs shared across various grant proposals but also expenses such as administrator salaries. The average so-called indirect cost rate, negotiated by universities and federal officials, has risen to 39% from a uniform 8% in the 1950s. At some schools, it's more than 65%. More than a quarter of NIH funding dollars went toward indirect costs last year.

Some of the expenses covered by indirect costs are critical for the advancement of science. Others are more tenuous. Clerical staff and IT workers, parking lots and paint jobs — all can qualify as indirect costs. At some universities, meanwhile, administrators have started to outnumber faculty.

Sorting out essential

## Guest Editorial

expenses from administrative bloat isn't easy. The painstaking rate negotiations between universities and the federal government attempt to do so, but they more often bog down the process. In theory, a flat rate would curb this perverse incentive, simplify the process, save money and thus free up funding for direct costs. (President Barack Obama's administration considered a similar idea in 2012.) Better yet, a tiered system of flat rates would address discrepancies in costs by geography and type of research.

It's possible the administration had some version of this in mind when it proposed cutting the indirect rate to 15% last month, citing the standard for philanthropic grants. If so, it should've announced the policy in tandem with a commitment from Congress to increase funding and speed up the review process. Such a plan, gradually phased in to minimize chaos, might've resulted in a more prudent and transparent allocation of taxpayer funds.

Instead, by issuing so-called supplemental guidance, the White House circumvented Congress, which opposed a similar proposal in 2017. The administration has since been sued by 22 states and the cuts have been blocked. (The administration intends to appeal.) Universities, some of which stand to lose tens of millions of dollars annually, are preemptively reducing staff and putting clinical trials on hold. Suffice it to say, this isn't the way to encourage American innovation.

A flat rate for indirect costs is a reasonable way to contain overhead and ensure that taxpayer funds support core research. But getting the details right, as any scientist will tell you, is essential. If it wants to ensure the U.S. remains the world's leader in cutting-edge research, the administration should withdraw this heedless guidance and try again.



## End of session is horrible

By NIKI KELLY

Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Christmas is hands-down my favorite time of the year. And the end of session is hands-down my least favorite.

That's because for months, the General Assembly has chugged along at a reasonable pace, hearing bills, listening to Hoosiers, making changes, passing measures — even compromising a time or two.

And then we hit the final few weeks, and all best practices go out the door.

I'm going to lay out three examples we have seen in recent days that don't bode well for a transparent and accountable legislature. It's also why trust in public service continues to erode.

First: The (now-massive) property tax measure

Senate Bill 1 was 46 pages when introduced as Gov. Mike Braun's reset plan to help homeowners. It grew under Senate Republicans to 91 pages. And after House Republicans made another amendment, it is a stunning 355 pages.

The GOP folded in tangentially related and even unrelated bills, possibly to harvest votes. And it made the product so endlessly complicated that even someone who has covered Indiana's property tax system since its court-ordered redesign is struggling to grasp it all.

It now includes a bill that was moving just fine on its own — Senate Bill 518 — and looked like an easy win for the GOP. It provides property tax sharing in some local school districts for public charter schools. It's a perfectly good debate to have on its own

Niki Kelly



but now the measure is in this bill, which means Democrats didn't support it.

An amended version also had a long-sought business tax break via a phaseout of the business personal property tax. This came even though the purpose of the bill was long said to be giving homeowners relief from massive assessment and bill spikes. Cooler heads prevailed on second reading, though, and the elimination was removed.

Oh yeah, and the bill dissolves a school corporation in Randolph County that has almost all virtual students — which has nothing to do with the original intent.

Heck, the bill isn't even titled property tax relief anymore. It's now local government finance.

Second: Reviving unpopular ideas that already failed once

In the first half of session, House Bill 1662 had robust hearings, passed out of committee and then died on the calendar because it didn't have the votes. The bill has been labeled by critics as criminalizing homelessness but proponents say it's about squatters.

Now, at this late hour, it was suddenly put into Senate Bill 197 through an amendment. No one following the issue had notice of the amendment, so there was no public testimony. And

it is likely headed back to the Senate to see if lawmakers there accept that change. Mind you, senators haven't heard one iota of testimony on the concept.

Third: Brand-new language.

We're in the fourth month, but are still introducing language that has never passed a committee. Several bills filed at the outset were bans on advertising marijuana. None of them had a committee vote in the first half.

Instead, a Republican lawmaker added it to a Bureau of Motor Vehicles bill he authored while it was in a Senate committee. The agency was none too pleased, and the language was removed the next week. But never fear, it was added again — this time to Senate Bill 73 on utility trailer sales. The language hasn't passed a single chamber, and most lawmakers have heard no testimony on the pros and cons of such a move. But it could very well become law anyway.

Yes, the session isn't over yet. And every day counts. But leaders can't be happy with some of the shenanigans that are just considered to be ho-hum legislating.

