

# Former JEMS director charged

**By BAILEY CLINE and RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

A former Jay Emergency Medical Service director has been formally charged with multiple counts of drug possession.

John R. McFarland, 49, 805 W. Race St., Portland, was charged Monday in Jay Circuit Court with two Level 5 felonies, three Level 6 felonies and two misdemeanors for charges relating to possession of narcotics, controlled substances, marijuana and paraphernalia, as well as unlawful possession of a syringe.

## McFarland faces felonies for possession of narcotics and controlled substances

Adams County prosecutor Jeremy Brown, who was named as the special prosecutor for the case, filed the charges.

McFarland was originally arrested on drug charges on March 6. He is set to appear for an initial hearing in court May 8.

Indiana State Police Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force, LaGrange Police Department and United States Homeland Security Investigations executed a search warrant at McFarland's home in Portland after a five-month investigation, according to an Indiana State Police press release.

A probable cause affidavit filed Monday says Homeland Security

Investigation led the search of the home and had to ram a door to gain entry. It adds that McFarland locked his bedroom door, again requiring the team to ram it open. He was then taken into custody.

The affidavit lists drugs and drug paraphernalia allegedly found in McFarland's home, including 44 glass vials labeled morphine sulfate, 31 glass vials labeled fentanyl citrate, seven glass vials labeled midazolam, two glass vials labeled lorazepam, marijuana, syringes, needles and smoking devices.

See **Charged** page 2

# County selects Jessica Curtis

*Former EMA leader will be shift supervisor*

**By BAILEY CLINE**  
The Commercial Review

Jay Emergency Medical Service didn't need to look too far for its next director.

Jay County Commissioners selected Jessica Curtis as the department's new shift supervisor, also referred to as a director, and training officer on Monday.

Curtis previously served as director of Jay County Emergency Management Agency before stepping down in January 2021 to take a full-time EMS role.

Over the last four years, she has served as a paramedic at Jay Emergency Medical Service, a deputy coroner for Jay County Coroner's Office and a firefighter with Portland Fire Department.

She has paramedic and primary instructor certifications through Department of Homeland Security, both of which were requirements for the job. She has a bachelor's degree in criminal justice and emergency management from Ball State University as well as an associate's degree in paramedic science from Ivy Tech Community College.

Jay Emergency Medical Service Gary Barnett recommended promoting Curtis to the vacant position.

"She's very qualified for this position," said Barnett. "When we found ourselves (at the) drop of a hat without an educator, she stepped up without expectation ..."

A Portland Fire Department firefighter, commissioner president Chad Aker noted he has worked with Curtis. He also recommended Curtis take over the supervisor role.

"I can't speak highly enough of her; she's got the drive, she's got the knowledge on this stuff, she's got the ability to do this job," said Aker. "I can't recommend her enough."

Curtis will take over the role previously held by John McFarland, who commissioners fired March 10 after he was arrested on drug charges.

See **Selects** page 2

# Head Start closed in Dunkirk



Tribune News Service/Los Angeles Times/Allen J. Schaben

Teacher Viviana Banuelos, center, plays with a child in the Early Head Start program at Pacific Clinics Early Head Start Center in Pasadena on April 18. Pacific Clinics in LA County has seven centers serving about 500 kids. Head Start serves 800,000 low income children across the country, including 75,000 in California. The Head Start classroom that was housed in West Jay Community Center has been shut down, with students there offered the opportunity to shift to the Portland location. Other Head Start sites, as well as five regional offices, have been shut down across the country, leading the American Civil Liberties Union to file a lawsuit Monday.

## Closure follows pattern of changes across the nation; ACLU has filed lawsuit on behalf of six organizations

**By RAY COONEY**  
The Commercial Review

DUNKIRK — The city's Head Start location has been closed.

Pam Robbins of West Jay Community Center reported to Dunkirk City Council that the Head Start classroom that was located in the facility has been shut down.

Most other topics on the council's agenda for Monday were tabled to allow for further discussion.

Robbins explained that Head Start, a federal program that seeks to "prepare America's most vulnerable young children to succeed in school and in life beyond school," has been consolidated locally in Portland. She said that of the 12 children who were housed at the Dunkirk facility, only two made the move to the Portland site. (The program serves about 800,000 families nationwide.)

