

Viability concerns

Funding, planning questioned for project

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review  
Portland Redevelopment Commission spent most of its meeting Friday discussing the county's planned development of 68 acres on the city's west side. Members expressed concern about planning for the project and the ability to fund the overall vision moving forward. Consultant Ed Curtin of CWC Latitudes updated the redevelopment commission on the project, which calls for commercial space along Votaw Street (Indiana 26/67) and 76 single-family homes, eight duplexes and 154 multi-family units. He noted that a recent meeting of county and city officials and others was intended to get everyone on the same page regarding the project. "Up until that point, the city hadn't really been engaged in how or if they wanted to participate in the project," Curtin said. Commissioners purchased the land for potential development in February 2023 and hired Rundell Ernstberger and Associates of Indianapolis for planning the project six months later. Representatives from the

firm presented an initial concept design in March 2024. The overall project is estimated at \$25.5 million. The county is currently focused on an initial step — about \$3.6 million — that involves utility connections. Curtin noted that Portland Redevelopment Commission could contribute to the project financially or with incentives for a developer as the project is in the city's existing tax increment financing (TIF) district. Redevelopment commission members raised questions about financing for the project, with Reda Theurer-Miller asking if it can move forward without Regional Economic Acceleration and Development Initiative (READI) 2.0 dollars. The county contributed \$1.24 million in federal coronavirus relief dollars from the American Rescue Plan Act to go toward the project. A \$1.5 million commitment from Jay County Redevelopment Commission is contingent on READI 2.0 funding. (Local officials have said the county is expected to receive \$1.2 million in READI funds — its request was about \$4 million — but announcements confirming that money have not yet been made by state officials.) Joe Johnston of Portland Redevelopment Commission questioned the viability of the project long-term. "If we're struggling for finances in project 1A now, where's the financing going to come for 1B?" he asked. See **Concerns** page 2



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Fort royalty

Fort Recovery High School hosted promenade Friday in the gymnasium, announcing seniors Evan Evers and Karlie Niekamp, pictured above, as king and queen. Prom activities resumed shortly after at Romer's Catering and Entertainment in St. Henry, Ohio.



The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Tangled tunes

Rapunzel from Disney's "Tangled" visited Jay County Public Library on Thursday. Pictured, Amara Eley of Portland (at right) and other children gather around Rapunzel as she sings "I See the Light." Festivities at the library included face painting, hair braiding, painting pictures, making paper lanterns and other movie-themed activities.

GOP finalizes \$44 billion budget

By WHITNEY DOWNARD  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com  
The majority of Statehouse Democrats opposed the 2025 budget — crafted over four months and passed by Republicans early Friday morning — decrying unvetted last-minute additions and cuts. For chief House budget architect Rep. Jeff Thompson, the budget was one that "lives within our means" following a grim financial forecast the week before. House Speaker Todd Huston gave a robust defense — and rare floor appearance — in favor of the legislation after nearly two hours of debate. "This budget does so much. It continues to invest in K-12 education in every way. Even with a

Republicans defend spending plan, Democrats decry last-minute changes

surprise shortfall in revenue, we made sure we protected K-12 and we did that," said Huston, R-Fishers. "... House Bill 1001 builds on ... what's taking place in Indiana. It builds on that success. When we see a challenge — and when we get a challenge — we meet it and we excel through it." Democrats largely opposed the measure, citing the lack of funds for child care and Medicaid waiver waitlists while wealthy Hoosiers get tax dollars to send their children to private schools. "This budget doesn't just keep our government running, it impacts the real people — the Hoosiers — that are depending on us. They're counting on us to pass a budget that, yes, will get balanced. But, more importantly, one that reflects their needs and values," said Sen. Rodney Pol, D-Chesterton. "... Unfortunately, this budget falls short of that." See **Budget** page 2

FBI arrests Wisconsin judge

By DAVID VOREACOS, ALEX EBERT and ZOE TILLMAN  
Bloomberg News  
Tribune News Service  
A state judge in Wisconsin was charged Friday by the FBI with obstructing federal officials who tried to detain an undocumented immigrant, escalating the Trump administration's conflict with the judiciary over its hard-line immigration strategy. Milwaukee County Circuit Judge Hannah Dugan was accused of obstructing a proceeding and concealing an indi-

Dugan is accused of obstructing

vidual to prevent his arrest. U.S. authorities said the case stemmed from an April 18 incident in which agents showed up at her courtroom to

detain an undocumented migrant from Mexico, who was appearing in his domestic battery case. Dugan "put the lives of a lot of people in danger," Attorney General Pam Bondi said on Fox News. "What's happening to our judiciary is beyond me. They're deranged. That's all I can think of. Some of these judges think they are above and beyond the law which they are not. If you are harboring fugitives, anyone who is here illegally, we will come after you and we will find you."

Deaths

Gregory J. Grissom, 75, Goshen  
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 71 degrees Friday in Jay County.  
Today's forecast calls for cloudy skies with a high in the lower 60s. The low will dip into the upper 30s tonight. Expect mostly sunny skies Sunday with a high in the mid 60s.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County High School's prom is scheduled for tonight. Promenade, which will include the crowning of the prom king and queen, will begin at 8 p.m. Doors will open at 7:30 p.m.

Coming up

Tuesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay County Commissioners meeting.  
Wednesday — Details from Monday's Dunkirk City Council meeting.  
Thursday — Results from the JCHS girls tennis match against Union City.

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# Budget ...

Continued from page 1

Included in the last version of the budget is an expansion of school choice voucher eligibility, meaning that even families earning more than \$220,000 — an estimated 3,000 students — will qualify.

One member from each party

crossed caucus lines in the House, but it moved out of the chamber on a 66-27 vote.

The bill fared roughly the same in the Senate, where two Republicans voted against the proposal but one Democrat supported it, for a final vote of 39-11.

It now moves to Gov. Mike Braun for his signature.