For the majority of session, decorum prevails. But when the end nears, everyone suddenly forgets that how a law is passed matters just as much as what is passed. And that's why the end of session will always be the worst time of year.

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

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—Thomas Jefferson

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# Development center adds staff

The East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center recently hired Zina Bartle as its ecosystem navigator and Sherri Maslanik as an office administrator.

Bartle will help entrepreneurs with resources for small businesses. She has experience in corporate sales, marketing and business consulting.

“We are incredibly excited to welcome Zina and Sherri to the East Central Indiana SBDC team,” said regional director Judy Porter in a press release. “Their combined expertise and dedication will provide much-needed them to thrive and contribute to our community’s economic growth.”

The East Central Indiana Small Business Development Center serves 11 counties, including Jay, Randolph, Blackford and Delaware.

**Seeking to purchase**  
Indiana Michigan Power recently filed with the Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission requesting approval of a certificate to acquire Ore-

## Business roundup

gon Clean Energy Center in Ohio.

The proposed acquisition of the 870-megawatt natural gas facility is part of Indiana Michigan Power’s long-term plan. The company expects its power demand to more than double by 2030.

“I&M has established the need for additional electric generation, and we believe the Clean Energy Center is an important opportunity to further diversify our current generation portfolio and position I&M for future growth,” said Steve Baker, I&M president and chief in a press release. “It is our responsibility to ensure that our current and future customers have reliable and affordable power.”

### Named to IEC

Indiana Electric Cooperatives named Jake Martin to its compliance team last week.

Martin will serve as a regulatory consultant responsible for helping members with federal, state and local regulations. He previously was supervisor of environmental health and safety for Lee County Electric Cooperative in Florida.

“We are excited to have Jake as a member of our team,” said John Cassady, CEO at Indiana Electric Cooperatives, in a press release. “He’s a great addition to this team of professionals who meet our members’ safety and compliance needs through our highly valued regulatory compliance service.”

Martin is a Martinsville native and graduate of Indiana University.

### Changes announced

CVS Health announced two changes to its leadership structure last week.

Brian Newman will become the new CVS executive vice president and chief financial officer designate beginning April 21. Dr. Amy Compton-Phillips will become its new executive vice president and chief medical officer on May 19.

Newman most recently worked as the executive

vice president and chief financial officer of UPS while Compton-Phillips was the chief physician executive at health care performance improvement company Press Ganey.

“As I continue to build out my leadership team, I am confident that Brian and Amy will help us continue the momentum we have built over the past several months as we execute on our strategy to deliver better health care to the 185 million Americans we are privileged to serve,” said president and CEO David Joyner in a press release. “Their collective and individual experience and expertise are well suited to CVS Health and we welcome them both to our leadership team.”

### Planning to build

Comcast announced plans recently to build the first Universal-branded theme park and resort in Europe.

Plans for the theme park in the United Kingdom call for a theme park, several themed “lands” and a 500-room hotel. It will be located about 60 miles north of London.

“The unparalleled storytelling and technological innovation that the incredible team at Universal Destinations & Experiences brings to life is a perfect complement to the British creative arts and tourism industries,” said Mike Cavanagh, president of Comcast Corporation, in a press release.

### 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 wel-

come 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.

### 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).

.....  
*Does your business have news to share? Email us at [news@theocr.com](mailto:news@theocr.com) to be included in our weekly business roundup.*

# DoorDash rolls out delivery robots

By CAROLINE PETROW-COHEN  
Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

A robot on wheels could serve up your next meal thanks to a partnership between DoorDash and Coco Robotics that’s bringing food delivery robots to Los Angeles sidewalks.

The food delivery service DoorDash announced Thursday that eligible customers in Los Angeles and Chicago can order food through their app to be delivered by a small, box-shaped robot with zero emissions.

Coco Robotics and similar companies such as Serve Robotics and Starship Technologies have been operating food delivery robots in Los Angeles and other cities for several years. DoorDash’s international arm Wolt began a partnership with Coco in Helsinki, Finland, last year.

“We’re excited to expand our partnership with DoorDash, combining Coco’s AI robo-courier platform with DoorDash’s national scale and reach,” Coco Chief Executive Zach Rash said in a statement. “This collaboration marks an important step forward in reshaping urban delivery in the U.S.”

Coco has a fleet of more than 1,000 delivery robots that are



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Gary Coronado

A fleet of Coco robots at Colony Food Kitchen on Jan. 28, 2022, in Santa Monica, California. Coco, a robot-based delivery service using human-piloted robots, promises to deliver groceries, meals and beverage orders to your door in 15 minutes or less. DoorDash announced recently that it will roll out the robots in Los Angeles and Chicago.

remotely controlled by human operators. The company is headquartered in Santa Monica and was founded in 2020 by two UCLA graduates.