She said finances were cited as the reason for the change.

Robbins said she attempted to reach out to the Head Start regional office in Chicago. That office was one of five (out of 12) that the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services closed earlier this month, along with those in New York, Boston, San Francisco and Seattle.

The Associated Press reported April 16 that Head Start centers across the country had received nearly \$1 billion less in federal funding than they had at the same time last year. EducationWeek reported April 18 that the Trump Administration is asking Congress to eliminate funding for Head Start.

On Monday, the American Civil Liberties Union sued the Trump administration on behalf of six early childhood organizations in an effort to "halt the dismantling of Head Start and restore cuts to the program," the Los Angeles Times reported. Organizations in California, Oregon, Washington, Illinois, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin are part of the suit.

Dunkirk Mayor Jack Robbins, Pam's husband, said he has reached out to Jay County Commissioners about the issue.

Also, Elizabeth Holdcroft was approved as a new board member for West Jay Community Center.

Pam Robbins also noted that the facility will host its annual summer camp for kindergarten through sixth graders from June 2 through July 23.

The community center will also be a free breakfast and lunch site for those 18 and younger from June 2 through July 25.

City council members held off on making decisions on a variety of other issues, including potentially reducing the

storm water fee, increasing water and sewer rates, adding a water meter fee and updating the golf cart and solicitation ordinances.

Council member Dan Watson explained that he'd like to know what utility work might be needed for a planned apartment development on the city's south side before reducing the stormwater fee. Currently at \$100 per year, the mayor had suggested it be cut in half.

The sewage and water rates and meter fees were also tabled to allow council members Jesse Bivens, Christy Curts, Randy Murphy, Donna Revolt and Bivens to gather more information.

Robbins said he is seeking more input from Dunkirk Police Chief Dane Mumbower regarding the golf cart and solicitation ordinances before moving forward.

See **Dunkirk** page 5

Deaths

Mary Smith, 78, Dunkirk  
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County's high temperature was 79 degrees Monday. The low was 46.  
Rain is expected tonight with a chance of storms and a low in the upper 50s. Expect showers again Thursday with a high in the upper 70s and winds gusting to 30 mph.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

IU Health is offering free mammogram, screenings in May. The screenings are for uninsured women over the age of 40 who live in Jay County or Blackford County. To schedule a screening, call (765) 751-5825.

Coming up

**Thursday** — Results from the JCHS girls tennis match against Union City.  
  
**Saturday** — Coverage of this week's Portland Board of Works meeting.

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# Obituaries

**Mary Smith**  
*Nov. 5, 1946-April 27, 2025*  
Mary Catherine Smith, age 78, of Dunkirk, Indiana, passed away peacefully on Sunday, April 27, 2025, at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie surrounded by her loving family.  
Born on Nov. 5, 1946, in Hartford City, Mary grew up in Dunkirk, where she attended school. After a few years in Hartford City, she returned to her beloved hometown, where she built a life rooted in faith, family and community. She worked at Kerr Glass and Armstrongs for several years in the packing department, later becoming a

devoted child care provider while lovingly raising her two sons.  
Mary's faith was central to her life. She was an active member of Faith Community Church in Dunkirk and found great joy in fellowship, traveling, bowling and playing cards — notably excelling in euchre and aggravation. Her adventurous spirit took her to destinations including Japan, Belize, Niagara Falls, Canada, and many tropical cruises. Yet, her greatest happiness came from time spent with



her sons and grandsons, attending their sporting events, celebrating their achievements and being a constant source of prayer, support and encouragement. Her unwavering pride and love for her family were evident in all she did.  
She is survived by her beloved husband of 55 years, Bob Smith; her cherished sons, Robert (Robbie) Smith, Dunkirk, and Doug Smith (Sara) of Carroll, Iowa; and her treasured grandsons, Graeson Smith, Isaac Smith, Tyler Smith, Derek Smith and Carter Smith. Also surviving are her brothers Bob Brenner of Portland and Russell Brenner of Kentucky; her sisters Nancy