The budget didn't only impact K-12 education, but also the state's various higher education institutions.

Rep. Matt Pierce, a Democrat from Bloomington, railed against last-minute language, slipped in

without public testimony, that would give Braun complete control over the Indiana University Board of Trustees.






Other provisions would require reviews of tenured professors for productivity and publicly posted syllabi.

"April 24, 2025, is a date that

will live in infamy," said Pierce, who is employed by IU. "The faculty of our state universities were suddenly and deliberately attacked by the Republican supermajority."

Rep. Chris Campbell highlighted another \$1 million budget cut to a housing first program.

CR almanac

Sunday 4/27	Monday 4/28	Tuesday 4/29	Wednesday 4/30	Thursday 5/1
 <b>67/48</b> Sunny skies are expected Sunday with highs in the mid to upper 60s.	 <b>79/68</b> Mostly sunny on Monday when there's a chance of showers late.	 <b>81/50</b> Tuesday's forecast shows a 70% chance of rain and thunderstorms.	 <b>66/54</b> There's a slight chance of rain. Otherwise, mostly cloudy.	 <b>72/54</b> Thursday has a 70% chance of rain under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

**Hoosier**  
Midday  
Daily Three: 2-8-9  
Daily Four: 1-6-9-1  
Quick Draw: 11-25-28-29-35-36-45-48-49-51-53-54-59-60-62-63-64-65-71-74

**Ohio**  
Midday

Pick 3: 7-5-7  
Pick 4: 1-7-2-0  
Pick 5: 8-5-7-2-0

**Powerball**  
Estimated jackpot: \$168 million

**Mega Millions**  
Estimated jackpot: \$60 million

Markets

**Cooper Farms Fort Recovery**  
Corn.....4.92  
May corn .....4.94  
June corn .....4.97

**POET Biorefining Portland**  
Corn.....4.96  
May corn.....5.03  
June corn .....5.05

**The Andersons Richland Township**  
Corn .....4.89  
May corn .....4.89  
Beans .....10.70

May beans .....10.70  
Wheat .....4.87

**ADM Montpelier**  
Corn.....4.89  
May corn .....4.89  
Beans .....10.66  
May beans .....10.68  
Wheat .....4.91

**Heartland St. Anthony**  
Corn.....4.94  
May corn .....4.94  
Beans .....10.47  
May beans .....10.47  
Wheat .....4.84

Today in history

In 1478, the Pazzi family of Florence led an unsuccessful attempt to overthrow the ruling Medici family.

In 1607, settlers arrived at Cape Henry, Chesapeake Bay. They were the first permanent English settlers in North America and later formed the Jamestown colony.

In 1822, Frederick Law Olmstead was born in Connecticut. He became a journalist whose observations about the American South are considered to provide the most complete look at the region prior to the Civil War.

In 1865, John Wilkes Booth was killed at a Virginia farm 12 days after assassinating President Abraham Lincoln.

In 1964, the United Republic of Tanzania was founded as Tanganyika and Zanzibar were merged. Julius Nyerere served as the new country's first president.

In 1973, the Redkey High School boys track team won a three-team meet over Albany and host Pennville. Mike Hudson won three events for the Wolves,

taking the top spot in the 100-yard dash, 200 dash and high jump.

In 1986, an explosion and fire at the Chernobyl nuclear power facility in Ukraine in the Soviet Union sent large amounts of radioactive material into the atmosphere. Thousands of deaths were attributed to the radiation in the years that followed.

In 2013, Eric Brackman and Samantha Thobe were crowned as Fort Recovery High School's prom king and queen.

In 2018, Carl Corwin, 65, of rural Portland died when the ATV he was driving on Indiana 26 was struck by a 2002 Ford Mustang. The driver of the Mustang said he must have fallen asleep and did not see the ATV in time.

In 2022, Jay County High School sophomore rallied to win 10 consecutive games as the Patriot girls tennis team knocked off sectional rival Union City 4-1. Haines was down a set and trailing 5-2 in the second before starting her comeback.

—The CR

Citizen's calendar

**Monday**  
9 a.m. — Jay County Commissioners, auditorium, courthouse, 120 N. Court St., Portland.  
3:45 p.m. — Jay County Solid Waste Management District Board, 5948 W. Indiana 67, Portland.  
7 p.m. — Dunkirk City Council, city building, 131 S. Main St.

**Thursday**  
4 p.m. — Portland

Board of Works, mayor's office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.  
5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.

**May 5**  
5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St., Portland.

# Local/Indiana

## Obituaries

**Gregory Grissom**  
*October 8, 1949-April 10, 2025*

Gregory J. Grissom, 75 years old, passed away April 10, 2025, at his home in Goshen, Indiana.

He graduated from Portland High School in 1967 and enlisted in the U.S. Navy where he served until his honorable discharge in 1971.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Joseph and Virginia Grissom of Portland, Indiana.

He is survived by his siblings Cynthia (Kenneth – deceased) Wal-

lace of Knox, Indiana, Rosemary (David) Smith of Fort Wayne, Indiana, Thomas (Jeanne) Grissom of Rapid City, South Dakota, Margaret (Robert) Wiley of Union City, Indiana, and Elaine (Gene) Gibson of Goshen, Indiana.

A graveside service with military honors will be held 2 p.m., Monday, April 28, 2025, at Marion National Cemetery, Marion. The



Grissom

Rev. Father Chijioke Chigbo will officiate.

Yoder-Culp Funeral Home, Goshen, is assisting the family with arrangements.

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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.*

# Concerns ...

Continued from page 1

County attorney Wes Schemenaur said the idea was that by getting utilities in place the site would be more attractive to potential developers, adding that CB Development of Geneva and RCS Construction of Celina, Ohio, have expressed interest. Curtin agreed that the infrastructure is the lynchpin of the project.

