

Waiting game



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Jay County Commissioners purchased 68 acres of land on the west side of Portland that is slated for a mixed-use development with commercial properties along Votaw Street (Indiana 26/67) and housing to the north. Jay County Redevelopment Commission is in a holding pattern for that project and proposed tax increment financing (TIF) districts around planned solar farms as it waits for grant and tax information from the state.

Redevelopment commission in holding pattern on TIF district information, funding for 68 acres

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review

Hurry up and wait.

That's the situation Jay County Redevelopment Commission members are finding themselves in with tax increment financing (TIF) districts and grant dollars for the county's 68-acre infrastructure project.

Redevelopment commission members agreed Wednesday to sign an engagement letter with consulting firm Baker Tilly. Specifically, commission members agreed to one section of the proposed agreement, which will involve Jason Semler of Baker Tilly calculating the financial impact if the county enacts TIF districts around the four commercial solar farms that are planned for Jay County.

In March, Jay County Redevelopment Commission talked about receiving estimates from

consulting firm Baker Tilly and law firm Barnes & Thornburg for establishing TIF districts in the locations planned for solar farms.

Redevelopment commission president Carl Walker explained Wednesday both companies sent letters of intent to the board. Walker noted Baker Tilly would be providing a preliminary analysis into the potential revenue from the districts, as well as the impact they would have on taxing units in the areas.

"As a part of this, obviously, when you're taking money out of taxpayer ... revenue funds that come in, it's going to have impacts on other entities, such as schools' and townships' budgets," said Walker. "Because that's less money that's going to be left for them."

Jay County auditor Emily Franks told commission mem-

bers Semler will need another four to five weeks in order to put together the data, pointing to approval this week of Indiana Senate Bill 1, which makes tax changes in the coming years.

Franks said the soonest Semler would be able to present TIF district information and other data to redevelopment commission is May 22. (He also prepares an annual presentation to the commission on its financials.)

Walker questioned if the board should sign engagement letters with either Baker Tilly or Barnes & Thornburg now, suggesting commission members either approve letters contingent on Semler's report or hold off until Semler is able to meet with them.

Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes noted the redevelopment commission would need to engage with Baker Tilly in order to have

him present the TIF district data. Commission member Chuck Huffman suggested signing a portion of the letter with Baker Tilly, pointing to a specific service outlined in the letter that he said would involve preparing an analysis on the impact of the proposed TIF areas on the overlapping taxing units.

"I think we need to know," agreed commission member Doug Horn.

Shannon Current — she's a nonvoting member of redevelopment commission and represents Jay School Corporation — said she would want to see the financial impact for the school. Pointing to financial unknowns with Senate Bill 1, she expressed concern from the school district with moving forward on establishing new TIF districts until more information is available.

See **Waiting** page 2

Board moves toward paving project

Contract approved for design work on plans for runway

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

While waiting for the final piece of funding to come in for its capital improvement project this year, Portland Municipal Airport is working toward future plans.

Portland Board of Aviation approved a contract with engineering firm Butler, Fairman & Seufert on Wednesday for the design of a runway rehabilitation project.

Plans call for milling, sealing cracks and paving the original 4,000 feet of the airport runway — its full length is 5,500 feet following its extension project — that was last paved in 1997. Jason Clearwaters of Butler, Fairman and Seufert said the pavement scored 54 out of 100 in 2022 and is expected to drop to a score of 40 by the time the rehabilitation project is planned for 2026.

Aviation board members Faron Parr, Clyde Bray, John Ferguson and Caleb Lutes approved the contract as well as an independent fee evaluation related to the agreement. They also approved submitting a grant application to the Federal Aviation Administration for the project. (The application is due by the end of the month.)

Clearwaters also updated the board on its planned apron extension project. He said he is working with contractor Kwest Group on a draft schedule. The expected start date will be in August with completion by the end of October.

He said the airport is still waiting to receive its funding from the 2021 federal infrastructure bill for the project.

See **Paving** page 2

Revenue projection down

By WHITNEY DOWNARD
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

In a sharp turnaround from the flush financial fortunes of the last budget cycle, Indiana's projected revenue for the next budget cycle fell by \$2 billion according to new forecast data publicized on Wednesday.

The current budget cycle for the 2025 fiscal year is also short by an estimated \$400 million, though closing that gap will likely rely on reserves.

Indiana's tax revenue is still growing but not at the rate anticipated.

According to chief budget architects Sen. Ryan Mishler and Rep. Jeff Thompson, "everything is on the table" when it comes to potential cuts.

"We just have a lot of tough

Estimates show \$2 billion less for next budget cycle

decisions to make and we have to be disciplined," said Mishler; R-Mishawaka. "... K-12 education is the last thing we want to do anything with so I would prefer to put everything else in front of that."

When it came to increasing so-called sin taxes — whether on gaming, cigarettes or alcohol, Thompson didn't rule it out.

"All of those things have to be discussed," said the Lizton Republican.

For longtime lawmakers, the news invoked memories of budgeting after the 2008 recession, when the state weathered more than a billion-dollar shortfall.

"This one scares me a lot more because the number is a lot higher. And back then, if you remember, we had federal money to backfill. We don't have any federal money to backfill. This is all on us," said Mishler.

See **Down** page 2



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Whitney Downard

Chief budget architects State Sen. Ryan Mishler, R-Mishawaka, and Rep. Jeff Thompson, R-Lizton, react to new forecast data projecting \$2 billion less in state revenue on Wednesday.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 55 degrees Wednesday. The low was 36.

Rain, with a chance of thunderstorms, is expected tonight with winds gusting to 35 mph and a low in the lower 60s.

Expect rain and storms Saturday with continued windy conditions and a high in the upper 60s. The low will dip into the upper 40s.

Highs will be in the 60s through Tuesday. There is a 60% chance of rain Sunday and Monday.

See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers from 8 to 11 a.m. Saturday across from Pennville Fire Station and 9 a.m. to noon in the parking lot at 220 Lincoln St., Portland.

Coming up

Saturday — Coverage of this week's Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals meeting.

Tuesday — Coverage of Saturday's FRHS baseball doubleheader against South Adams.

Wednesday — Details from Monday's Jay School Board meeting.

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Waiting ...

Continued from page 1

Current noted that as part of the new legislation, in 2028 schools will no longer receive local income tax revenue. That's more than half a million dollars for Jay Schools, she said.

"So, that's our concern with TIF districts, what kind of impact is that going to have on the school corporation," she said.

Walker asked if there is a proposal to replace that revenue, with Current saying she hasn't heard one.

The redevelopment commission then decided, with Harold Towell dissenting and Ted

Champ absent, to move forward with the TIF district impact presentation.

Relatedly, the redevelopment commission tabled decision on moving forward with a letter of intent from Barnes & Thornburg for its legal assistance in creating the TIF districts. (Fees would come out to about \$20,000.)

Also Wednesday, Walker informed commission members about an April 8 meeting between county and Portland representatives regarding the county's infrastructure project on its 68 acres along Indiana 67. (Walker and Huffman attended

the meeting for redevelopment commission.)

He said attendees discussed the project and reviewed the proposed plans with Cecil Penland of planning firm Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates. Walker said plans are for Portland Redevelopment Commission to talk about the project at its next meeting on April 25, and he shared hopes for the city to commit funds toward the effort.

The redevelopment commission discussed the project at length with a few attending public officials, including Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake, Jay County Council president Matt Minnich

and Jay County commissioners Chad Aker and Duane Monroe.

Huffman asked if the redevelopment commission needed to take any action on the project.

Curtin noted Jay County Commissioners approved an amended contract Monday with planning firm Rundell, Ernstberger and Associates. The amendment authorizes the project's topographical survey, which will take between six to eight weeks to complete.






Responding to a question from Walker, Aker noted Jay County hasn't heard from Indiana Economic Development Corporation on its request for Regional Eco-

nomics Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 funds for the 68-acre project.

Questions emerged about redevelopment commission's \$1.5 million commitment in the project and whether it is still valid, with Walker saying it was contingent on receiving grant funding and a contribution from Portland.

Other discussion ensued. No formal decision was made on the matter Wednesday.

In other business, redevelopment commission members Harold Towell, Doug Horn, Carl Walker and Chuck Huffman OK'd paying a \$4,576.10 claim from CWC Latitudes.