Hobson of Muncie and Betty Sargent (Jerry) of Millgrove; and several nieces and nephews.  
Mary was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Catherine (Elliott) Brenner; her brothers Joseph Brenner, John Brenner, Thomas Brenner, Fred Brenner, Jack Brenner and Sam Brenner; and her sisters Vera Wallace, Barbara Faulkner, Agnes Day and Anna Carll.  
Funeral services will be held at 3 p.m. on Tuesday, May 6, 2025, at Meacham Funeral Service, with burial to follow at I.O.O.F. Cemetery in Pennville. Visiting hours are Tuesday, May 6, from 1 to 3 p.m. at the funeral home.  
Memorial contributions may

be made to the American Cancer Society in Mary's honor.  
The service will be streamed at MeachamFuneralService.com, where condolences and expressions of sympathy can also be shared.  
.....  
*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.*  
*There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

CR almanac				
Thursday 5/1	Friday 5/2	Saturday 5/3	Sunday 5/4	Monday 5/5
 <b>78/55</b> Showers are expected with a thunderstorm possible. The high will be in the upper 70s.	 <b>64/43</b> Expect mostly cloudy skies with a 40% chance of rain and a high in the mid 60s. The low will be 43.	 <b>59/41</b> Skies will be sunny with a high in the upper 50s and a slight chance of rain.	 <b>68/47</b> Expect sunny skies with a high in the upper 60s.	 <b>74/47</b> The high temperature will climb into the 70s under sunny skies.

Lotteries	
<b>Powerball</b> Monday 26-43-51-56-60 Power Ball: 24 Power Play: 4 Estimated jackpot: \$30 million	Daily Four: 4-0-2-9 Quick Draw: 2-9-10-17-21-22-25-28-33-35-39-40-41-42-51-52-55-63-65-76 Cash 5: 216-17-18-23-36 Estimated jackpot: \$105,000
<b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$70 million	
<b>Hoosier</b> Monday Midday Daily Three: 7-3-6 Daily Four: 5-7-7-1 Quick Draw: 3-4-10-14-15-26-27-29-34-36-41-43-45-47-48-51-59-62-65-76 Evening Daily Three: 8-4-2	<b>Ohio</b> Monday Midday Pick 3: 3-6-6 Pick 4: 2-0-3-3 Pick 5: 3-4-8-0-4 Evening Pick 3: 1-2-6 Pick 4: 3-5-4-9 Pick 5: 1-7-7-9-3 Rolling Cash: 1-3-15-30-37 Estimated jackpot: \$190,000

Markets	
<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.90 May corn.....4.95 June corn .....5.97	May beans .....10.72 Wheat ..... 4.94
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.99 May corn.....4.99 June corn .....5.04	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.86 May corn.....4.86 Beans .....10.68 May beans .....10.68 Wheat .....4.79
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn .....4.92 May corn.....4.92 Beans .....10.72	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.92 June corn .....4.94 Beans .....10.42 June beans .....10.47 Wheat .....4.75

Today in history	
<b>In 1789</b> , George Washington gave his first inaugural address to Congress in Federal Hall, New York City. Newly elected as president, Washington had not sought the office and agreed to the request from his constituents. <b>In 1859</b> , “A Tale of Two Cities” by Charles Dickens is published for the first time, appearing in literary periodica “All the Year Round.” <b>In 1939</b> , the National Broadcasting Company hosted the first public television broadcast in the	United States at New York World’s Fair. <b>In 1993</b> , tennis star Monica Seles was stabbed by a German fan of her opponent’s while in a match in Hamburg. Seles was the youngest woman to win the French Open in 1990. The assailant, 38-year-old Gunter Parche, leaned over the barricades and stuck a knife in between Seles’ shoulder blades. She recovered phyically but wouldn’t return to professional play for another two years. — The CR

Citizen’s calendar	
<b>Thursday</b> 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.	7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.
<b>Monday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St.	<b>Tuesday</b> 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, School-house Community Center.