Regarding a potential financial commitment from the city's redevelopment corporation, Johnston said his review of finances indicates that the bulk of its funds are already committed. Portland clerk-treasurer Lori Phillips confirmed Johnston's assessment, saying most of the money is set to go toward bond payments or other projects and initiatives.

Ultimately, Curtin asked Portland Redevelopment Commission members if they are supportive of the project philosophically.

"I think it's tough to be right now," said Theurer-Miller. "And the reason I say that is because I don't think the planning was in place. I don't think there was a strategy around how we get to where we need to go ...

"It wasn't an inclusive

kind of situation. It was done exclusively. That, again, makes it difficult to get behind a project that really needs to involve an entire community. ... A project of that magnitude requires a lot of people sitting at a table to determine what's the best way to get there and how do we get there together."

Jay County Redevelopment Commission member Chuck Huffman said that while he has not polled members of the group, "my read on it is that we're perilously close to just pulling the \$1.5 million off the table, with or without READI coming through." He concurred with Theurer-Miller's comments about the process not being inclusive, saying Jay County Redevelopment Commission was approached at the last minute for matching funds for the county's READI 2.0 application last summer.

Johnston asked Portland Mayor Jeff Westlake if Portland City Council has had open discussion about the project. He said it has not.

Westlake said he is in favor of development in general but that there are also other things that need to be addressed in

the city. He speculated that the city could consider a contribution if there is a timeline in place and the ability to claw back funds if progress is not made.

Johnston suggested that Portland Redevelopment Commission step back and see what happens with READI funding and discussion amongst the city council and potentially meet again to discuss the project next month.

The redevelopment commission also heard an update from Theurer-Miller on Portland Main Street Connect.

The organization met recently with officials from Indiana Department of Transportation, which agreed to purchase eight planters for use in the areas of the new bumpouts in downtown Portland. (They will be similar to those already used in the downtown area.) When the planters are placed, barricades will be removed.

Theurer-Miller also noted that a Portland Main Street Connect planning committee held a couple of meetings with local stakeholders and discussed issues such as addressing ordinances, creating relationships

with owners of vacant properties and sprucing up the downtown area.

In other business, the commission:

- Heard from Theurer-Miller veterans banners will be hung in the downtown area in time for an event Saturday, May 17. It will include a memorial ceremony for veterans at 3 p.m. at Freedom Park, an Arch Bridge Kroozers car show and a Main Street festival.
- Briefly discussed its economic development plan, with Theurer-Miller asking how frequently the commission should be referring back to it and how often it should be updated in order to make sure it does not become outdated. Curtin said it should be referred to regularly as the commission reviews projects.
- Approved an updated contract with Curtin that details the duties he is responsible for handling. His original contract was signed in 2019.
- Agreed that it would continue to capture all of the assessed value available to it through the tax increment financing (TIF) district.
- Heard the financial report, which shows a balance of \$850,618.25.

# Capsule Reports

**Laundry room fire**  
Firefighters put out a small blaze in a laundry room Friday. Dunkirk Fire Department

responded to Diana Bear's house at 216 E. Commerce St. for a fire about 8 a.m. Friday. The fire was contained to a bookshelf in the laundry room

and caused smoke throughout the house. Two firetrucks and 10 firefighters arrived on scene, putting out the fire in about five minutes.

# Felony arrests

**Dealing**  
A Pennville man was arrested Friday for dealing methamphetamine. Jason D. Harding, 47, 410 E. Max Drive, was preliminarily charged with a Level 5 felony. He was being held on a \$10,000 bond in Jay County Jail.

SERVICES

**Today**  
**Lowe,** Clarence: 2 p.m., East Centre Baptist Church, 1220 E. Main St., Centre, Alabama.

**Monday**  
**Schoenherr,** Marjorie: 10:30 a.m., St. Joseph Catholic Church, 1689 St. Joe Road, Fort Recovery.  
**Grissom,** Gregory: 2 p.m., Marion National Cemetery, Marion.

**May 3**  
**Faller,** Peg: Noon, Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home, 308 S. Wayne St., Fort Recovery.

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# The Commercial Review



50th anniversary



Becky and Bill Bailey - 2025

Becky and Bill Bailey

The Baileys are celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary. Bill and Becky Bailey were married April 26, 1975, at Salamonia United Church of Christ. Bill Bailey retired from Tele-dyne Portland Forge, and Becky Bailey retired as a medical technologist. She also worked at Bloomfield Elementary School as a library assistant. They have two children, Luke Bailey (Keri) and Elaine Harris (Jeremy), and four grandchildren. The Baileys plans to celebrate with a family dinner and a trip out west later this summer.

# Stress impacts driving decisions

**By JANA HOLLINGSWORTH**  
The Minnesota Star Tribune  
Tribune News Service

DULUTH, Minn. – When a Jeep cut me off and then slowed to several notches below the speed limit, I first gasped and then gestured wildly, swearing. These things I remember.

But a sensor I was wearing to capture my heart rate and electrical changes in my skin, along with a vehicle “black box,” revealed more: aggressive braking and accelerating and a rapidly beating heart. It didn’t help that it was in the middle of the workday, when I am almost always stressed.

“This one was clear that when you were a little more flustered, the driving was definitely bad,” said Turuna Seecharan, an assistant professor in the engineering department of the University of Minnesota Duluth.

I should find ways to calm myself before driving to news conferences and interviews,

Seecharan said, so that stress doesn’t influence my choices on the road.

She and graduate student Md Sakibul Hasan Nahid are researching the role emotions like stress play in driving. Is there a correlation? I wore a sensor for several days to better understand the research. My data showed I was less stressed when I wasn’t in the middle of a workday, even if something unexpected happened on the roadway.

The study could be useful for driver training programs, or lead to technology that warns drivers of stress levels before they get behind the wheel, Seecharan and Nahid said, because stress, fatigue and anger can all cloud decision-making while driving.