CR almanac				
Saturday 4/19	Sunday 4/20	Monday 4/21	Tuesday 4/22	Wednesday 4/23
 66/47 <small>Saturday's forecast shows a 90% chance of thunderstorms, with more rain at night.</small>	 62/57 <small>There's a 60% chance of storms Sunday when the high will be around 60 degrees.</small>	 66/44 <small>Monday looks to be mostly sunny with a 60% chance of showers.</small>	 68/49 <small>Mostly sunny on Tuesday when the high will be in the upper 60s.</small>	 76/52 <small>Wednesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a slight chance of rain.</small>

Lotteries	
Powerball 20-24-42-43-49 Power Ball: 19 Power Play: 3 Estimated jackpot: \$131 million	Daily Four: 2-9-5-0 Quick Draw: 9-10-11-12-13-15-19-25-27-41-42-44-54-55-59-61-62-69-77-79 Cash 5: 6-27-34-36-38 Estimated jackpot: \$231,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$112 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 0-4-6 Pick 4: 4-2-8-9 Pick 5: 4-1-4-0-1 Evening Pick 3: 1-7-9 Pick 4: 7-6-3-9 Pick 5: 3-9-3-6-6 Rolling Cash: 2-10-12-26-35 Estimated jackpot: \$110,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 9-0-0 Daily Four: 2-3-3-7 Quick Draw: 7-12-20-22-24-27-33-35-44-47-48-54-61-64-65-67-69-72-74-76 Evening Daily Three: 3-7-1	

Markets	
Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.94 May corn.....4.97 June corn5.01	May beans10.43 Wheat 5.04
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....5.01 May corn.....5.08 June corn5.11	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.91 May corn.....4.94 Beans10.41 May beans10.44 Wheat5.08
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.98 May corn4.98 Beans10.43	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.84 May corn.....4.89 Beans10.30 May beans10.30 Wheat4.91

Today in history	
<p>In 1506, Pope Julius II laid the first stone for the new St. Peter's Basilica in Vatican City. Construction was completed in 1615, with Pope Urban VIII dedicating the basilica in 1626.</p> <p>In 1775, Paul Revere made his ride to warn residents in the Boston area that the British were going to attack.</p> <p>In 2013, the Fort Recovery High School baseball team continued its turn-around with a 3-2 victory over Franklin-Monroe. It was the 10th win of the season for the Indians, who finished 9-17 in 2012 and had won just two games apiece in 2010 and '11.</p>	<p>In 2018, Jay County Development Corporation executive director Bill Bradley informed the organization's board of directors that he had accepted a job as president/CEO of LaGrange County Economic Development Corporation. He had been with JCDC for almost 11 years.</p> <p>In 2022, Jay School Board hired Chuck Roesch to become the third band director in the history of Jay County High School. Roesch, who had been at Centerville for two decades, took over for the retiring Kelly Smeltzer.</p> <p>—The CR</p>

Citizen's calendar	
Monday 5 p.m. — Jay School Board, General Shanks, 414 E. Floral Ave., 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.	5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board special meeting, Portland Memorial Park (Runkle-Miller Field), Western Avenue. 6 p.m. — Redkey Town Council, park cabin, 50 Mooney St.
Tuesday	Wednesday 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St., Dunkirk.

Paving ...

Continued from page 1

The funding was announced in January but has not yet been distributed.

"The FAA, since the administration change, has written no grants," Clearwaters said.

In other business, the board:

•Learned from Clearwaters that a runway safety area inventory was completed as requested by the FAA. No issues were found in the area around the airport's runway and the inventory was sent to the FAA on March 28.

•Heard the following from Tavzel:

—The airport sold 5,480 gallons of fuel in March for \$23,137. That's up from 4,777 gallons in March 2024.

—New runway end lights were installed earlier Wednesday and are fully operational.

—He presented to Portland Rotary Club on April

9, sharing information about the airport's completed runway extension project and its planned apron expansion.

—He is considering getting quotes for a small corporate hangar for the airport.

•Paid claims totaling \$739.23.

Felony court news

Resisting police

A Portland man was sentenced to prison for resisting law enforcement.

Christopher A. Loden, 40, 689 Katelynn Drive, Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to two years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Loden was assessed \$189 in court costs.

As part of his plea agreement, a Level 6 felony for unlawful possession of a syringe and a Class C misdemeanor for operating a vehicle while intoxicated were dismissed.

Domestic battery

Two people were sentenced to jail for domestic battery charges.

Gregory A. Cash, 59, 903 E. Walnut St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to domestic battery, a Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 180 days in Jay County Jail with all but eight days suspended and given credit for time served. Cash was assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention fee.

As part of his plea agreement, Cash's charge was lessened from a Level 5 felony.

Jennifer J. Morgan, 35, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to domestic battery on a person younger than 14 years old, a Level 6 felony. Morgan was sentenced to one year in Jay County Jail with all but four days suspended and given four days credit for time served. Morgan was fined \$25, assessed \$189 in court costs and ordered to pay a \$50 domestic violence prevention and treatment fee. She was placed on probation for 361 days.

Battery

Two Portland residents were sentenced to serve time for battery charges.

Michael D. Malyska, 29, 609 South Shank St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to battery resulting in serious bodily injury, a Level 5 felony. He was sentenced to three years in Indiana Department of Correction and given credit for time served. Malyska was fined \$1 and assessed \$189 in court costs. As

part of his plea agreement, two Level 3 felonies for criminal confinement and a Level 6 felony for strangulation were dismissed.

Hayley M. Hein, 24, 206 W. Main St., Portland, pleaded guilty in Jay Circuit Court to battery resulting in moderate bodily injury, a Level 6 felony. Hein was sentenced to 2.5 years in Jay County Jail with all her sentence suspended and given credit for time served. Hein was assessed \$189 in court costs. As part of her plea agreement, her charge was lessened from a Level 5 felony.

Unlawful possession

A Dunkirk man was sentenced to jail for unlawful possession of a syringe.

Robert O. Patterson, 55, 102 E. Ohio St., Dunkirk, pleaded guilty in Jay Superior Court to the Level 6 felony. He was sentenced to 730 days in Jay County Jail with all but two days suspended and given two days credit for time served.

Patterson was placed on probation for 728 days, fined \$25 and assessed \$189 in court costs.

Down ...

Continued from page 1

"So we're going to have to live within our means."

With a goal to finish the 2025 legislative session next week, lawmakers don't have much time to identify potential cuts — though the two Republicans anticipated long nights ahead to meet that preferred deadline.

Democrats pointed to the need to protect Hoosiers during uncertain economic times and minimizing harm through state resources.

"We are extremely concerned for Hoosiers across the state, because the same underlying conditions that are impacting the state budget are impacting Hoosiers," said Sen. Fady Qaddoura, D-Indianapolis.

"From the price of goods and services to the challenges of those who rely on retirement funds to small businesses relying on their products that they ship."

Qaddoura noted that Senate Democrats had pushed to incorporate sin taxes into the budget earlier in the week, adding that a \$2 cigarette tax increase would bring in an estimated \$800 million.

Moments after release of the downgraded fore-

cast, the Indiana Chamber of Commerce called for the General Assembly to pull the trigger on that tax.

"A big action still on the table this legislative session is a minimum \$2 per pack increase to the cigarette tax," said President and CEO Vanessa Green Sindors. "We urge lawmakers to put the increase in the state budget — both for the positive impact on the health of Hoosiers who smoke and the additional revenue."

The December forecast data included roughly \$800 million in new revenue for the state over the next two years, though nearly all of

that came in the first year. Now even that marginal growth is gone.

Much of the loss can be attributed to economic uncertainty, including worries about the impact of tariffs in the country's most manufacturing-intensive state.

"When the U.S. gets a cold, Indiana gets pneumonia," said Rep. Greg Porter, D-Indianapolis. "We're a manufacturing state and (with) the tariffs and other issues out there in the federal government ... this really affects our bottom line."

According to an analysis from Axios Indianapolis,

Indiana is the third-most reliant state when it comes to China, which imported \$6.1 billion in Hoosier goods in 2023. More than half of that was in pharmaceuticals and medicines followed by oilseeds and grains.

Democrats pointed to potential areas for savings, including pushing back anticipated income tax cuts and clawing back money from the Indiana Economic Development Corporation.

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

MAY DAYS SAVINGS

Run a full-page color ad in

The Commercial Review (Portland),
The News-Gazette (Winchester)
and The News Times (Hartford City)

for **\$600**

Space for color is limited. Ads will automatically convert to black and white if color space is not available.

5x5 BLOWOUT for the 5th month of the year!

Run all of the following:

FOUR 5x5 ads in The Commercial Review
TWO 5x5 ads in The News-Gazette
ONE 5x5 ad in The News Times

for **\$250**

Call (260) 726-8141 or email ads@thecr.com

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

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

SERVICES

Today

Chowning. Connie: 5 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

Service listings provided by

PROGRESSIVE DEL TORO

OFFICE PRODUCTS

120 N. Meridian St.
Portland, Indiana 47371
(260) 726-9201
progressiveofficeproducts.com



Photo provided

Citizenship demonstrated

East Elementary School recently recognized second grade students for demonstrating citizenship. Pictured above in the front row are Parker Brunnermer, Thiago Norori and Romina Castro. In the back row are Phynox Storie, Ella Bowlan and Vincent Rollins. Not pictured is Daylan Winters.

Marriage licenses

Ethan T. Theurer, 24, Pen-
nville, and Whitney D. Will, 26,
Pennville
Tyler D. Evans, 41, Portland,
and Molly E. Sanchez, 34, Port-
land
Olivia J. Braun, 27, Portland,
and Dustin M. Fields, 30, Port-
land

Kristy L. Alig, 24, Bryant, and
Mitchell J. Metzger, 24, Fort
Recovery, Ohio
Jayla B. Barker, 25, Redkey,
and Charles E. Shreeve, 28, Red-
key
Alexa S. Barrett, 24, Portland,
and Alexander M. Plummer, 22,
Portland

Bonnie Y. Carpenter, 54, Port-
land, and David T. Kahn, 48,
Portland
David J. Best, 49, Portland,
and Katie J. Branscum, 45, Port-
land
Kenia De Los Angeles Lopez
Pichardo, 40, Portland, and Kyle
W. Stickrath, 38, Portland

Community Calendar

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

Today
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 Coalition
office at 100 N. Meridian
St., Portland. For more
information, call (260) 251-
3259.
DUNKIRK HISTORI-
CAL MUSEUM — Is open
from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on
the third Friday and Sat-
urday of each month at
Webster Depot, 132 W.
Railroad St.
CINCINNATUS
LEAGUE — Will hold its
next meeting at noon Fri-
day, April 18, at Harmony
Cafe in Portland.