Despite the challenges of navigating busy city sidewalks and crosswalks already shared by pedestrians, Coco robots have completed more than

400,000 deliveries and partnered with hundreds of restaurants. Using delivery robots instead of human drivers can save restaurants up to 50% in

profits, according to Coco’s website.

Frustrated or skeptical passersby have kicked the bots or intentionally obstructed their path, while the cities of New York and San Francisco have banned them, on and off, because of congestion concerns. Some opponents say the bots take jobs from human workers and contribute to chaotic urban traffic.

DoorDash Labs, the company’s robotics and automation arm involved in the Coco partnership, announced a collaboration last year with a drone delivery service called Wing. Wing drones began delivering food in Christiansburg, Virginia, in March 2024 after launching a pilot program in Australia in 2022.

“Not every delivery needs a two-ton car just to deliver two chicken sandwiches,” Harrison Shih, senior director of DoorDash Labs, said in a statement. “We believe the future of delivery will be multimodal, and we’re thrilled to partner with Coco to expand sidewalk robot deliveries that complement the Dasher network.”

Coco robots will partner with nearly 600 merchants in Los Angeles through the DoorDash app. The robots’ median delivery distance is one mile, according to a company spokesperson.

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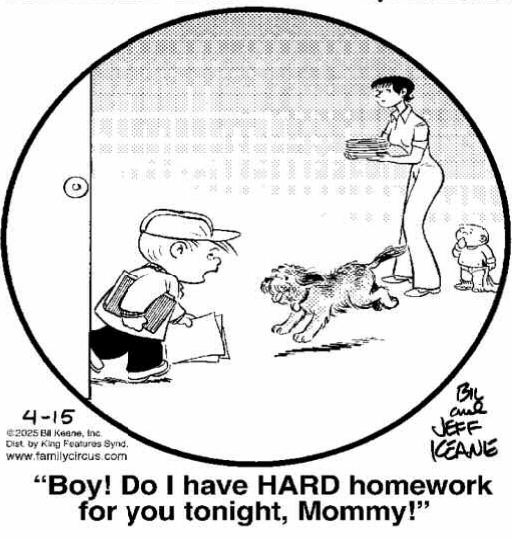
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Dave Coverly



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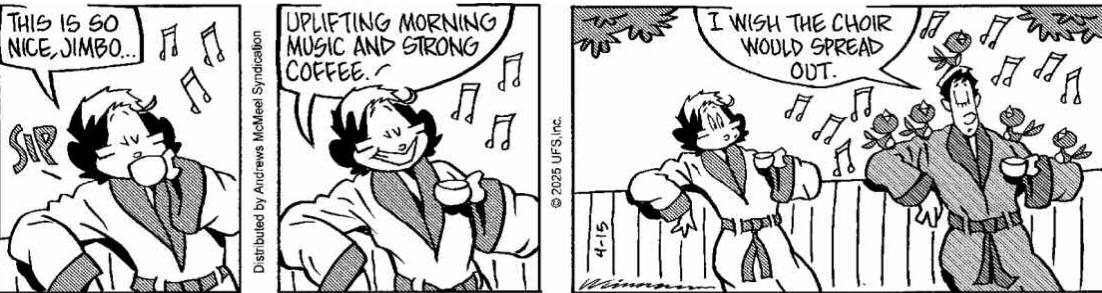
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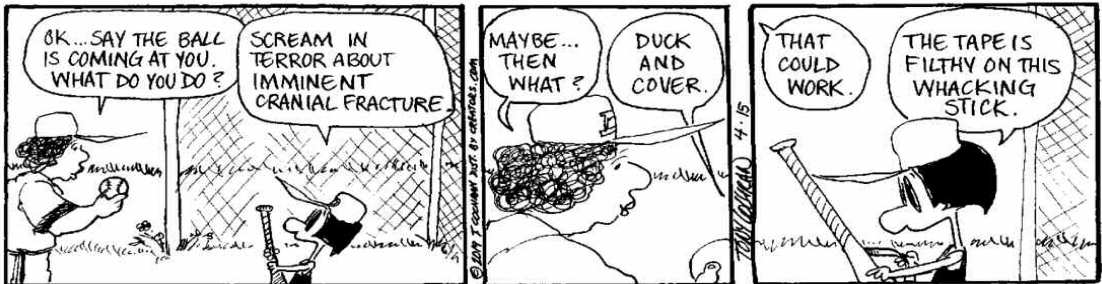
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