“Just like you shouldn’t get into a car if you’re too tired or you shouldn’t get into a car if you’re drunk, it’s the same thing,” Seecharan said. “Pay attention to your emotional state.”

The researchers have recorded

more than 100 driving sessions for 25 drivers aged 18-30 so far. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration says drivers aged 15 to 20 are involved in more fatal crashes than any other group. In 2020, motor vehicle crashes were the leading cause of unintentional death for drivers between 15 and 24, according to the administration.

The data collection method the UMD researchers used is similar to what car insurance companies use to determine how safely someone drives, but it also factors in emotional state by starting with baseline physiological data. Braking and accelerating behavior is gauged, and drivers submit mood data before, during and after each driving trip.

The researchers found that electrodermal activity (changes in skin from sweating) can be helpful in predicting emotional states and aggressive driving. The more you sweat, the higher the electrodermal activity.

# 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**  
ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS — 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.  
MISSISSINEWA CHAPTER OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION — Will meet at 10 a.m. Saturday, April 26, at Jay County Historical Society Museum. The chapter is celebrating its 106th anniversary with special guest Brenda Cotton, Indiana Daughters of the American Revolution central district director. For questions, contact regent Kathy Selman at

(260) 251-1694 or Sue Sommers at (260) 726-2678.

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

**Monday**  
PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.  
PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.  
EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

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 pregnancy 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 information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.  
BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland. Everyone is welcome.  
PORTLAND EVENING OPTIMIST CLUB — Will meet at 6 p.m. the second and fourth Monday of each month at Richards Restaurant.  
NARCOTICS ANONYMOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

**Tuesday**  
COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.  
BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.  
JAY COUNTY CANCER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. in conference room C at Indiana University Health Jay Hospital. Open discussion for cancer patients, survivors, family members or anyone interested in helping with the group. For more information, contact Linda Metzger at (260) 726-1844.  
A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk.

# Boss adds errands to job workload

DEAR ABBY: I started a new job a year and a half ago. It’s in a small office. My boss and I are the only employees. I enjoy the job very much, but there’s an aspect of it that has really started to wear on me. Increasingly, my boss has been asking me to take care of personal tasks for him that are unrelated to the business. I understand that he has no one else to rely on, but it shouldn’t be my problem. I’m a single mom with two kids, and I already have enough on my plate.


The final straw was when I asked for the day off to spend with my entire family, and he asked me to pick up his pets in the afternoon (to save him the cost of having them boarded overnight) and give him a ride home from the airport at 9:30 p.m. I had to leave my family gathering to do this.

Part of me knows it wasn’t fair of him to ask for these things. I don’t want to lie and say I can’t, but “I don’t want to” seems petty. I have enough trouble running my own household without helping out with another. How do I say this without losing my job? — NO WORK-WIFE IN IDAHO

**DEAR NO WORK-WIFE:** For your boss to expect you to run errands for him without being compensated is taking advantage of you. The first thing I would do if I were in your shoes would be to start exploring the job market in your community. Then, if I found anything that suited my particular skills, I would have a talk with my boss and explain that I have responsibilities after working hours that make it difficult to comply with his requests.

If he values what you contribute to his business, he may figure out another way

Dear Abby



to get his errands run. However, if he doesn’t, you will have another job lined up.

.....

DEAR ABBY: My mother has cancer that has metastasized, and my family is now expecting me to talk to her. We haven’t had a relationship in nine years, ever since she moved out of state with her boyfriend. Abby, our relationship has been toxic ever since she found out she was pregnant with me almost 35 years ago. My family expects me to put out a “fire” I didn’t start, just because she is sick. The last time she was in town, I held her accountable for the choices she’s made, and she exploded. She screamed, cussed at me and disrespected me in my home.

Am I cruel for standing my ground and refusing to be mistreated by her? Must I please my family and succumb to their pressure to surrender my peace? What if my mother survives only to abuse me again? — VICTIMIZED IN OHIO

**DEAR VICTIMIZED:** Your mother’s illness is terminal. What you must decide is whether you would like to make peace with her for yourself, NOT because relatives are pressuring you into it. If the answer to that question is no, tell these well-meaning relatives that because of the abuse you suffered at her hands from the time you were little, you feel you lost your mother years ago and you are not comfortable contacting her now.

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Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

Friday’s Solution

1	7	2	5	4	9	6	3	8
6	4	3	8	2	1	5	7	9
5	8	9	7	6	3	4	2	1
8	2	6	3	1	7	9	4	5
3	5	1	4	9	8	7	6	2
4	9	7	2	5	6	8	1	3
2	1	8	6	7	5	3	9	4
7	3	4	9	8	2	1	5	6
9	6	5	1	3	4	2	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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WHAT'S FOR LUNCH?

For Jay County Elementary Schools  
April 28 - May 2


Monday: Main Entrees: Classic chicken sandwich  
Entrees: Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons  
Sides for all meals: Smile potatoes

Tuesday: Main Entrees: Mini chicken corn dogs  
Entrees: Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons  
Sides for all meals: Steamed carrot & broccoli medley

Wednesday: Main Entrees: Whole grain french toast sticks  
Alternate Entrees: Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons  
Sides for all meals: Hash brown patty

Thursday: Main Entrees: Mashed potato & chicken bowl  
Alternate Entrees: Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons  
Sides for all meals: Seasoned corn

Friday: Main Entrees: Classic pepperoni pizza  
Entrees: Cheesy Italian pull apart, marinara sauce, cheddar BLT salad, croutons  
Sides for all meals: Seasoned peas and carrots



george family  
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# Work to improve financial literacy

**Journal-Advocate**  
**(Sterling, Colorado)**  
Tribune News Service

It's a basic life skill necessary for future success, but unfortunately, it's something far too many people struggle with: financial literacy.

April is National Financial Literacy Month, a national campaign organized by the Jump\$tart Coalition to raise awareness about financial literacy. It's an excellent opportunity to review and upgrade your financial smarts, because whether you're just starting out or have been earning your way for quite some time, it's never too late to learn about saving and improving your financial outlook.