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 SOL-
DIER — 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 muse-
umofthesoldier.com.
DUNKIRK HISTORI-
CAL MUSEUM — Is open
from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on
the third Saturday and
Friday of each month at
Webster Depot, 132 W.
Railroad St.
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.
PING PONG — Will be
played from 9 a.m. to noon
each Monday at Jay Com-
munity Center.

JAY RETIRED TEACH-
ERS ASSOCIATION —
Will meet at noon Monday,
April 21, at Richards
Restaurant in Portland.
All retired school employ-
ees are invited to attend.
Group members are not
limited to those who
worked in Jay County.
EUCHRE — Will be
played starting at 1 p.m.
each Monday at West Jay
Community Center, 125
Hoover St., Dunkirk.
TAKE OFF POUNDS
SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will
meet for weigh-in at 4:30
p.m., with the meeting at 5
p.m., at Trinity United
Methodist Church, 323 S.
Meridian St., Portland.
New members welcome.
For more information, call
(260) 726-5924.
PREGNANCY CARE
CENTER — Free pregnan-
cy testing with ongoing
support during and after
pregnancy. The center is
located at 216 S. Meridian
St., Portland. Hours are 1
to 5 p.m. Monday through
Friday. For more informa-
tion or to schedule an
appointment, call (260)
726-8636. Walk-ins accept-
ed.
BREAD OF LIFE COM-
MUNITY FAMILY MEAL —
Will be served from 5:30
to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury
United Methodist Church,
204 E. Arch St. in Port-
land. Everyone is wel-
come.
NARCOTICS ANONY-
MOUS — Will meet at 6:30
p.m. each Monday 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.
UNDERSTANDING
YOUR SUICIDE GRIEF —
Meets from 7 to 8:30 p.m.
the third Monday of each
month. The support group
serves to help individuals
who have lost a loved one
to suicide. To register, con-
tact Stephanie Patterson
at (260) 251-3259.
Tuesday
COMPASSIONATE
CONNECTIONS RECOV-
ERY SUPPORT GROUP —
A group for anyone with a
substance use disorder
that helps individuals find
connections as they devel-
op long-term recovery
meets at noon each Tues-
day in the IU Health Jay
Outpatient Behavioral
Health Center, Entrance
C, 510 W. Votaw St., Port-
land.
JAY COUNTY PASTORS
AND CHAPLAINS — Meet
at 8 a.m. on the fourth
Tuesday of each month at
Richard's Restaurant.
BRYANT COMMUNITY
CENTER EUCHRE — Will
be played at 1 p.m. each
Tuesday. The public is wel-
come.
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.

Adult daughter plans new path

DEAR ABBY: My husband
and I finally got custody of his
daughter “Amelia” 15 days
before her 16th birthday. She
came to us with home-school-
ing and little socialization.
Now she's 18, and we've gotten
her on track to graduate, but
she has completely changed.
She plans to move in with her
boyfriend and is skipping
school.

My husband feels we can't
get on her case about it, since
we've had her for only two
years. We've had three boys
who have graduated, and two
girls who haven't yet. We made
the boys (his stepsons) go to
school every day and live at
home until they graduated. We
will do the same with our
younger girls.

Abby, why is he scared for me
to tell Amelia that she can't
move out until after gradua-
tion, especially not with her
boyfriend, or get on her about
missing school all the time? —
STERN STEPMOM IN
KANSAS

DEAR STEPMOM: Your
husband may fear that
Amelia is too headstrong to
be reasoned with and worry
that if he asserts himself,
his daughter will become
estranged.

You described yourself as
“Stern Stepmom.” If the
way you demonstrate that is
by insisting your husband's
children graduate with a
basic education, I don't con-
sider it heavy-handed.

Dear
Abby



However, if there is more
to it, Amelia just may be
moving out to get away from
you.

Perhaps a different
approach might be more
effective. Amelia is old
enough to be talked with
“woman to woman.” If you
can impress upon her that
you and her father care only
about her welfare, that the
decisions she is making now
will affect her entire future,
perhaps she will be more
open to hearing your mes-
sage.

The fact that she's moving
out is less important than
failing to complete her edu-
cation and get that high
school diploma.

Let that be your focus
when you and her dad speak
to her.

.....

Dear Abby is written by Abi-
gail Van Buren, also known as
Jeanne Phillips, and was
founded by her mother, Pauline
Phillips.

To contact Dear Abby, visit
DearAbby.com or send mail to
P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA
90069.

Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Thursday's Solution

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

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.



Advertise your golf course in all of our publications with

FOUR 3x5 ads in **The Commercial Review**
TWO 3x5 ads in **The News-Gazette**
ONE 3x5 ad in **The News Times**

for
\$300



Or run two 3x5 ads for your golf course
in the publication(s) of your choice during April for:

The Commercial Review — **\$156**
The News-Gazette — **\$145**
The News Times — **\$120**

GRAPHIC
PRINTING
NEWSPAPERS

Call (260) 726-8141
or email
ads@thecr.com

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



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save over \$450,000,000 in timeshare debt and
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IEDC needs to learn how to spin

By MORTON J. MARCUS

Where do the flacks working for the state and the Indiana Economic Development Corporation get their training?

They seem to have never learned how to disguise bad news behind good numbers and be truthful.

For example, by now most Hoosier politicians have been able to find something good to say about the county population losses reported after COVID. Between 2019 and 2023, 36 of Indiana's 92 counties lost 14,600 persons.

But those numbers are trivial. Only two of those 36 counties lost more than 2% of their population and only Marion lost more than 1,000 persons. And that loss (5,600) was made

Eye on the Pie



up by the gains of the donut counties.

In all, the state had 100,400 more residents in 2023 than before COVID in 2019. But what does the loss of population mean?

Some population losses are deaths of those born before and during the post-World War II baby boom, people who, as a group, had much better lives than their parents.

Some are moving away from Indiana for college or a job. Those are growth activities that we want. The idea that young adults should return to where they attended high school is a selfish, parental concept that denies them freedom. Those who choose freely to return should not be celebrated more than those who make their adult lives elsewhere.

Both the dying and the departing groups normally would not be expected to contribute much to gross domestic product (GDP) growth, either because of retirement, incapacitation, absence from the area, inexperience or school enrollment. A population decline based on these factors could, and possibly should, increase real per capita GDP

(gross domestic product adjusted for inflation).

Statewide, per capita GDP grew by \$4,100 (7.5%), with growth being recorded in 77 of the 92 counties. Among the 36 counties where population declined, 32 saw per capita GDP increase.

Where were the flacks to trumpet these advances? Marion County's population loss of 5,600 persons coincided with a \$13,200 increase in per capita GDP, a 13.6% increase, a rate approaching twice the growth rate for the state.

If we sought problem spots in these data, we could point to eight of the 15 counties with declines in per capita GDP. Ohio, Putnam and Adams counties each saw per capita GDP fall by

more than 3%; Decatur, Ripley and Jasper had decreases between 6% and 9%; most serious were the 17% drop in Spencer and the 25% collapse in Pike County. Except for Pike, which lost only 162 persons (1.3%), they all grew in population.

In many cases, the flacks should know the specifics for each county. Pike is coal country and under pressure for new activity to replace the losses in that industry. Defensive public relations requires knowing how to transform bad news into the jolly TV news so much appreciated by political personalities.

Marcus is an economist formerly with Indiana University's Kelley School of Business. Email him at mortonjmarcus@gmail.com.

Repairing Social Security can't wait

Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

Social Security is at the center of the fiscal emergency that threatens the U.S. Yet Washington is always reluctant to grapple with it honestly, partly because the issue is misunderstood.

Although the system's looming "insolvency," now penciled in for 2035, has long been agonized over, this threat disguises the real problem. It suggests that for the next 10 years, the government still has a fund with assets to draw down, and time to put things right. In truth, the fiscal danger is here and now.

Social Security is a pay-as-you-go pension scheme disguised as a national savings plan. Its shrinking "trust fund" is an intragovernmental bookkeeping convention. There's no pool of assets for the government to tap. The system's deficits are growing because the population is aging and outlays are rising faster than payroll-tax revenue. In 10 years, when deficits cancel out the system's accumulated surpluses, benefits must be cut (by about one-fifth on current estimates) to match what's coming in. In the meantime, fund or no fund, the government must borrow to finance the deficits.

If endless borrowing were no cause for concern, Washington would have an easy way to deal with the approaching deadline: Just change the rules and keep on borrowing. But, to state what should be obvious, ever-mounting public debt is very much a cause for concern. Investors could lose their appetite for US Treasuries long before 2035, with dire economic results. Social Security needs urgent reform — not to replenish its illusory assets, but to help curb government borrowing and bring the system into closer alignment with its proper goals.