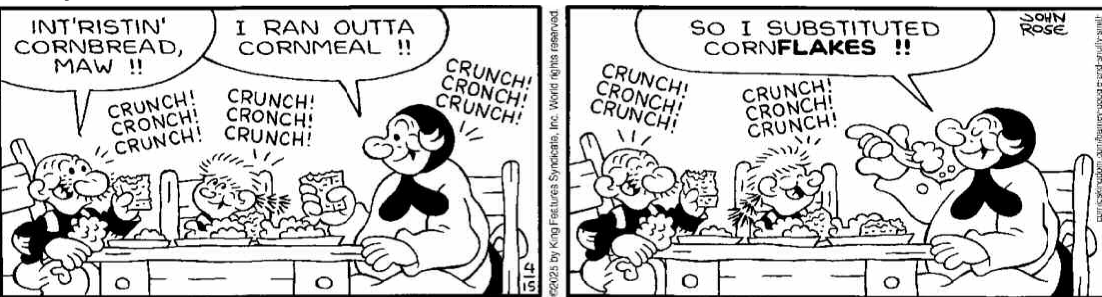
Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



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Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

An anti-percentage play

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

The bidding:  
North Pass East Pass South 1♥ West Pass  
3♥ Pass 4♥ Pass  
Opening lead — jack of clubs.  
Bridge is largely a game of percentages, but it is first and foremost a game of reasoning. Whenever possible, a player should try to improve on the cold mathematical percentages by putting to use any extraneous information he might gain as the play progresses. If he does this regularly, he will occasionally discover that the so-called percentage play is destined to lose, and that his only real chance is to adopt an anti-percentage play. For example, take this deal where South lost the first two club tricks

and ruffed the third club. Declarer had to lose a diamond trick, so the contract hinged on not losing a trick to the king of hearts.  
Declarer knew that the correct percentage play in hearts, missing three to the king, was to lead the jack from dummy and finesse. This would offer a much better chance of avoiding a heart loser than simply playing the ace in the hope of catching the singleton king.  
But before committing himself to this line of play, South decided to collect a bit more information. So at trick four, he led the diamond deuce to the queen, and when this lost to East's ace, he realized he would have to abandon the normal percentage play in the trump suit and instead pin his hopes on finding West with the singleton king. This was because East had passed at his first turn and had already shown up with the A-Q of clubs and ace of diamonds. Had he also held the king of hearts, he would surely have opened the bidding.  
And so, after East returned a diamond at trick five, South won with the king and laid down the ace of hearts, felling West's king to score a well-deserved victory. The collateral information declarer collected during the early play had changed the percentage play into a non-percentage play.

Tomorrow: Inferences and deductions.  
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4-15

CRYPTOQUIP

TPIZ YINALCYLZA KEEWN UILGI  
TEYW IGIYX HLX, TPLA NPECUH  
APIX LUTLXN NLX AE ILKP

EAPIY? "KPET!"

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: FAMOUS ROCK-AND-ROLL SINGER WHO ALWAYS SEEMED TO BE LAUGHING SOFTLY TO HIMSELF: CHUCKLE BERRY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: N equals S

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Pesters  
5 TV schedule abbr.  
8 Fir coat?  
12 Final notice  
13 Help  
14 Screen-writer  
15 Actress  
16 — & Evelyn (body care brand)  
18 Lacking sufficient space  
20 In any way  
21 Feedbag tidbit  
22 Count starter  
23 Wimp  
26 Skull  
30 Egyptian cobra  
31 Band's booking  
32 Out — limb  
33 Holds protectively  
36 "Married... with Children" name

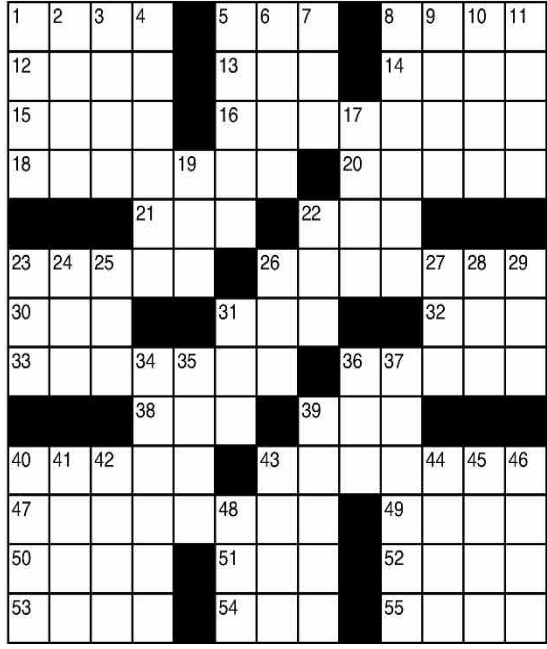
**38** Eggnog ingredient  
**39** "Alley —"  
**40** Calf-length skirts  
**43** Uninvited guest  
**47** Scrap-book creators  
**49** Coal carriers  
**50** Scurry  
**51** Cattle call  
**52** Norwegian saint  
**53** Hostels  
**54** Possess  
**55** Office part-timer  
**DOWN**  
1 Pear type  
2 Modern taxi alternative  
3 Arizona river  
4 John of "Full House"  
5 "Be silent," in music  
6 Oriole or wren  
7 Nabokov novel  
8 Secure tightly, with "down"  
9 Taj Mahal city  
10 Stagger  
11 Fall (over)  
17 "Hulk" actor  
19 Salary  
22 Assoc.  
23 Pouch  
24 Medit. nation