According to a report from

## Guest Editorial

the National Financial Education Council, 50.2% of individuals in a recent survey said their lack of literacy cost them \$500 or more in 2024. Additionally, 5% said it set them back by \$10,000 or more. The average respondent lost \$1,015.

For those wanting to upgrade money management smarts, the Credit Counseling Society offers the following tips for making a personal budget:

1. Set practical budget goals —

It's important to have specific goals in mind. A practical budget goal should be challenging yet realistic; you should also give yourself a deadline to teach it.

2. Track money coming into your household and your spending — The best way to figure out where you spend your money is simply to track your spending for a month. Whether you're paying your mortgage payments, shopping online or buying snacks at a convenience store, jot down every cent you spend into a single document.

3. Avoid spending more than you make — Overspending is a key reason why household budgets fail, so all of these steps help you avoid spending more than you make. If you are overspend-

ing, then review the master list of monthly expenses and cut it down until your total expenses match your total income.

4. Whenever you're unsure about a particular expense, ask yourself, if you need it, or just want it. When balancing your budget, remember that it's easy to think that a want is actually a need. If this is what you're having trouble with, start by reducing an expense by 50% and see how it goes.

5. Make room in your budget for irregular expenses — Make room for a seasonal and unexpected expenses fund. For example, if your family budget lets you save \$80 a month in this fund, then you'd be perfectly ready for a \$400 seasonal expense five

months later without scrambling to find extra money in an emergency fund.

6. Put your home budget plan into action — Ask yourself: Have I covered what I need (housing, food, utilities, transportation, etc.)? Have I factored in debt payments and put money aside in a savings account for unexpected expenses, savings, and the fun stuff? You might discover that some parts of your budget need to be adjusted as you use it. That's totally fine. Do whatever you need to fit the budget to your situation and your goals.

We encourage everyone to take some time this month and brush up on your financial knowledge because financial literacy is paramount to your success.

# Environmentalism is a conservative value

By **ERIC RUARK**

Ask most Republicans or right-leaning voters for their thoughts on "environmentalism," and you'll hear a litany of complaints about progressives' attempts to remake our economy, increase the cost of living, and regulate small businesses into the ground.

It's simply a political reality that campaigns against eating meat and zoning battles to outlaw single-family homes — not to mention the war on oil and natural gas — have made "environmentalist" practically a dirty word on the Right.

And that's a problem, because protecting our environment, conserving our natural resources for future generations, and promoting a high quality of life for all Americans are fundamentally conservative endeavors.

This isn't an attack on or a defense of the political Right. It's an argument that it's long past time for the Right to seriously take up the mantle of environmental stewardship rather than ceding it to the radical Left. And that project must begin with addressing the urban sprawl that's been devouring our fields, forests, coasts, and rivers for decades — largely thanks to population growth driven by immigration.

The United States gained almost 90 million people over the last forty years. We're on track to add another 65 million or so by 2060.

All that growth has consequences. Between 2002 and 2017, urban sprawl consumed more than 17,000 square miles of previously open spaces — an area roughly twice the size of New Jersey. And a whopping two-thirds (67%) of that land loss resulted from constructing new houses, shopping venues, roads, and other infrastructure to accommodate increased demand from a growing population.

All this sprawl fundamentally disrupts the places and ways of life we hold dear. A study from the U.S. Department of the Interior and North Carolina State University predicts that, based on current trends, the Southeast will eventually become one "megapolis," a "seamless" urban corridor stretching from Raleigh, NC to Atlanta, GA, "at the expense of agricultural and forest lands."

There's nothing conservative about that.

Fortunately, this future isn't inevitable. Voters have

*Eric Ruark*



the power to chart a different course.

Local ordinances are a good place to start. Consider how zoning regulations can protect certain areas from new development. Libertarians may gripe about government overreach, but reasonable people recognize zoning for what it is: a legitimate way for local citizens to prevent unwanted growth and unwelcome change.

The federal government, though, plays the biggest role. It grants lifetime residency and work permits to over one million legal immigrants each year — a number that has stayed relatively consistent for decades, regardless of which party holds the White House.

Republicans in Congress have proposed reforms to decrease both legal and illegal immigration — which would curtail the population growth that's transforming communities nationwide.