One way to cut deficits is to bundle various adjustments to outlays and receipts while preserving the system's basic design. The other, even more challenging politically, is to reshape it, combining a more effective anti-poverty measure with a government-backed savings plan. In either case, changes would need to be phased in gradually to avoid affecting people in sight of retirement.

The first approach has been laid out many times — remember Simpson-Bowles? — and offers many options. Outlays could be

Guest Editorial

reduced by slowing the growth of benefits for high earners, gradually raising the retirement age and indexing it to longevity, raising future benefits in line with an adjusted inflation metric (so-called chained CPI) or limiting cost-of-living adjustments for retirees with high incomes. Revenue could be increased by raising the wage cap on payroll taxes or taxing benefits fully, not partially.

A deeper reform makes better sense. The system is meant to assure the elderly that they're financially secure. It currently gives benefits to people who don't need them while failing to guarantee that the least well-off won't be poor. Muddling the discussion is the idea that payroll taxes are "contributions" that entitle people to a certain level of benefits. This is part of Social Security's mythology: A pay-as-you-go system stretches the link between taxes paid and benefits received beyond the breaking point.

It would be better to face this reality and follow the logic through. Pay a flat means-tested benefit sufficient to guarantee that no elderly person is poor. Combine this with an auto-enrollment savings plan that pools contributions from workers, employers and taxpayers — in effect, a system of universal, government-supported, defined-contribution pension plans.

Earlier controversies about "privatizing" Social Security have tainted this approach. That's a shame. In such a scheme, the government's role is still central, and taxes pay for the basic benefit and savings-plan subsidies. The distinction that matters isn't public versus private, but real assets versus fictitious ones. Countries that have adopted plans like this (Australia and Sweden are favorite examples) have seen good results.

As a practical matter, repairing the existing system might be the best the US can hope for. But at least be clear about this: As it stands, Social Security is failing by its own lights and burdening the economy with insupportable public debt. Business as usual won't cut it.



Court strategy has emerged

By NOAH FELDMAN
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

The Supreme Court's strategy for dealing with President Donald Trump's illegal executive actions is gradually revealing itself: carefully uphold the rule of law while seeking to avoid direct confrontation.

In a cautious, compromise-based 9-0 decision, the justices upheld a federal district court order directing the Trump administration to "facilitate" the return of a Salvadoran immigrant mistakenly deported to a prison in El Salvador. At the same time, the Supreme Court told the lower court to show "due regard for the deference owed to the executive branch in the conduct of foreign affairs."

The case of Kilmar Armando Abrego Garcia is different from those of the 260 Venezuelans deported with him for alleged membership in the gang Tren De Aragua.

To be sure, all the deportations are of doubtful legality. District Court Judge James Boasberg ordered the deportation flights to halt, but the Trump administration flew the planes anyway, claiming the order didn't come in time.

But unlike the other deportees, who are challenging the general legal basis for their detention, Abrego Garcia was subject to a 2019 order by an immigration judge that said he could not be deported to El Salvador because he would face persecution. The administration admits this and says Abrego Garcia's arrest and deportation resulted from an "administrative error."

It's obviously outrageous that the Trump administration hasn't already sought Abrego Garcia's return from a Salvadoran prison. Its motivation for refusing to do so hasn't been clearly stated, but it presumably is based on an unwillingness to publicly reverse

Noah Feldman



one deportation lest it show that all of them could eventually be reversed under court order. The administration's legal argument boils down to the claim that a court can't tell it to bring Abrego Garcia back because he is now outside the U.S.

The Supreme Court could have simply rejected that claim. Justice Sonia Sotomayor, writing a separate concurring opinion on behalf of the court's three liberals, urged precisely that, calling it "plainly wrong." What's more, she added, the administration's argument "implies that it could deport and incarcerate any person, including U.S. citizens, without legal consequence, so long as it does so before a court can intervene."

The fact that all of the justices, including the arch-conservatives, upheld the essence of the lower court's order strongly indicates that they don't think the Trump administration has a legal leg to stand in this case. Otherwise, one or more of them could have dissented.

Yet the conservatives apparently did not want to encourage a direct confrontation between the courts and Trump. By drawing a subtle distinction between the lower court's order to "facilitate" Abrego Garcia's return (which they upheld) and its order to "effectuate" it (which they asked to be effluated), they were intentionally encouraging the lower court to tread lightly and not directly order the return. And they were specifically

hinting that too direct an order telling Trump what to say to the Salvadoran government might interfere with the president's power to control foreign relations.

Of course, the key danger associated with such a direct order is that the Trump administration might not obey it. And if Trump defies a direct court order, that could trigger a constitutional crisis in the form of a showdown between the courts and the executive branch.

If that happens, I predict the court will not back down. But it doesn't want that crisis to occur at all because the outcome is uncertain. Ultimately, the court can only expect people to obey its orders because they are the law. Trump could simply refuse.

And if the crisis over a defied court order is going to happen in some way, the justices would definitely be wise to make sure it doesn't happen over a person detained abroad. The court would be at its weakest point of power in a case involving foreign affairs, which the Constitution assigns to the executive and allows Congress to influence.

In a case involving U.S.-based actors, the court could order compliance despite a presidential directive to the contrary — and American officials sworn to uphold the law might obey. In contrast, the court cannot order anyone in El Salvador to do anything.

The upshot is that the justices are treading carefully. The rule of law must be upheld. How and when that happens is crucial to ensuring that the law wins and Trump loses. Prudence is the name of the game — as it should be.

Feldman is a professor of law at Harvard University.

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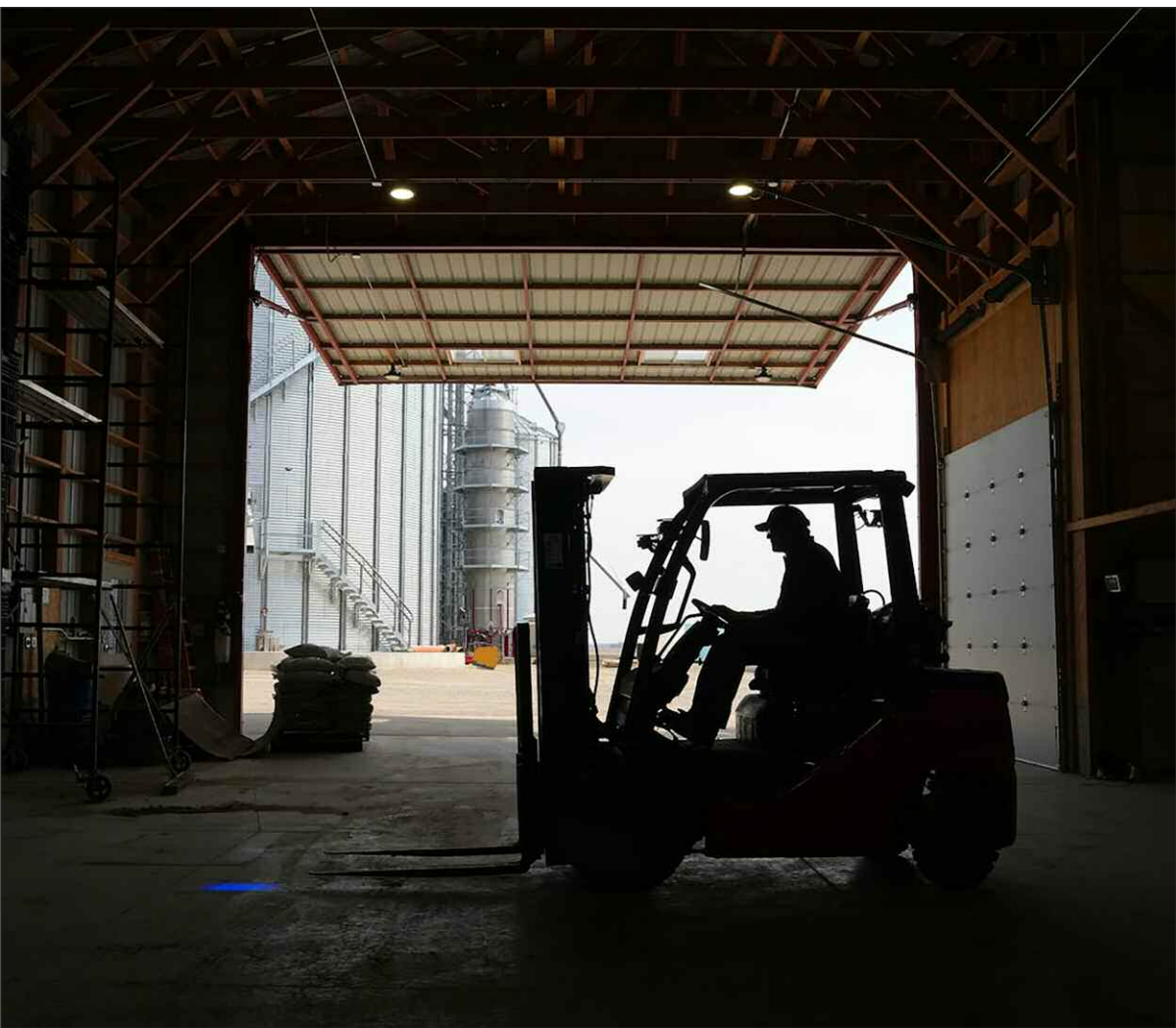
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—Thomas Jefferson

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Darin Johnson, president of the Minnesota Soybean Growers Association, organizes and moves soybean seed around to be shipped out to farms for planting on April 9 at his farm in Wells, Minnesota. Soybeans are Minnesota's biggest export with about 30% of the state's crop exported to China that could be affected by President Donald Trump's tariffs.