# Charged ...

Continued from page 1  
During an interview with Indiana State Police detectives Lesley Knafel and Michael Tinch, McFarland admitted to trying methamphetamine, though he said he did not like it, the document says. It adds that McFarland admitted to taking morphine, fentanyl, syringes and needles home from Jay Emergency Medical Service.  
The investigation originated from a National Center for Missing and Exploited Children cyber-tip report. Blackford County Sheriff’s Office initially investigated the case before it was transferred to Indiana State Police. The alleged criminal activity was centered in Jay County.  
McFarland previously served as a shift supervisor (director) and training officer for Jay Emergency Medical Service, as well as a part-time volunteer teacher providing EMS certification classes to students at Jay County Junior-Senior High School and a member of Portland Park Board.  
He was fired from his

## Court documents say morphine, fentanyl and lorazepam were among drugs found in house

role with Jay Emergency Medical Service on March 10. (Jay County Commissioners hired a new shift supervisor and training officer Monday. See related story.)  
Following his initial arrest, school officials served him a trespass warning and he was forbidden to enter school district properties or facilities.  
He is serving a volun-

tary suspension from the park board.  
McFarland worked for Jay Emergency Medical Service since at least 2012, having served as a paramedic until 2017, when he transitioned to a shift supervisor role, according to information from the Indiana Gateway website.  
McFarland was booked into Jay County Jail on March 6 and preliminarily charged with similar charges, along with two counts of theft. He was later released on a \$15,000 bond.  
In Indiana, Level 5 felonies carry a sentence of one to six years in prison. Level 6 felonies carry a sentence of six months to 2.5 years in prison.

# Selects ...

Continued from page 1  
He was formally charged Monday. (See related story.)  
Also Monday, commissioners agreed to give \$15,000 to Jay County Fair Association for water line repairs and electrical upgrades at the fairgrounds. The decision moves to Jay County Council, which meets next May 14.  
Jay County Fair Association requested \$26,050 this year in economic development income tax dollars for infrastructure projects. Amid discussion on how to allocate EDIT dollars in February, commissioners recommended the fair board first look into grant opportunities through Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs.  
Trent Paxson of Jay County Fair Board noted that fair board president Aaron Loy has looked into a grant, but its application isn’t due until October.  
“Some of these projects we had in mind ... we’d like to do a little bit earlier, if possible,” he said.  
Paxson shared quotes for replacing water lines around the former restroom building north of the East Arena as well as upgrading nine power boxes in the campground area, shifting from two- to three-prong sockets for campers. (He noted the fair board upgraded other power boxes last year.) Lowest bids for each project came in at \$6,671 from D & D Plumbing of Portland and \$6,976 from Copper-

Smith Electric of Portland, respectively.)  
He talked about applying for Indiana Office of Community and Rural Affairs dollars to pay for a larger-scale project that would involve replacing most of the old water lines at the fairgrounds, as well as a 4-H Club project.  
Commissioner Duane Monroe suggested allocating \$15,000 to the fair board for the water line and electrical work, and commissioners agreed to contribute the funds.  
In other business, commissioners:  
•OK’d making a request for proposals involved in designing, building and installing a new public safety radio system and related equipment. Barry Ritter of Ritter Strategic Services noted plans to host a pre-bid meeting with contractors May 9, with commissioners to open bids at their meeting June 9.  
•Approved the following: paying an additional \$55,000 in grant dollars to engineering firm EGIS for work related to repairing the remaining 30 homes involved in the owner-occupied rehabilitation program, with a representative noting the company has logged 128 hours into the project so far; an annual \$50,000 lease agreement with Jay County Landfill; a supplemental scope of work agreement with Brumbaugh Construction of Arcanum, Ohio, for reconstructing

the 7th Street bridge in Portland, with Aker noting Portland will be contributing 25% of the cost for sidewalk construction added to the project; paying \$11,718.19 to Dell Technologies for a new Jay County Courthouse computer server, which should go live June 23; paying \$118.23 to bond Jay County Country Living advisory board president Cindy Bracy up to \$30,000 and allowing Bracy to access the facility’s bank accounts as needed.  
•Heard updates from Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson, who noted restroom renovations at the facility begin in the next two weeks. She also expressed interest in hosting a roundtable discussion with providers for partnerships moving forward.  
•Met Ceann Bales, new executive director of Jay County Development Corporation. Bales, who has been serving in the role for about three weeks, said she is working on updating the county’s strategic plan.  
•Heard Jay Emergency Medical Service’s financial breakdown for March from Barnett. The department had \$146,537.58 in expenses and \$94,569.51 in income. Barnett also shared a closing balance summary for March with commissioners, noting \$235,184.21 in the process of being billed for the county.  
•Paid just over \$1.99 million in claims.