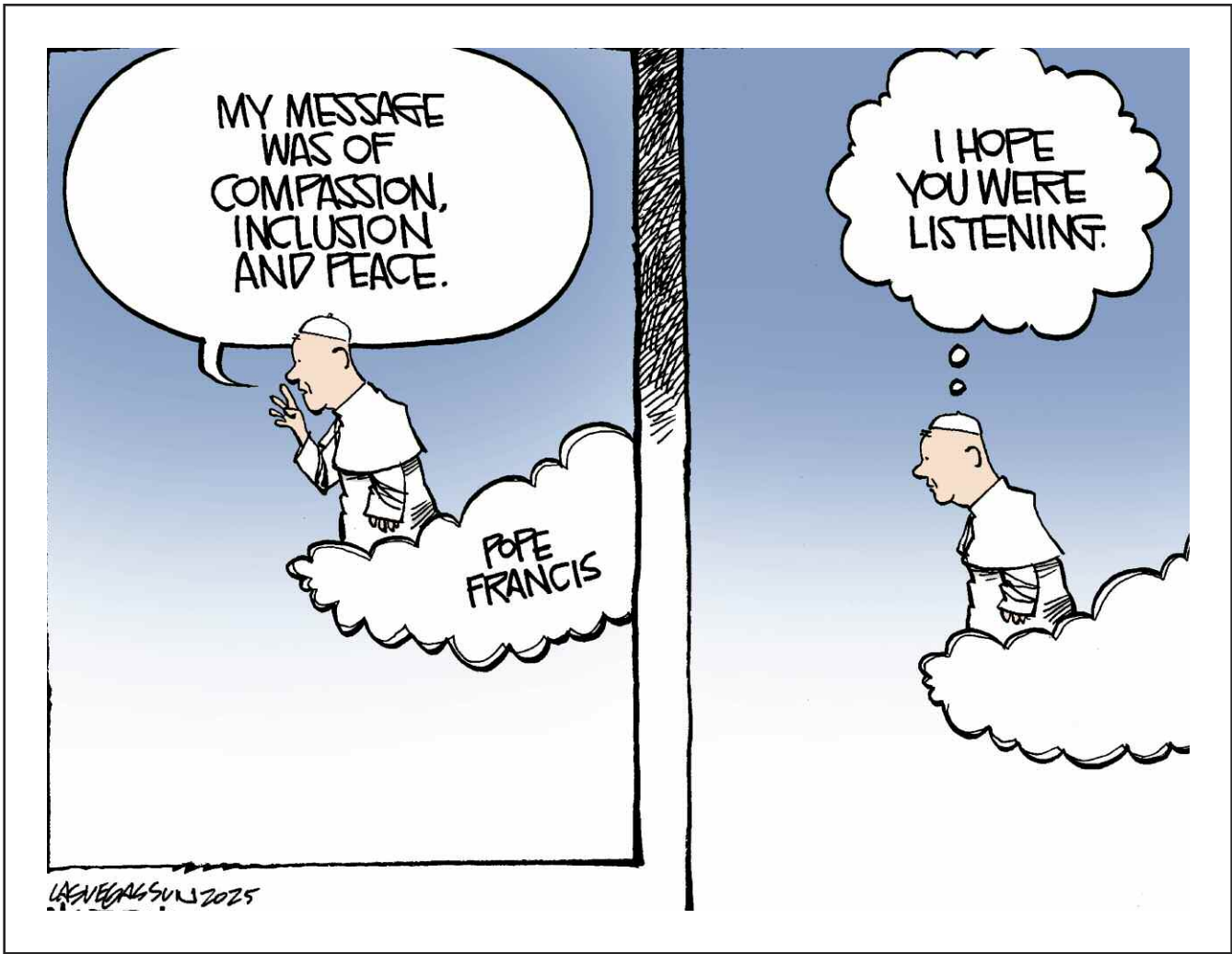
In 2023, the House passed a sweeping immigration bill that would end catch-and-release, end abuse of parole that was rampant under the Biden-Harris administration, and require every U.S. employer to check the legal status of recent hires through E-Verify. Republicans have also sponsored bills that would reduce "chain migration," which enables recent immigrants to sponsor their overseas relatives for green cards — regardless of whether those relatives have the skills to succeed in the 21st century economy.

If tens of millions more people move to the United States in the coming years, the dreaded army of bulldozers, cement-rollers, and tree-cutters will only keep advancing. There's no way around it.

For too long, the environmental movement has been dangerously politicized. While the Left has done little actual conservation, many on the Right have defaulted to opposing conservation efforts on "principle." This has to change. Maybe the debate over how to manage future immigration flows will be the catalyst.

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*Ruark is director of Ruark for NumbersUSA. This piece originally appeared in the Palm Beach Post.*



# Francis had strength to be kind

By **JOHN KRULL**

TheStatehouseFile.com

When Jorge Mario Bergoglio became the bishop of Rome in 2013, no one knew that his papacy would be blessedly out of pace with that of much of the world.

Pope Francis stepped onto the world's stage at a time when many — so many, too many — of the world's leaders spoke and acted out of anger. It was this pontiff's fate to try to both preach and practice peace, patience and humility at a time when many — again, so many, too many — of the world's inhabitants just wanted to scream and curse.

That was not Francis' way.

It was clear from both his talk and his actions that he took seriously the biblical admonitions to practice kindness and generosity of spirit. He eschewed many of the royalist trappings of previous popes because he believed such luxuries erected barriers between him and his vast congregation.

He aspired to be the pope not just of the powerful, the comfortable and the firmly entrenched but also the marginalized, the dispossessed and the disenfranchised.

Nowhere did he make that clearer than when he discussed people who weren't straight. For years, the Catholic Church's treatment of LGBTQ human beings ranged from inhospitable to downright mean.

Francis changed that.

"If a person is gay and seeks God and has good will, who am I to judge?" he said in 2013 when he was asked about homosexual priests.

To make his point even more unmistakable, he said flatly on another occasion that "being homosexual is not a crime."

In speaking so, he enraged conservative critics within the church. They argued that Francis

*John Krull*



surrendered what they — falsely — considered the moral high ground.

They did not want to lose the moral authority to condemn those of whom they disapproved.

At the same time, others were disappointed that he didn't fundamentally change the church's policies regarding human sexuality. They noted that, while he said homosexuality wasn't a crime, he never said it wasn't a sin.

Both his critics and his supporters often claimed to be confused by his thinking on such matters.

I think they were being deliberately obtuse.

The key to understanding Francis' position came in the last five words of his response to the question about gay priests.

*Who am I to judge?*

In an era in which so many world leaders feel so certain about so many things, Francis had the courage to embrace modesty. He knew that being pope was not the same thing as being God.

Francis recognized that there are many sins — lying, adultery, blasphemy, etc. — that do not violate civil laws except, occasionally, in very specific contexts. He thought that choosing to criminalize one sin while legally condoning others was at least as great an evil as the supposed sin itself.

Beyond that, Francis believed that a church that did not embrace and welcome sinners was not a church at all. He adhered to the old notion that the church should not be a museum

for saints but a hospitable for sinners.

More importantly, he believed that all human beings are sinners in need of divine guidance and forgiveness.

That was the source of his humility, the reason he refused to cloak himself and his papacy in the garb of privilege and power.

When he criticized, he did so directly but without malice.