Tribune News Service/The Minnesota Star Tribune/Anthony Souffle

Use tips to help plant life

By KATHERINE JACOBSON
Purdue Ag News
Buying a house plant to bring a little spring indoors?
There are some basics that can be followed to improve plant care.

Choosing
Before adopting a houseplant, determine where it will go and the light exposure in that area. Is it bright, medium or low? Does it have direct or indirect sunlight?
“Most houseplants are understory, tropical plants that do not do well with a full day of direct sunlight, which makes them well suited for windowsills that may only receive a couple hours of direct sunlight,” Mitchell explained.

Fit into schedule
Between classes, study sessions and extracurriculars, it may be hard to squeeze in enough time to care for a high-maintenance, finicky plant. Low-light houseplants, like philodendron, snake plants, spider plants and ZZ plants are easy-to-care-for. Although they will survive and slowly grow in low light, these plants also flourish in medium-light conditions. For brighter locations, consider pothos, monstera, or jade.
Students only need a few minutes a week to check the soil moisture and water the plants if necessary. “Overwatering is one of the biggest killers of houseplants,” Mitchell advised. “It’s best to water as needed, when the top inch of the soil is dry, instead of on a schedule.”

Grow fresh
For some students on campus, getting to the grocery store for fresh produce can be difficult, and gardening isn’t an option when you don’t have a lawn. However, small hydroponics units can act as in-house, countertop gardens year-round. Herbs, leafy greens and compact vegetables like micro-tomatoes are a good fit for this method of indoor growing.
“Light is the biggest limiting factor for growing produce indoors,” Mitchell said. “A large, unobstructed, south-facing window could accommodate some vegetables, but most vegetables require eight hours of sunlight and would need artificial light to thrive inside. However, leafy greens can grow with only four to six hours of sunlight, which makes them a better fit.”

Preventing pests
As beautiful as a room full of greenery is, the last thing students want is a pest problem in their room, especially if it’s a shared space.
“Houseplant pests, including insects and diseases, seem to appear out of thin air. That’s because many of these pests can spread or multiply very quickly and it will seem like the infestation happened over night,” Mitchell explained. “The best weapons against pests are a healthy plant and regular scouting.”

By CHRISTOPHER VONDRACEK and JP LAWRENCE
The Minnesota Star Tribune
Tribune News Service

WELLS, Minnesota — Everything seems to be humming along on Darin Johnson’s farm. A trencher lays irrigation tile in a field hugging Interstate 90, the highway loping over these southern Minnesota flatlands. An 18-wheeler fills up with golden grain. Planting is around the corner.
Beneath the routine, anxiety lurks. This soybean farm is on the front lines of America’s trade war with China.
A day prior, Johnson, president of the state soybean lobby, welcomed a French television crew to his farm. Weeks ago, he drove to the Twin Cities to talk with a visiting Canadian delegation.
Visitors to the farm usually want to know the same thing: How will they weather the price increases?
So far, the answer is unknown. Johnson, a tall, straight-backed farmer, almost crumpled about noon on Wednesday after he pulled out his phone to discover the latest from Washington, D.C.
President Donald Trump had paused tariffs on nations across the globe. Except for China.
Trump had raised tariffs on Chinese goods to 145%. China is the largest buyer of American soybeans — including about 1 of every 4 rows of those grown in Minnesota. Now it has retaliated with a 125% tax on U.S. goods.
“You just don’t honestly know what’s going to happen from one day to the next,” Johnson said, shaking his head.
Soybeans are Minnesota’s largest export, \$2 billion annually, more than taconite and medical devices.
Some beans get trucked to elevators on the Mississippi River. But the largest share are loaded on rail cars and shipped to the

Farmers unclear on how they will weather price increases

Pacific Northwest for transport on freighters to Asia.
Soybeans originated as an Asian crop. They’ve been grown by farmers in the Midwest since the 19th century as feed for livestock. By the 1940s, production boomed across the heartland for use in everything from oils to plastics for Henry Ford’s assembly line.
By the dawn of the 21st century, soybeans were flooding into biofuel plants popping up across the region. The industry has looked to sustainable aviation fuel as the future.
But in the here and now, soybean farmers rely on foreign markets, none more than China, where the high-protein crop largely feeds livestock.
“I am very confident that this is effectively an embargo,” said Jason Ward, a market analyst with Northstar Commodity. “It doesn’t matter [if the tariff is] 84 percent or 9,000 percent. It’s not going to get purchased.”
America runs a trade deficit with China. Trump administration officials have said the Chinese will feel more pain from higher prices than Americans.
From autoworkers and the Teamsters to shrimpers in Louisiana, some cheered the tariffs.
But in America’s breadbasket, where the towering silver grain bins are filled with beans and corn meant for Asia, farmers are bracing for what’s to come.
“I truly hope that these tariffs will lead to negotiations and get us good trade deals in the near future,” said Johnson, a 1996 graduate of the high school in nearby Wells. “You just hope it doesn’t last very long.”
During the 2018 trade dispute with China, the United States lost its top spot for soybean production to Brazil.
The Ukraine war propelled prices in 2022, but soybean markets have softened as input costs, from diesel to fertilizer, have stayed high. Meanwhile, weather swings only aggravated low crop prices and inflationary pressures.
“The last two years, from an economic standpoint,” Johnson said, “have been the worst in agriculture since 1977.”
In 2021, an acre of soybeans netted farmers \$230 on rented land. Last year, farmers lost \$35 on that acre, according to a new report from the Minnesota State Southern Agricultural Center of Excellence.
Flooding that blew out a dam and inundated cropland started the season, and drought capped the season.
“Beans tend to be more sensitive to fluctuations in weather,” said Brent Roiger, a farm business management instructor at South Central College in Mankato.
Now, as farmers are still reeling, this new trade war has begun.
On Friday, Minnesota Sen. Amy Klobuchar was the lead signatory on a letter from Senate Democrats, including Minnesota’s Tina Smith, to U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer.

It argues that farmers in 2025 are “less equipped to withstand ... continued volatility” after the last trade war. Moreover, senators note that a 3% drop in the soybean futures price last Friday lost farmers \$1.4 billion on the 2025 crop.
By week’s end, contracts on May soybeans had climbed back over \$10.30.
Fortunately, the markets contain silver linings, said Northstar’s Ward, who has watched growing demand for soybean oil internationally. Moreover, Ward believes many farmers won’t plant soybeans, and he’s optimistic that when buyers come for American beans in midsummer, a new trade deal could be in place.
“The whole thing changes if China comes back,” Ward said.
Minnesota farmers near Iowa are insulated more than other areas of country from global swings. There are lots of hogs and turkeys to eat soy meal. Grain trucks cruise daily to crush plants in Mankato and Fairmont.
But in south central Minnesota, in a farm landscape built around corn and soybeans, the tighter global economic picture will be felt.
The car dealership in Wells was shuttered after the 2018 trade war. And the population has long stagnated. Towns consolidated schools in the early 1990s, following another farm crisis. Residents remember when the town had three banks and two grocery stores.
The fortunes of the farm economy, in other words, ripple across town.
“Agriculture is the fuel that drives Main Street,” Johnson said.
He pulled his baseball cap up to scrutinize the latest market numbers on his phone as another truck ready to pick up grain pulled into his yard.