**25** Aroma-therapy spot  
**26** Prefix with gender  
**27** Physics particle  
**28** Bonn conjunction  
**29** Spring month  
**31** Prized possession  
**34** Snow formations  
**35** Craving  
**36** Large snake  
**37** Result  
**39** Director Welles  
**40** 1401, in Roman numerals  
**41** Neighbor of Iraq  
**42** "Phooey!"  
**43** Cornfield intruder  
**44** Golf target  
**45** Wax-coated cheese  
**46** Answer an invite  
**48** Punk rock offshoot

Solution time: 22 mins.



Yesterday's answer 4-15



GET IT IN THE CLASSIFIEDS

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Personal property will sell immediately following real estate.  
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Gary Loy AU01031608  
Travis Theurer AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069



# Track ...

Continued from page 8  
Carpenter and Beiswanger were also part of another record relay, with the former again putting the Patriots in position on the first leg. Jenna Dues, Beiswanger and London Lloyd followed as the team put up a time of 51.96 seconds for another meet record and a win by more than three seconds over Winchester.

“The 4x1 was lights out, handoffs great,” said Imel. “Our best time last year was a 50.8 in the conference meet to set the school record. ... So we’re heading in the right direction. Last year, I think we were a 53 here.

“4x4, I think we’ve got some surprise girls who realized, ‘I’m pretty good in the 400.’ ... Ariel Beiswanger was the one who broke that open for us in leg three.”

In addition to her effort in the two relays, Carpenter broke out individually.

The sophomore launched herself 15 feet, 4 1/2 inches, on her final long jump attempt to set her career best and a meet record, surpassing Winchester’s Madyson Hummel by 1 1/2 inches to win the event. The explosion for the victory and the record came after she went 13 feet, 4 inches, on her first attempt and hurt her ankle on her second.

“I just had no one watching me, so I wasn’t under the pressure of feeling like I was gonna mess up,” said Carpenter. “And so I just went and put all the power I had because I knew it was my last jump. i just went for it.”

She also won her heat of the 100 dash and finished second overall behind Lilyana Mayberry of Winchester. (Beiswanger was third.)

Jordyn Hutzler delivered big points for the Patriots in the throws,



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County High School sophomore Peyton Carpenter runs the opening leg of the 4x400-meter relay during Saturday’s Wapahani Raider Relays. The Patriots went on to win with a meet-record time. Carpenter was part of two other meet records, leading off the 4x100 relay and winning the long jump at 15 feet, 4 1/2 inches.

winning the shot put at 30 feet, 6 inches, and finishing second in the discus at 88 feet.

Senior Adam Alig was the lone winner for the JCHS boys, fighting off Hunter Patterson of Winchester by three tenths of a second in 16.28. He was also third in the high jump at 5 feet, 6 inches, behind meet-record breaker Easton Foster (6

feet, 7 inches) of Monroe Central and Daylin Davis (6 feet) of Mississinewa.

Alig also joined Gabe Pinkerton, Caden Gambill and Garrett Hidy for a runner-up time of 45.95 seconds in the 4x100 relay. Alex Rivers, Max Klopfenstein, Blake Collins and Boggs finished the distance medley relay in 12:22.67 for second place.

“Joseph Boggs had an extremely great day in the 4x4, 4x8, DMR,” said Imel.

Brasen Glassford added a third-place finish in the shot put at 41 feet, 9 inches.

Adding third-place efforts for the girls team were Maria Hemmelgarn in the 100 hurdles and Mya Kunkler in the high jump.

# Three

Continued from page 8

Mallory Winner didn’t waste the opportunity, sending a single up the middle to plate May and advancing on the throw from Fort Recovery center fielder Emma Will.

Carley Trinidad delivered what would be the deciding blow with a 2-RBI double over Will’s head in centerfield.

“I talked to her, and not her but all of them, about not being out front and overextended,” Arbuckle said. “We’ll go with the pitch and I think that at bat she really did. She stayed on it and hit it where it was pitched and didn’t try to pull the ball.”

With the 3-run lead, Mallory Winner was able to carry Jay County the rest of the way. Winner went the distance in the circle, surrendering six hits while striking out eight batters.

The senior had two innings in which she faced the minimum, including the second where she struck out all three batters, and three more where she only gave up one single.