He said Russia's invasion of Ukraine was wrong and he noted that those who would build walls to keep poor immigrants in conditions of oppression and misery could not legitimately call themselves Christian.

On those questions, he was on solid ground.

The gospels have few kind things to say about those who indulge in unprovoked aggression or deliberate cruelty.

Pope Francis died the other day after battling bronchitis and pneumonia. He was 88.

In the years to come, scholars and historians will debate how his papacy altered the arc of the church's story — or if it did at all. They will explore his moves to make the Catholic church more inclusive, more welcoming and more democratic (with a small "d").

All that study will be worthwhile and valid, but it will capture only part of the reason his papacy mattered as much as it did.

Why it was so refreshing.

During an age when so many — too many — people embraced pure meanness as a way to live and interact with others, Pope Francis chose kindness.

May he rest in peace.

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*Krull is director of Franklin College's Pulliam School of Journalism and publisher of TheStatehouse-File.com, a news website powered by Franklin College journalism students.*

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*"Were it left for me to decide whether we should have government without newspapers or newspapers without government I should not hesitate to prefer the latter."*  
—Thomas Jefferson

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4-26 CRYPTOQUIP

UWZMP XEYCZD VPCSP MPK  
BPWK BMWYK DCGKB KGKYOJWXO  
PEDK ULYQXWVZB WZ CMB

PWBACKYO: BWSQMWJKY.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: ALTHOUGH THE BARTENDER HAD BROKEN UP WITH THAT FELLOW, HE KEPT ASKING HER FOR ANOTHER SHOT.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: D equals G

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Of the earth

1) What is the largest body of freshwater in the world by volume?

2) Oxygen and what other element make up about 99% of the earth's atmosphere?

2) Nitrogen  
1) Lake Baikal

4-28 CRYPTOQUIP

SFAVQMGKKG KCFK CFW IGGM  
UGRGBQZGU KQ AGWGSIBG F  
RPBTFM "WKFA KAGJ" QLLVTGA:

F WZQTJ ZPZZGK.

Saturday's Cryptoquip: MONTH DURING WHICH THE SHOE STORE GIVES EVERYBODY HUGE MARKDOWNS ON ITS HOSIERY: SOCKTOBER.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: C equals H

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to springtime. Each number corresponds to a letter. (hint: 10 = R)

A. 2 7 22 19 21 10 4  
Clue: Blooms

B. 6 15 11 4  
Clue: Beginnings of flowers

C. 19 23 10 12 16 5  
Clue: Temperate climate

D. 10 23 9 26 14  
Clue: Lots of wet precipitation

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to spring.

S B R D I

Answer: Birds

GUESS WHO?

I am a professional wrestler born in Massachusetts on April 23, 1977. I pursued a career in bodybuilding and worked as a chauffeur at a limousine company. I went on to win 25 wrestling championships, including 16 WWE World Heavyweight titles.

Answer: John Cena

kids' corner

Holiday FACT:

This religious holiday is celebrated by billions of people across the globe each spring.

Answer: Easter

How they say that in...

English: Rabbit  
Spanish: Conejo  
Italian: Coniglio  
French: Lapin  
German: Kaninchen

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A

B

Answers: 1. Bunies in backyard 2. Missing egg in hand 3. Extra egg in grass 4. Shadow on tree trunk

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

APRIL 25

1792: "La Marseillaise," the French national anthem, is composed by Claude Joseph Rouget de Lisle.

1859: British and French engineers break ground for the Suez Canal.

1954: The first practical solar cell is demonstrated by Bell Telephone Labs.

NEW WORD

FAITH

a strong belief or trust in something

SPRING HAS SPRUNG WORD SEARCH

Find the words hidden vertically, horizontally, diagonally, and backwards.

WORDS

APRIL  
AWAKENING  
BLOOMS  
BREEZE  
BUDDING  
BUNNY  
CHIRPING  
EGGS  
FLOWERS  
GARDEN  
GREEN  
GROWS  
INSECTS  
NEST  
POLLEN  
REBIRTH  
SAPLING  
SHOWERS  
SPRING  
SUNNY  
SUNSHINE  
TREES

Did You Know?

Easter is the oldest Christian holiday. The Easter Bunny, or Osterhase, is a symbol that was first mentioned in German writings in the 1500s.

Get the PICTURE?

Can you guess what the bigger picture is?

Answer: Lamb

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Scribble (down)  
4 Body powder  
8 Blacken on a grill  
12 Martian mover  
13 Athletic shoe brand  
14 Volcanic flow  
15 Pester  
16 Property claim  
17 Has bills  
18 Fight ender, most likely  
21 Longing  
22 Succor  
23 Moon-related  
26 JFK info  
27 Actor Gibson  
30 Muscat's land  
31 Poseidon's realm  
32 Micro-waves  
33 Inlet  
34 Ann Patchett's "Canto"  
35 Sensational

36 "You've got mail" co.  
37 Bud  
38 Fruity rum cocktail  
45 Slimming surgery, briefly  
46 Cartoonist  
47 Mine yield  
48 Pt. of U.S.A.  
49 Prefix with conference  
50 Rowing need  
51 Luke's teacher  
52 Waterston and Raimi

DOWN

1 Rubbish  
2 In the blink — eye  
3 Takeout request  
4 Chatter-box  
5 Par — (airmail stamp)  
6 Stead  
7 Bach's "Coffee —"  
8 Sun block?  
9 Actress Goldie  
10 With (Fr.)  
11 Impetuous  
19 Printer's blue  
20 Entertainer Zadora  
23 Arcing tennis shot  
24 Ms. Thurman  
25 Opposing vote  
26 Snaky fish  
27 Scratch the surface?  
28 Prefix with center  
29 Leary's drug  
31 Chooses  
32 Bantu speaker  
34 Droid  
35 Expires  
36 2024 Best Picture winner  
37 Sacred song  
38 Theater production  
39 Wheels of fortune?  
40 Mimicked  
41 Mother of Zeus  
42 Cranny  
43 Rocky outcrop  
44 Basil or thyme

Solution time: 22 mins.