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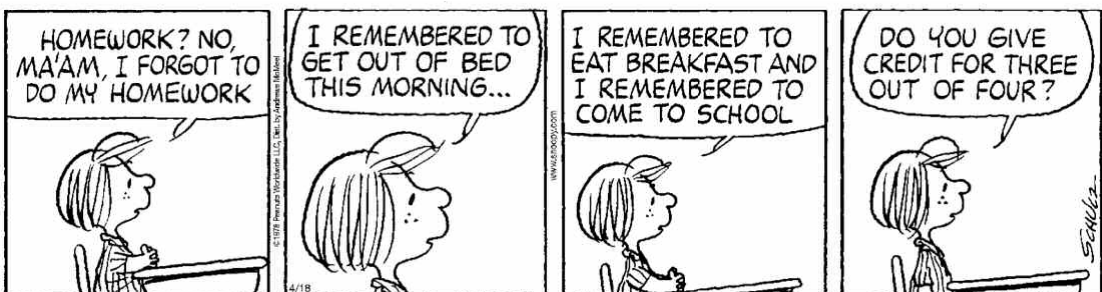
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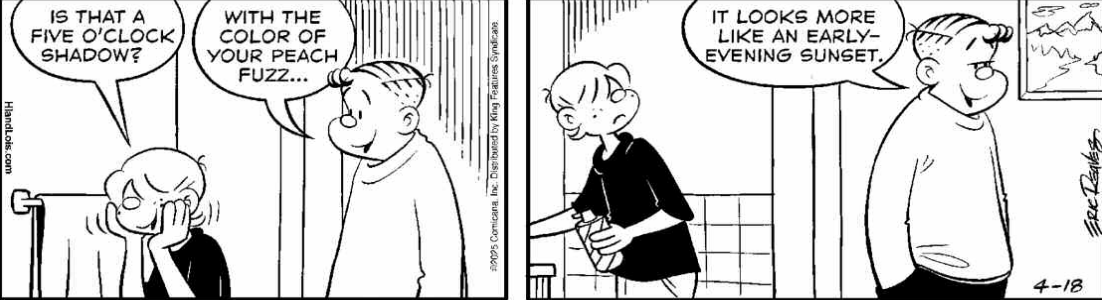
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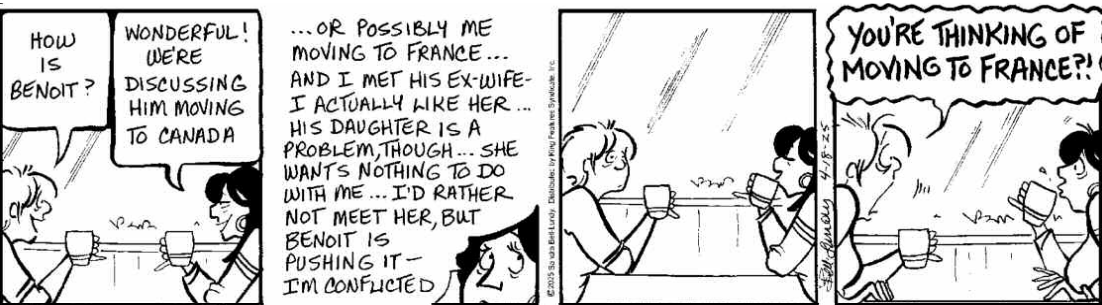
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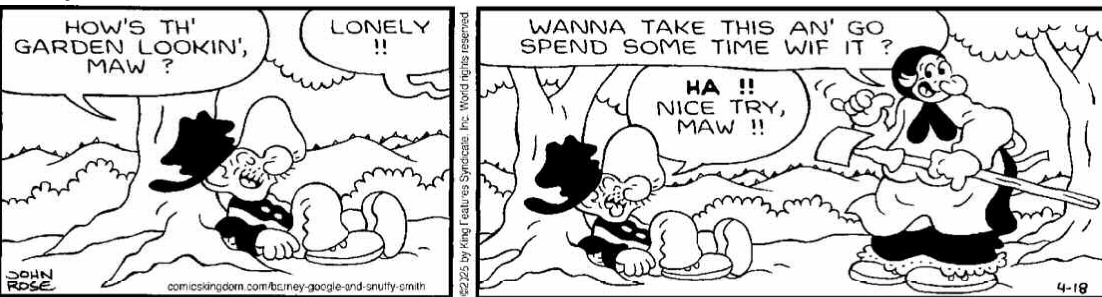
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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Bidding quiz

Your partner deals and bids One Spade, and the next player passes. What would you bid with each of the following four hands?

1. ♠ J ♥ J9753 ♦ AKJ94 ♣ Q6
2. ♠ K93 ♥ J63 ♦ 6 ♣ K109842
3. ♠ QJ72 ♥ 8 ♦ AQ95 ♣ 10873
4. ♠ K98642 ♥ 7 ♦ K853 ♣ 64

1. **Two hearts.** Despite the better quality of the diamond suit, you should bid hearts first. This is in accordance with the basic principle of bidding the higher ranking of two five-card suits first, planning to bid the lower-ranking suit next. It is also consistent with the policy of seeking to be in a major-suit game rather than game in a minor suit.

If you were to bid diamonds first and hearts second, partner would naturally assume that you had only four hearts, and the wrong contract might be reached.

2. **Two spades.** This is better than bidding two clubs, even though you are at the very top of the range for your raise. The trouble with a two-club response is that a rebid problem would arise if partner next bid two notrump, leaving you in the awkward position of having to

choose between a pass and three spades (forcing).

By bidding two spades and thereby limiting the strength of your hand, you can circumvent future problems. The raise tells partner that you have six to 10 points and trump support, which is as accurate a picture as you can paint under the circumstances.

3. **Three spades.** The jump to three spades (a limit raise) shows 11 or 12 points, including distribution, and is invitational to game. Here, your singleton diamond, worth three points in support of partner's suit, brings your hand into that range.

4. **Four spades.** This bid serves two purposes. First, given your trump support and distribution, there is a very reasonable chance that game can be made even though you have only six-high-card points.

Second, and even more important, with you holding so many spades and so few high-card points, there is a real danger that the opponents can make a game or find a profitable sacrifice in hearts or clubs. The four-spade bid is made in the hope of shutting them out of the bidding.

Tomorrow: Rectifying the count.
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4-18

CRYPTOQUIP

EJYO BKZAR KBTQKBYYQVT CIZ

XVQEQV XVBPRJPJSM KBRRJSM

WAVJSM WZCSXZAVT: "TCJSMJS"

JS RIQ VBJS."

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: I DOUBTED MY ABILITY TO PREPARE THE FLUFFY POTATOES, BUT IT ENDED UP BEING A MASHING SUCCESS.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: K equals B

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Passing craze
- 4 Russo of "The Intern"
- 8 Chew (on)
- 12 Egg (Pref.)
- 13 Actor Jannings
- 14 Mazar of "Younger"
- 15 What to carry, per Teddy Roosevelt
- 17 Man of war?
- 18 Yonder thing
- 19 Govt. security
- 20 Parsley piece
- 22 Aspen gear
- 24 Dickens' Uriah
- 25 Project
- 29 Man-mouse link
- 30 Egypt's capital
- 31 Expert
- 32 Defeat via brain power

34 Squad

- 35 Karate level
- 36 Flings
- 37 Helvetica lack
- 40 Tower city
- 41 Mr. Stravinsky
- 42 "Shoot for the stars!"
- 46 Praise
- 47 Air outlet
- 48 Buckeyes' sch.
- 49 Rhyming tributes
- 50 Hardens
- 51 Ballot markings

3 Beagle's reward

- 4 Label
- 5 Send forth
- 6 Actor
- 7 Antlered grazer
- 8 Port
- 9 Octavia's spouse
- 10 Help in a crime
- 11 Saga-cious
- 16 Harbor arrival
- 19 Bon Jovi drummer
- 20 "Scram!"

21 Andean land

- 22 Service period
- 23 "Star Trek" captain
- 25 Go to sea
- 26 Seating at a performance of "Aida"
- 27 Caspian Sea feeder
- 28 Brady and Hanks
- 30 Gourmet cook
- 33 Sporty Fords
- 34 Walrus tooth
- 36 Clues
- 37 Missile shelter
- 38 "Zounds!"
- 39 Libertine
- 40 Half quart
- 42 Boob tubes
- 43 Haw preceder
- 44 British verb
- 45 Gloomy guy

Solution time: 25 mins.

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Yesterday's answer 4-18

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AU11200131

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Kaden Khayyata

AU12400069

Heat ...

Continued from page 8

— 3. Wiggins, Adebayo, too: Stepping up amid concern about the hamstring injury that had him out for most of the end of the regular season, Wiggins moved back into an aggressive bent.

Wiggins not only helped support Herro's offense, but also was efficient defensively, including taking the initial defensive repetitions against Coby White.

At one point, Spoelstra went with Herro and four defenders, a unit that featured Wiggins, Adebayo, Davion Mitchell and Haywood Highsmith.

For his part, Adebayo kept the

Heat afloat on the boards, while also taking the initial defensive assignment against Giddey.

— 4. Up next: The Heat went 2-2 against the Hawks during the regular season, winning the most recent game 122-112.

This will be the teams' second meeting in the play-in round, with the Hawks beating the Heat in the 2023 play-in opener at Kaseya Center.

Herro led the Heat at 24.8 points per game this season against the Hawks, appearing in all four matchups, with Adebayo in those games averaging 15.8 points and 8.5 rebounds.

For the Hawks, Trae Young averaged just 17 points on .350 shooting in the season's four meetings against the Heat, albeit with 49 assists over the four games.

With a Heat victory Friday, it would mean taking on the Cleveland Cavaliers in the opening round, with the Heat closing 2-1 against Cleveland this season. It would be the first-ever playoff series between the teams.

— 5. Draft implications: If the Heat fall Friday, they will go into the draft lottery as the the No. 11 seed, by virtue of finishing the season with the NBA's 11th-worst

record. That would leave the Heat in the random-but-weighted drawing with a 9.4% chance of moving up to one of the first four draft positions and a 2% chance of landing the top selection.

With only the first four selections determined by the weighted draw, the Heat, if in the lottery, can only exit the process with selections Nos. 1-4 or Nos. 11-14.

The No. 11 seed has a 77.59% chance of remaining at No. 11, a 12.6% chance of dropping to No. 12 and less than a 1% chance of falling to No. 13 or No. 14.

By falling into the lottery, and because of previous trade com-

mitments, it would mean the Oklahoma City Thunder will get the Heat's unprotected 2026 first-round pick and the Charlotte Hornets the Heat's unprotected 2028 first-round selection.

If the Heat win on Friday night, it would mean the Thunder would get the Heat's first-round pick in June, with the pick due to the Hornets reverting to lottery-protected for 2027.