“I’ve changed my mindset here recently,” Winner said. “I’m telling myself, ‘As soon as I walk on this field, I’m the best there is. There’s nobody better for this position.’ That’s what I did today on the mound.”

The two times the Indians managed to score came when Jenna Homan led off the inning. In the fourth inning she poked a single through the middle of the infield and reached on an error by Ruble at shortstop in the sixth.

Both times, Ella Schoen followed up with a single to move Homan to second base. In the fourth, Kylie Post grounded into a fielder’s choice and Alexis Grisez scored Homan on a groundout to Winner. In the sixth, Homan and

Box score									
Jay County Patriots vs. Fort Recovery Indians									
Jay County (4-0)									
	ab	r	h	bi					
Missicano cf	4	0	0	0					
Ruble ss	4	0	3	0					
Lykins c	4	0	1	0					
May cr	0	1	0	0					
Shimp 3b	4	1	0	0					
Winner p	2	0	1	1					
Plessinger cr	0	1	0	0					
Trinidad dp	3	0	1	2					
Bice 2b	3	0	0	0					
Chowning lf	3	0	1	0					
Brown 3b	2	0	0	0					
Romine ph	1	0	0	0					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>3</b>					
Fort Recovery (7-2)									
	ab	r	h	bi					
Will cf	4	0	2	0					
AvGrisez ss	3	0	0	0					
Homan p	3	2	2	0					
Schoen 3b	3	0	2	0					
Post c	3	0	0	0					
AlGrisez 1b	3	0	0	1					
Hietkamp rf	3	0	0	0					
Hart lf	3	0	0	0					
Armstrong 2b	3	0	0	0					
<b>Totals</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>1</b>					
<b>Jay County</b>	<b>003</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>— 3</b>					
<b>Ft. Recovery</b>	<b>000</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>— 2</b>					
LOB — Jay County 7, Fort Recovery 5. 2B — Jay County 1 (Trinidad). SB — Fort Recovery 4 (Homan 2, Schoen, Post).									
IP H R ER BB SO									
<b>Jay County</b>									
Winner	7	6	2	1	0	8			
<b>Fort Recovery</b>									
Homan	7	7	3	2	1	7			

Schoen executed a double steal and advanced to home and third, respectively, on a throwing error by Lykins.

Homan went the distance for FRHS, giving up the three runs on seven hits in the loss. She also struck out seven batters, including four which went down looking.

While they couldn’t muster up the third run to tie the game, the Indians are still feeling good about the way they’ve been playing and will look to learn from the loss.

“I told them, ‘We’re 7-2 and those two losses and our two losses are by one run each to two really good teams in Celina and Jay County,’” Schoen said. “That’s nothing to be ashamed of. We’re playing to that level of competition and it’s huge.”

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Jay County — Softball vs. Eastbrook – 5 p.m.; Baseball vs. New Castle – 5:30 p.m.; Track tri meet at home – 5:30 p.m.; Junior high baseball at Bellmont – 5 p.m.; Junior high softball at Yorktown – 5:30 p.m.  
Fort Recovery — Track tri meet at home – 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Parkway – 5 p.m.; Softball at

Parkway – 5 p.m.; JV baseball at Parkway – 5 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**  
11 a.m. — Liga MX soccer: Juarez at Necaxa (FS1)  
7:05 p.m. — MLB: Cleveland Guardians at Baltimore Orioles (TBS)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs Play-In: Atlanta

Hawks at Orlando Magic (TNT)  
7:30 p.m. — NHL: Florida Panthers at Tampa Bay Lightning (ESPN)  
8 p.m. — NHL: Utah Hockey Club at St. Louis Blues (FDSN Indiana)  
10 p.m. — NBA Playoffs Play-In: Memphis Grizzlies at Golden State Warriors (TNT)  
10:30 p.m. — NHL: Los Angeles Kings at Seattle Kraken (ESPN)

**Wednesday**  
1:15 p.m. — MLB: Houston Astros at St. Louis Cardinals (ESPN)  
2:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Newcastle United at Crystal Palace (USA)  
6 p.m. — Women’s college lacrosse: Rutgers at Maryland (BTN)  
6 p.m. — USL Super League soccer: Lexington at Spokane Zephyr (FOX)  
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Seattle Mariners at Cincin-

nati Reds (FS1)  
7:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs Play-In: Miami Heat at Chicago Bulls (ESPN)  
10 p.m. — NHL: Vegas Golden Knights at Vancouver Canucks (TNT)  
10 p.m. — NBA Playoffs Play-In: Dallas Mavericks at Sacramento Kings (ESPN)  
.....  
To have an event listed in “Sports on tap,” email details to sports@thecr.com.