Yesterday's answer 4-26

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22

23 24 25 26 27 28 29

30 31 32

33 34 35

36 37

38 39 40 41 42 43 44

45 46 47

48 49 50

51 52 53

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Beyond the shadow of a doubt

North dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

WEST EAST

8 10 6 4 10 9 7 4

SOUTH

K J 7 5 2 A Q 8 K J 3 A J

The bidding:

North 1 Pass East 1 Pass South 1 Pass West 2 Pass 6 Pass

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

A conscientious declarer does not relax merely because he has an excellent chance to make his contract. He goes a step further to consider whether there might be an even surer — preferably cast-iron — way to get home safely. Today's deal provides an example.

West led a diamond against six spades, and South could count 11 sure tricks. A 12th trick was available if either a heart or club finesse succeeded, and the odds in favor of one or both finesses succeeding were 3-to-1.

But 3-to-1 shots have been known to fail and, in fact, would have in the actual case. However, South substituted a method of play that would add significantly to his chances.

He won the diamond lead with the king and, after drawing three rounds of trump, cashed the J-Q of diamonds. When West proved to have no more than three diamonds, South had a sure thing, but he had to be careful not to cash the diamond ace at this point, which would have forced him to choose a discard prematurely.

For example, suppose he had cashed the ace and discarded a heart. If he then took either a heart or club finesse, he would have gone down one. Whichever finesse he elected to take, West would win with the king and return the same suit. Eventually, South would try the other finesse and lose it for down one.

Instead, South led a low heart from dummy at trick seven and inserted the eight. West won with the ten but had to return either a heart or a club, handing declarer a free finesse and the slam as well.

The effect of delaying the discard on the ace of diamonds was that it allowed South to create an endplay position from which West could not escape and raised a 75% chance of success to 100%.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

North dealer. Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH

WEST EAST

A 3 10 9 6 2 K 9 8 7 4 3 2 Q 10 5 A Q J 8 K 10 9 6 3 2

SOUTH

K Q 8 5 4 K Q 9 5 4 2 J 6

The bidding:

North 4 Pass East 5 Pass South 5 Pass West 6 Pass 6 Dble

Opening lead — ace of clubs.

When there's a borderline choice between which of two bids to make, you never know when exercising one choice might lead to tremendous success, while exercising the other might lead to absolute ruin.

This very situation arose in dramatic fashion in today's deal from the 1970 world championship match between Brazil and the United States.

At the first table, with Bobby Wolff and Jim Jacoby North-South for the U.S., the bidding went as shown. Jacoby opened with or heart, when he could just as easily have opened with one spade, an this paid off handsomely when it ended up making six hearts doubled for a score of 1,210 points.

There was nothing to the play. Jacoby ruffed the club lead, drew out the ace of hearts and had the rest of the tricks.

At the second table, with Gabri Chagas and Pedro Assumpca holding the North-South cards for Brazil, the bidding went:

North 2 Pass East 4 Pass South 4 Pass West 5 Pass 5 Dble

Here South opened with a spade the effect of which was disastrous. South eventually wound up in six spades, which could not be made after West led a club.

Declarer ruffed the club lead and played a round of trump. What West showed out, South could not afford to continue drawing trump so he led a heart, hoping for a 1-division. West thereupon took the ace and returned a heart for East to ruff, and the slam went down one.

Observe that even if North had wound up in six hearts at this table (North had bid hearts first), the slam would likewise have failed against a spade lead by East.

Tomorrow: How to improve your game.

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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Summer cooler  
4 — metabolism  
9 Body art, for short  
12 Texter's "As I see it"  
13 Bone cavities  
14 I love (Lat.)  
15 Striped babies  
17 Dumpster critter  
18 Reaction to an air show  
19 Peter in "Lawrence of Arabia"  
21 Give a thumbs-down  
24 Monthly payment  
25 Wall St. debut  
26 — Lanka  
28 Car sticker  
31 Light touches  
33 Tree fluid  
35 Mystery writer Paretsky

36 Lingo  
38 — King Cole  
40 Hit hard  
41 Milan money, once  
43 Hay-stack hider  
45 Sweet drink  
47 Notre Dame's Par-seghian  
48 "Am — blame?"  
49 "Top Gun" star  
54 Part of UCLA  
55 The Gem State  
56 Big mouth

57 Sinusitis doc  
58 Cut off  
59 Holy Fr. woman

DOWN

1 In shape  
2 Tours pal  
3 Yule quaff  
4 Industry tycoons  
5 News honchos  
6 Actor Erwin  
7 Viny shelter  
8 Endured  
9 Unit in a fortune-telling deck  
10 Lawyer Clooney

11 Carry  
16 Fair hirer, in ads  
20 Small bills  
21 Bigwigs  
22 Milky gem  
23 Final sum  
27 Author Fleming  
29 Asia's — Sea  
30 Flimsy  
32 Tizzy  
34 Flair  
37 Free of charge  
39 Extreme fear  
42 Wear down  
44 Perfume label word  
45 Aswan's river  
46 Harrow rival  
50 Dallas NBAer  
51 Online chats, for short  
52 Posed for a portrait  
53 Farm female

Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 4-28

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14

15 16 17

18 19 20

21 22 23 24

25 26 27 28 29 30

31 32 33 34 35

36 37 38 39 40

41 42 43 44

45 46 47

48 49 50 51 52 53

54 55 56 57

58 59



**SPEED BUMP** Dave Coverly

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**Peanuts**

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**Between Friends**

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**Snuffy Smith**

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**Beetle Bailey**

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**We Deliver**

**Laughter**

Maybe it's a chuckle from reading a vintage Peanuts cartoon. Maybe it's a column by a member of The CR staff. But we try to keep our sense of humor.

The Commercial Review *We Deliver*