The Heat also hold the Golden State Warriors pick in the June 25 first round of the draft, with that selection to be determined in a random drawing next week for the Nos. 18-19-20 picks.

Cardinals ...

Continued from page 8

Facing Blanco for a third time after drawing walks in his first two plate appearances, Nootbaar took the first three pitches the right-hander offered him to put him in a 2-1 count. On the fourth pitch, an elevated changeup, Nootbaar belted a 418-foot line drive that sailed over center fielder Jake Meyers' head and landed on the grass beyond the outfield wall for a homer that put the Cardinals ahead, 3-1.

Nootbaar's three-run home run was his third of the year and his first since

March 31. Nootbaar entered the series finale batting .235 with a .294 slugging percentage through 51 at-bats in April.

Another run added

With Blanco removed from his start after five innings, the Cardinals welcomed reliever Logan Van Wey by pushing across a run vs. the right-hander before he could collect a second out in the inning.

Jordan Walker led off the bottom of the sixth inning by singling to right field in a 2-1 count after laying off a pair of sweepers that missed the strike

zone. After right fielder Cam Smith dropped a pop fly Yohel Pozo hit into foul territory, he capitalized on the error by lining a single to right field on the very next pitch to put runners on first and second base.

Batting with one out after Scott's bunt attempt was popped up and caught by Paredes, Saggese capitalized on the scoring chance with a double to right field. In the at-bat, the rookie infielder laid off an 0-2 fastball thrown high-and-away and followed that with a double to right field that scored Walker and moved Pozo to third.

The scoring threat ended two batters later

Matz settles down

Following the first inning run, Matz retired the next 15 batters he faced before he was replaced at the start of the sixth inning by Fernandez. Matz induced four groundouts and five flyouts with a repertoire that featured 41 sinkers and 21 changeups.

Although Matz got just one whiff on his changeup and three in total, it kept Astros hitters to an average exit velocity of 84.4 mph, per Statcast.

He was aided on defense

in the fifth inning by Alec Burleson.

Making a start at first base with Willson Contreras at the designated hitter spot, Burleson showed some range on a diving grab in the fifth inning on a ball Meyers grounded with a 104.4 mph exit velocity. Burleson's clean snag and Matz's footwork to tag first base as he raced up the line secured an out on the second-hardest hit ball Matz allowed to the Astros.

Matz's start came after he made five relief appearances before being inserted into the rotation, with Wednesday planned as the

day he'd do so. During his relief role, Matz held a 2.31 ERA in 11 2/3 innings.

Donovan keeps streaking

A single from Brendan Donovan in the fifth inning after Nootbaar homered extended Donovan's current hitting streak to a career-high 12 consecutive games. The hit streak leads all active major league hitters.

During the 12-game hit streak, which began on April 4 with a three-hit performance at Fenway Park, Donovan is batting .478 in 46 at-bats.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today

Jay County — Softball vs. Norwell – 5 p.m.
Fort Recovery — JV baseball at New Knoxville – 5 p.m.

Saturday

Jay County — Girls tennis at Eastern Hancock Invitational – 9 a.m.; Baseball at Centerville – 10 a.m.; Softball at Centerville – 10 a.m.; Track at Oak Hill – 11 a.m.
Fort Recovery — Baseball doubleheader at South Adams – 11 a.m.; Softball at Coldwater for Cancer Strikeout tournament – 11 a.m.

TV sports

Today

9:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (ESPN2)
1 p.m. — Formula 1: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (ESPN2)

Prix (ESPN2)
5 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Series: Black's Tire 200 (FS1)
6 p.m. — College lacrosse: Penn State at Rutgers (BTN)
7 p.m. — NBA Playoffs Play-In: Miami Heat at Atlanta Hawks (TNT)
7:30 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN)
7:05 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Baltimore Orioles (FDSN Indiana)
8 p.m. — College lacrosse: Maryland at Johns Hopkins (BTN)
8 p.m. — UFL: Memphis Showboats at Michigan Panthers (FOX)
9:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs Play-In: Dallas Mavericks at Memphis Grizzlies (ESPN)

Saturday

9:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Saudi Arabian Grand Prix (ESPN2)

10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Brentford at Brighton & Hove Albion (USA)
12 p.m. — College softball: LSU at Texas (ESPN2)
12:30 p.m. — UFL: St. Louis Battlehawks at Arlington Renegades (ABC)
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Aston Villa at Newcastle United (NBC)
1 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Milwaukee Bucks at Indiana Pacers (FDSN Indiana)
1 p.m. — Women's college lacrosse: Michigan at Rutgers (BTN)
1:45 p.m. — MLS: Austin at Los Angeles Galaxy (FOX)
3 p.m. — AMA Supercross: East Rutherford (NBC)
3:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Los Angeles Clippers at Denver Nuggets (ESPN)
3:30 p.m. — PGA Tour: RBC Heritage (CBS)
4 p.m. — College gymnastics: NCAA Gymnastics Championship (ABC)

4 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Oakland Roots at Orange County SC (FOX)
4:05 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Baltimore Orioles (FDSN Indiana); St. Louis Cardinals at New York Mets (FOX)
4:30 p.m. — College football: Black and Gold Spring Game (ESPN2)
6 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Detroit Pistons at New York Knicks (ESPN)
6 p.m. — NHL: St. Louis Blues at Winnipeg Jets (TNT)
6 p.m. — USL League One: Richmond Kickers at Westchester SC (CBS)
6:30 p.m. — College gymnastics: NCAA Gymnastics Championship (ESPN2)
7 p.m. — UFL: Birmingham Stallions at Houston Roughnecks (FOX)
8 p.m. — College track and field: Oregon Team Invitational (BTN)
8:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Minnesota Tim-

berwolves at Los Angeles Lakers (ABC)
8:30 p.m. — MLB: Colorado Avalanche at Dallas Stars (TNT)
10:15 p.m. — MLS: Portland Timbers at Los Angeles FC (FS1)

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.

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN
APRIL 26, 2025
9:30 A. M.
ANTIQUES n OLD & COLLECTORS ITEMS
Oak floor model glass show case; Oak table; Oak table top model glass show case; Gendron Wheel Co. wooden wheelchair; military foot locker; wood sleigh with reindeer and Santa; spinning wheel bench; Touring Car external trunk; liquor cabinet; TOYS: Lindstrom Gold Star pinball game, (2) Auburn fire trucks, Overland Express 3140 engine (in box), Wolverine Express bus, Mountain Special train engine, and many other toys not listed. Indian blankets; CROCKS: 25+ to include jugs, crocks, chicken waterers, #5 crown, bean pots, crocks with lids, and Weir jars. BOY SCOUT: hatchet, hat, books, pins, patches, etc; GM Goodwrench motor oil papers; cast iron trivets; (4) brass barber shop stand feet;Coca Cola dishes, service for 4; wood honey jug; glass cigar jar; doctors bag; vintage childrens clothing; and many other items not listed.
AUCTIONEERS NOTE: This is a quality auction with a nice variety of antiques and collectibles. Auction preview will be held on Friday April 25th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Doors will open day of auction at 8:00 a.m.
JOAN MARSHALL
Loy Auction
AC#31600027
Auctioneers
Gary Loy AUJ01031608
Travis Theurer AU11200131
Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday April 19th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 3202 W 600 S, PORTLAND IN
TRACTORS n PICKUP n RIDING MOWER
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 n 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.
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110 HELP WANTED

will be accepted at City Hall, 321 N. Meridian St., until Friday, May 2nd at 4:00p.m. The City of Portland is and Equal Opportunity Employer.

130 MISC. FOR SALE

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT COURT
2025 TERM

In the Matter of the Estate of:
Gregory A. Bergman deceased
No. 38C01-2503-EU-000011
NOTICE OF ADMINISTRATION

Notice is hereby given that Karla Marie Bergman was, on the 15th day of April, 2025, appointed Personal Representative of the estate of Gregory A. Bergman deceased, who died on February 13, 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 15th day of April, 2025.

HINKLE, RACSTER, SCHEMENAUR & LANDERS
121 W. High Street
Portland, IN 47371
Attorneys for the Estate
Melissa Elliott
Clerk of the Circuit Court,
For Jay County, Indiana
CR 4-18-25-2025
CR 1-14-21,28-2025-HSPAXLP

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

NOTICE OF OPEN BURNING APPROVAL
FT-307044

Notice is hereby given that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has approved a request submitted by Portland Fire Department to conduct live fire training at the Portland Fire Department, located at 1616 N Franklin Street in Portland, Jay County. The mock room will be 10' x 10' and constructed using traditional 2" x 4" wood framing, drywall sheeting, and wood flooring. The following furnishings will be included in the mock room burn demonstration: 1 chair, 1 end table, 1 lamp, and 1 electrical outlet. Any affected person wishing to challenge this decision is required by Indiana Code (IC) Section 4-21.5-3-7 to file a petition for administrative review. (Please note that a "petition for administrative review" is not a compilation of interested party signatures but is a legal document, the requirements of which are described in IC 4-21.5-3-7.) The petition must be submitted in writing to N-501E, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, within fifteen (15) days of the publication of this newspaper notice. Pursuant to IC 13-14-8-11 (formerly IC 13-7-7-6), IC 4-21.5-3-5 and IC 4-21.5-3-7, this decision will become effective fifteen (15) days after the publication date of this newspaper notice or, in the case of individuals who have received personal notifications, eighteen (18) days after the mailing date of this Notice of Approval unless a petition for review is submitted by an affected party. Pursuant to IC 4-21.5-3-5(d), the Office of Environmental Adjudication will provide an interested party with notice of any pre-hearing conferences, preliminary hearing, or orders disposing of the review of this decision if a written request is submitted to the Office of Environmental Adjudication. Further information regarding the appeal process is available at https://www.in.gov/oea/2370.htm.