90 SALE CALENDAR

**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Located: 8341 N 400 E, Bryant Indiana (Bearcreek Farms) on Thursday Afternoon April 17th, 2025 5:00 P. M.  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS - OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS - TOOLS  
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TED & KAREN HORN ESTATE  
Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

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**PUBLIC AUCTION**  
Saturday April 19th, 2025  
TIME 10:00 A.M.  
LOCATED: 3202 W 600 S, PORTLAND IN  
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Ford 9N Tractor. Ford 8N Tractor w/ Sherman trans. 1989 Dodge D100 pickup truck w/ 318 engine. 25 ton log splitter. Simplicity 4212 mower w/ 38i cut. John boat. Sears 3.5 horsepower boat engine. Cement mixer. . Fishing poles and supplies. ANTIQUES ñ FURNITURE - MISC  
Oak roll top desk. Oak office chair. Liberty wood stove. Cedar chest. Cast iron lawn sprinkler. Cast iron dutch oven. Cycle mower. (2) Kirby sweepers. Window air conditioner. Dog cage. Squirrel cage fan. . Several items not mentioned.  
OWNER: Mike L Hunt  
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.  
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING AND REAL ESTATE  
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**

Marshall Superior Court 1  
STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF MARSHALL, SS:  
IN THE MARSHALL SUPERIOR COURT #1  
CAUSE NO. 50D01-2503-GU-000015  
IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF KANTON EUGENE HER-SHEL ROMINE, MINOR  
AFFIDAVIT FOR SUMMONS BY PUBLICATION  
Edward R. Ruiz, upon his oath, deposes and says he is the attorney for the Petitioners, Steven and Brandi, and the last known address of Desiree Lea Stevenson and Wesley Romine are no longer confirmed. The purpose of this affidavit is to obtain an order for Publication by Summons.  
Edward R. Ruiz #18860-53  
State of Indiana  
County of Marshall, SS:  
Before me the undersigned, a Notary Public in the above-named county and state, personally appeared Edward R. Ruiz and being first duly sworn by me upon his oath, says that the facts alleged in the foregoing Affidavit are true.  
Signed and sealed this 27th day of May, 2025.  
Irene Y. Kelley  
NOTARY PUBLIC-OFFICIAL SEAL  
State of Indiana.  
Marshall County  
Commission No: NP0725944  
Commission Expires: March 24, 2028  
Irene Y. Kelley, Notary Public  
A Resident of Marshall County, Indiana  
My Commission Expires: March 24, 2028  
4-8,15,22-2025-HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF MARSHALL, SS:  
IN THE MARSHALL SUPERIOR COURT #1  
CAUSE NO. 50D01-2503-GU-000015  
IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF KANTON EUGENE HER-SHEL ROMINE, MINOR.  
AMENDED  
NOTICE OF FILING OF PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GUARDIAN OF THE PERSON OVER A MINOR AND HEARING THEREON  
To: Desiree Lea Stevenson  
Last known Address  
623 N. Alexander Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
On the 30th day of May 2025 at 10:00a.m., in Marshall County, State of Indiana, the Marshall Circuit Court, a hearing will be held to determine whether co-guardians should be appointed for the minor child. At the hearing, the court will determine whether the minor child is incapacitated person under Indiana law. This proceeding may substantially affect the rights of the minor child.  
If the Court finds that the minor child is an incapacitated person, the Court, at the hearing, shall also consider whether Steven and Brandi Fredel should be appointed as permanent co-guardians of the minor child.  
You may attend the hearing and be represented by an attorney. The Petition may be heard and determined in your absence.  
Clerk of Marshall Circuit Court  
Prepared by:  
Edward R. Ruiz, #18860-53  
RUIZ LAW P.C.  
110 West Adams Street  
Plymouth, IN 46563  
P: 574-540-2345  
Attorney for Petitioners  
4-8,15,22-2025 -HSPAXLP

250 PUBLIC NOTICE

**Public Notice**

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF MARSHALL, SS:  
IN THE MARSHALL SUPERIOR COURT #1  
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Clerk of Marshall Circuit Court  
Prepared by:  
Edward R. Ruiz, #18860-53  
RUIZ LAW P.C.  
110 West Adams Street  
Plymouth, IN 46563  
P: 574-540-2345  
Attorney for Petitioners  
4-8,15,22-2025 -HSPAXLP

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Sommers, Evers both threw five-inning no-hitters, see roundup below

Jay County baseball hosts New Castle today, see Sports on tap

# Three in the third

Third inning pushes Patriots to victory in lowest scoring affair of season

By **ANDREW BALKO**  
The Commercial Review

FORT RECOVERY — Both the Patriots and Indians have established themselves as strong offensive teams.

The Patriots hadn't played more than five innings during the first three games of the season, building double-digit leads to enact the mercy rule.

The Tribe has scored 10 or more runs in four of its first eight games, averaging 10.4 runs over that stretch.

But when the two teams clashed, the game was closer to a pitcher's duel, with the two teams combining for five runs.