A copy of the Approval decision is available for inspection and copying at the following:

- Jay County Health Center, 504 W. Arch Street, Portland
- Jay County Public Library, 315 N. Ship Street, Portland
- IDEM Virtual File Cabinet (VFC) at vfc.idem.in.gov o The Approval can be found in VFC by using the following search criteria: □ Program: OAQ
- Document Type: Compliance
- FullText Search: FT-307044

CR 4-18-2025-HSPAXLP

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260 PUBLIC AUCTION

Public Notice

PUBLIC NOTICE
NOTICE TO TAXPAYERS OF
ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION

Notice is hereby given the taxpayers of the City of Portland, Jay County, Indiana that the proper legal officers of the City of Portland at their meeting place at the City of Portland Council Chambers, 1616 North Franklin Street, Portland, Indiana 47371, on May 5th at 5:30 p.m. will consider the following additional appropriation in excess of the budget for the current year.
2223-001-472.001 Sanitation – Trash Truck \$174,500
Taxpayers appearing at the meeting shall have a right to be heard. The additional appropriations as finally made will be referred to the Department of Local Government Finance. The DLGF will make a written determination as to the sufficiency of funds to support the additional appropriations.

Lori Phillips
Clerk-Treasurer
City of Portland

CR 4-18-2025-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

NOTICE OF OPEN BURNING APPROVAL
FT-306922

Notice is hereby given that the Indiana Department of Environmental Management (IDEM) has approved a request submitted by Portland Fire Department to conduct live fire training at Portland Fire Department/District 6 Live Burn Facility, located at 106 Performance Drive in Portland, Jay County. The following fuel types and amounts are approved, per training evolution, for live fire training purposes: Container – 2 clean wood pallets, 3 sheets of OSB, and 1 bale of straw. Propane Woods (car and propane tank) – 3 gallons of propane per prop.

Any affected person wishing to challenge this decision is required by Indiana Code (IC) Section 4-21.5-3-7 to file a petition for administrative review. (Please note that a "petition for administrative review" is not a compilation of interested party signatures but is a legal document, the requirements of which are described in IC 4-21.5-3-7.) The petition must be submitted in writing to N-501E, Indianapolis, Indiana 46204, within fifteen (15) days of the publication of this newspaper notice. Pursuant to IC 13-14-8-11 (formerly IC 13-7-7-6), IC 4-21.5-3-5 and IC 4-21.5-3-7, this decision will become effective fifteen (15) days after the publication date of this newspaper notice or, in the case of individuals who have received personal notifications, eighteen (18) days after the mailing date of this Notice of Approval unless a petition for review is submitted by an affected party. Pursuant to IC 4-21.5-3-5(d), the Office of Environmental Adjudication will provide an interested party with notice of any pre-hearing conferences, preliminary hearing, or orders disposing of the review of this decision if a written request is submitted to the Office of Environmental Adjudication. Further information regarding the appeal process is available at https://www.in.gov/oea/2370.htm.

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- IDEM Virtual File Cabinet (VFC) at vfc.idem.in.gov

The Approval can be found in VFC by using the following search criteria:

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CR 4-18-2025-HSPAXLP

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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Covering ground

Emma Will of the Fort Recovery High School softball team tracks a fly ball in deep right center field during the Indians' 3-2 loss to Jay County on Saturday. Will hung onto the ball for the first out of the fifth.

Miami Heat dominate Chicago Bulls in first Playoff play-in test

By IRA WINDERMAN
South Florida Sun-Sentinel
Tribune News Service
CHICAGO — For the second consecutive Wednesday, the Miami Heat put everything they had into a game against the Chicago Bulls at the United Center. This time, they got it right. And this time it means one more victory and it's on to the playoffs for the sixth consecutive year.

Left with little more to show from the regular season than a 37-45 record and 10th place finish in the Eastern Conference, the Heat made the most of their Wednesday night play-in opener, a 109-90 victory over the Chicago Bulls that now sends them on to a 7 p.m. Friday game at State Farm Arena against the Atlanta Hawks for the conference' final playoff berth.

From the contretemps with an eventual trade of Jimmy Butler to the regression of the games of Terry Rozier and Jaime Jaquez Jr. to the lack of a foothold by trade-deadline acquisition Andrew Wiggins, many signs pointed to Wednesday at the United Center as a possible end of the road for Erik Spoelstra's team in 2024-25.

Instead, the Heat will attempt to turn Friday night's last-chance game in the East play-in round into an opening-round best-of-seven playoff series against the conference's top seed.

That means either on to Cleveland and a 7 p.m. Sunday Game 1 opening-round playoff matchup against

the Cavaliers, or into an off-season of the unknown

In getting a needed breakthrough against the Bulls after being swept 3-0 in the season series, the Heat got 38 points from Herro and 20 from Andrew Wiggins and 15 points and 12 rebounds from Bam Adebayo, more than not enough to overcome the 25 of Chicago's Josh Giddey, ending the Bulls' season.

Five Degrees of Heat from Wednesday night's game:

— 1. Game flow: The Heat went up 17 early and held a 39-28 lead at the end of the opening period.

The Heat then pushed their lead up to 20 early in the second period while Adebayo was on the bench, as they moved to 8 of 13 on 3-pointers.

The lead was 71-47 at half-time, with the Heat 10 of 18 on 3-pointers at that stage and the Bulls booed off the court as they headed to their locker room.

The Bulls then scored the first six points of the third period, closing within 88-74

at the end of the third, following a 17-point Heat third quarter.

From there, unlike so many blown leads during the regular season, the Heat regained their footing to the finish.

— 2. Herro sizzles: Herro was up to 16 points by the end of the opening period, at 6 of 6 from the field, 2 of 2 on 3-pointers, and 2 of 2 from the line in his 8:54 of playing time.

The 16 points tied Herro's career high in a first quarter and tied for the most by any player in the first period of a play-in game.

The perfection continued from there, with Herro at 8 of 8 from the field, 3 of 3 on 3-pointers and 4 of 4 from the line for 23 points at half-time.

Herro's first miss came 34 seconds into the second half on a hurried 3-point attempt with the shot clock winding down. He then moved to 8 of 9.

The previous scoring high by a Heat player was 33 by Kyle Lowry against the Hawks in 2023.

See Heat page 7

Strong offense lifts All-Stars

It may have only been the first game of the season, but it took no time at all for the bats to come alive.

The Portland 8-and-younger All-Star softball team opened its season with a 9-5 victory over Monroe Central on Monday.

Maddie Theurer led Portland's strong offensive performance with a home run and a triple. She scored both times.

Joining Theurer with two runs scored were Annabelle Wiggins and Hayden Guggenbiller.

Wiggins and Guggenbiller, along with Ailayla Money and Skye Ingram, smacked doubles in the game.

Cardinals win series vs. Astros

By DANIEL GUERRERO
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Tribune News Service

ST. LOUIS — With his club held scoreless through their last 14 innings following a shutout loss on Tuesday night, Cardinals left fielder Lars Nootbaar's swing in the fifth inning Wednesday vs. the Astros gave his club their first runs since Monday and a lead they held onto for a series win.

Standing in the box against Astros starter Ronel Blanco for a third time in the series finale at Busch Stadium, Nootbaar connected on a three-run home run that helped lift the Cardinals to a 4-1 win after they trailed 1-0 before Nootbaar stepped to the plate in the fifth inning.

An RBI double in the sixth inning from Thomas Saggese tacked on an additional run to get the Cardinals (9-9) back to .500 and give Steven Matz (1-0) a win after he threw five innings and allowed one run in his start.

A reliever through the first two weeks of the regular season, Matz struck out five batters and did not walk one on 71 pitches. Matz, who was said to be on a pitch count of around 65 pitches, didn't allow a runner to reach base after giving up two singles to the first two batters he faced.

The lone run Matz allowed came on a groundout from Isaac Paredes in the first inning that scored Jose Altuve after Altuve and Jeremy Pena singled to begin the game.

Matz was relieved by Ryan Fernandez to begin the sixth inning. Fernandez completed a scoreless inning and was followed by scoreless innings from Kyle Leahy and Phil Maton. Closer Ryan Helsley, who hadn't pitched in a week, secured his third save of the season with a scoreless ninth inning.

A bunt, a bloop and a blast

Silenced by Blanco through the first four innings, the Cardinals began the fifth inning with some small ball that set up a long ball.

To lead off the bottom of the fifth inning, Victor Scott II reached base with a bunt single on the first pitch he saw. Scott's bunt rolled four feet down the third base line and sat on the chalk after Paredes allowed it to stop rolling in hopes that it would roll into foul territory.

A single into shallow right field from Saggese in the following at-bat put runners on first and third base just as the Cardinals' lineup wrapped around to leadoff hitter Nootbaar.

See Cardinals page 7



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