A third inning spark provided the Patriots with just the lift they needed to walk away with the victory.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Natalie May dives back into third base while Fort Recovery's Ella Schoen lays a tag to try and backpick the freshman in Saturday's 3-2 win for the Patriots. May was called safe in the nearly simultaneous play and would later score the first run on a single by Mallory Winner.

was the most the Tribe has given up this year, allowing two runs to cross five times — ended up being their downfall.

“We have really focused the last several years on eliminating that one bad inning,” said FRHS coach Carrie Schoen.

“Unfortunately today we didn't do it and that's when they got their three runs. ... The girls continued to be fierce and gritty. They got through that one bad inning and rest and that's the mindset of an athlete.”

The third inning started with Brenna Ruble reaching first base on an infield single and trading places with Jaelynn Lykins on a fielder's choice.

Natalie May, a courtesy runner for Lykins, advanced to second on a passed ball. May made it to third base as Jozey Shimp was called safe at first base. Shimp made her way to second off of catcher's indifference to put two runners in scoring position and only one out.

See Three page 7

## Jay girls track ran away with the Wapahani relays

By **RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

SELMA — They didn't need to win the final event to sew up a victory.

For the Patriots, it was simply an exclamation point.

Jay County High School's girls track team closed Saturday's Wapahani Raider Relays with a meet-record time to take first place in the 4x400-meter relay for an emphatic finish to their team title.

“I'm really happy with the girls' performances,” said JCHS coach Joe Imel, whose team broke three meet records. “We had a lot of PRs. ... I'm very, very happy. ... All around I feel like we had a really great day today.”

The Patriots' 101 points put them 13 ahead of runner-up Winchester in the eight-team field. (They won despite being without three athletes, including senior hurdler and long jumper Morgan DeHoff.) The host Raiders were third

with 79.

Jay County's boys scored 70 points to finish third behind champion Mississinewa (110) and the host Raiders (89). Hagerstown scored 64 for fourth place.

“The boys had lots of improvements,” Imel said. “We're not where we need to be, but we're much better than we were last year.”

In the meet-ending 4x400 relay, Peyton Carpenter continued her strong day by putting the Patriots in strong position on the opening leg. By the time the runners made the cut during the second lap, Alexis Sibray was in the lead. She kept that spot for the next 300 meters and Ariel Beiswanger pulled away in the third leg. Mya Kunkler continued to pull away in the final 400 meters as JCHS beat the runner-up host raiders by nearly 10 seconds in 4 minutes, 33.16 seconds, for a new meet record.

See Track page 7

## Sommers' no-hitter gives Jay its first win

GAS CITY — The first game of the year was a rough go for the Patriots and they lost the second on a walk off.

They had the chance to pick up their first win against the Indians and after letting an opportunity slip away in the first game, they finally got it.

Kade Sommers tossed a five-inning no hitter to earn Jay County High School's baseball team its first win of the season at Mississinewa on Saturday 14-0 after it got walked off 9-8 in the first game.

Sommers only allowed three walks while striking out 12 batters in the no-hitter.

Jay County (1-3) put up crooked numbers in every inning other than the third. Carter Fuglett led the team with three RBIs, while A.J. Myers, Wyatt Foster and Camden Frayley contributed two each.

A four-run sixth inning pushed the Patriots out to an 8-1 advantage in the first game. Mississinewa (2-2)

### Local roundup

responded with four runs in the bottom of the sixth and tallied four more in the eighth.

Brock Wasson got stuck with the loss after giving up two hits and one run without getting an out.

**Evers leads**

FORT RECOVERY — Gavin Evers pitched a five-inning no hitter to lead the Fort Recovery baseball team to a 17-1 win over the Ansonia Tigers.

Ansonia (1-4) got its only run in the first inning without a hit. Cainan Robinson walked to open the contest, stole second base and made it to third on a ground out. He scored on a ground out by Asher Shives. Only three more Tigers got on base by getting hit by pitches.

Caden Grisez dominated at the plate, going 4-for-4 with a triple and a double. He drove in six runs and scored four more himself. Mason Diller also had a perfect day at the plate, hitting 3-for-3 with three runs and three RBIs.

**Pats win**

HAGERSTOWN — Jay County's girls tennis team picked up its first win of the season with a 5-0 sweep of the Hagerstown Tigers on Saturday.

The Patriots (1-1) got an automatic point at the No. 2 doubles due to HHS not having enough players for the position.

All three of the singles players swept their opponents 6-0, 6-0. Brenna Bailey handled the No. 1 singles, Meredith Dirksen claimed the No. 2 contest and Lilly Johnson secured her first win at the No. 3.

Sophie Sprunger and Gretchen Link earned their first win as a duo, taking the No. 1 doubles position 6-2, 6-1.

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