SERVICES

Today

**Post**, Rose Ann: 10:30 a.m., St. Anthony Catholic Church, 471 St. Anthony Road, Fort Recovery.

**Conley**, Caleb: 1 p.m., Randolph Friends Church, 6531 N. 300 West, Ridgeville.

Saturday

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

Tuesday

**Smith**, Mary: 3 p.m., Meacham Funeral Service, 648 W. State St., Albany.

Service listings provided by

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(limited availability)

1/2 Page B&W – \$375

1/4 Page Color – \$350  
(limited availability)

1/4 Page B&W – \$250

Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Deadline for ads is Monday, May 12.

Big business card (3x3.5) \$100

Business card (2x2) \$60

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@thecr.com or 260) 726-8141

Our summer festivals special section will be distributed in The Commercial Review (Portland), The News-Gazette (Winchester), and The News Times (Hartford City).



To wed May 31



Eric Gaby and Kyra Braun

Kyra Braun  
and Eric Gaby

Eric Gaby and Kyra Braun are planning a May 31 wedding. Kyra Braun is the daughter of Christopher and Linda Braun of rural Portland. Eric Gaby is the son of Mark Gaby, Syracuse, and Sonny Gaby, Goshen. A Trine University graduate with a master of business administration, Kyra Braun works as a real estate coordinator at Parkview Health in Fort Wayne. Mark Gaby, an associate security engineer at DuCharme, McMillen & Associates in Fort Wayne, graduated with a bachelor’s degree in computer science and information technology as well as a master of business administration from Trine University.

A Choired  
Taste set  
to perform  
Tuesday

It doesn’t take an A Choired Taste to enjoy their performances. A Choired Taste, a Jay County community choir, takes the stage at 7 p.m. Tuesday at First Presbyterian Church, 402 North Ship St., Portland. Eric Rogers will direct the 23-person choir, with Linda Braun accompanying. Program songs include American, Irish, and Scottish folk songs, gospel, as well as contemporary secular and sacred music. The choir will be joined in concert by local instrumentalists, Pete Vogler, Reid Knuth and Zec Landers. Admission is free.

Relationship revolves around \$\$\$\$

DEAR ABBY: I have been in a text relationship for nearly a year. I call it a text relationship because we communicate solely through texting. Because I’m not a video chat person, it doesn’t bother me that we don’t Zoom. Additionally, the few times he has tried to contact me via video, we just don’t seem to connect. Even though our communication is strictly via text, we have formed this bond where we are very in tune with one another. He knows when I’m happy or sad and need cheering up, and vice versa. All the things you could want in a relationship, we seem to have. However, he travels a lot because of his job, so I don’t see him in person. Again, that’s not a problem for me. My problem is, even though he has much more money than I’ll ever have, he often asks me to send him money mostly to play games while he is away. I start out by

Dear  
Abby



DO NOT SEND HIM ANOTHER PENNY! If you follow this advice, I promise this gamer will disappear like a wisp of smoke once he realizes the money tree has wilted. You’ve been had, my dear. I hope it wasn’t for more than you could afford. DEAR ABBY: My niece “Alyssa,” an only child, is on the kidney transplant list. When I had my DNA tested, I learned that my brother had fathered another child. The information and facts this woman (“Bree”) has provided ring true and are very believable. I have no doubt Bree is his daughter. Unfortunately, my irresponsible brother turned his back on this daughter. Bree does not want to pursue a relationship with him or with me. She did have some questions related to health issues because she has children of her own. My broth-

er and I haven’t spoken for 10 years, mainly because of how poorly he treated our late parents. Should I continue to honor Bree’s request, or tell her about her half-sister who needs the transplant? INVOLVED AUNT IN FLORIDA DEAR AUNT: If you think it might help Alyssa, inform Bree about Alyssa’s need for a kidney transplant. There is, however, no guarantee that Bree’s kidney would be a match. Do not be surprised if Bree responds negatively (or not at all), considering her lack of a relationship with her father or the rest of your family. I wish you luck on your search. Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Spring recitals Celebrate musicians and their hard work this week. Arts Place’s MusicWorks spring recitals are slated for 6 p.m. Thursday and Friday at the Jay County campus, 131 E. Walnut St., Portland. Admission is free. MusicWorks is a comprehensive program of music instruction for all ages currently offered at the Jay County Campus of Arts Place. Students learn reading music, proper playing techniques, and the fundamentals of music theory. Band concert It’s almost time for the band to spring into action. Jay County High School Band Department will perform its spring concert at 2 p.m. Sunday in the high school auditorium. The concert will feature performances from the jazz band, color guard and concert band. Patrons may enter through door eight.

Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email news@thecr.com. Today WEDNESDAY MORNING BREAKFAST CLUB — Will meet at 8 a.m. in the east room of Richards Restaurant. All women are invited to attend. Includes activities and devotional time. PING PONG — Will be played from 11 a.m. to noon on Wednesdays at West Jay Community Center. PORTLAND ROTARY CLUB — Will meet at noon each Wednesday in the cafe at John Jay Center for Learning, 101 S. Meridian St., Portland. COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-

based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland. AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229. A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

Thursday SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland. CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792. PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in communi-

ty room 1. For more information, call Kimberly Sibery at (765) 964-6075 or Nikki Bosworth at (765) 584-6452. Friday PAST RECOVERY SERVICES — Peer Addiction Support Team recovery support group meets at 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. each Friday at the Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition office at 100 N. Meridian St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3259. CINCINNATUS LEAGUE — Will host its next meeting at noon Friday, May 2, at Harmony Cafe in Portland. SOFT SHOULDERS — A support group for anyone suffering from memory loss, will meet at 10:30 a.m. the first Friday of each month in the Fireplace Room at Edelweiss Place at Swiss Village in Berne. For more information, call (260) 589-3173.

Saturday 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.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Tuesday’s Solution

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

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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GRAPHIC  
PRINTING  
NEWSPAPERS

The Commercial Review



# Look forward to the good to come

*Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from April 29, 2020. In some ways, it's difficult to believe it's been five years since the height of the coronavirus pandemic shutdowns. In others, it seems ages ago. Jack offers advice about how to deal with the pandemic in this column. It's advice that can extend beyond those challenges.*

**By JACK RONALD**  
The Commercial Review

Remember back when we were able to make plans?  
Back about the first of March, for instance, when it still seemed possible to talk about a spring break trip to Florida or a retirement celebration trip to Italy or even just a jaunt over to the Chocolate Moose for a patty melt.  
Back when it was still possible to plan for a high school graduation party.

## Santos gets a well-deserved sentence

**New York Daily News**  
Tribune News Service

Less than 2½ years after George Santos rocketed from obscurity to being presented as the face of a young new GOP, the now-former Long Island con(gress)man has been sentenced to 87 months in federal prison for wide fraud and aggravated identity theft. It's a pitiful end to a bizarre situation.  
Everyone would've been better off if the Democrats and the press had exposed his total lies and had he lost that 2022 election. He never would've disgraced the Congress. He never would've been expelled, which violated all precedent and due process in the House, and he never would've been prosecuted and imprisoned.

The con man's journey to convict began barely a month after his 2022 election, when the press belatedly revealed that he had lied about huge portions of his own biography, from his schooling, his employment and even his religion (his excuse on that one was that he claimed he was "Jewish"), which led to a cascade of questions around his identity and financial dealings.

For a period of months, it seemed like every week brought new revelations, that Santos had lied about his mom being at the World Trade Center during 9/11, that he'd been a volleyball star, and so on.

This pathetic saga exposed a couple of things about today's press and politics; it showed that a person with no qualms about outright lying and fabrication could simply bluster his way to the United States Congress, and perhaps neither the political opposition nor a reduced local media apparatus would notice until it was too late.

The Nassau County GOP machine failed to screen Santos. The Democrats failed to check on Santos. And the press, the Daily News included, failed to expose Santos in time. We all missed it and we all paid the price of having this schnook in Congress.

Santos was expelled from Congress in an overwhelmingly bipartisan bipartisan cap off to find for himself as prosecutors closed in. Santos made the grave error of

## Back in the Saddle



Back when that visit to your great aunt's house was still on the calendar.

Planning — at least immediate planning — has been one of the casualties of COVID-19. And it's going to take awhile to resuscitate it.

A few weeks on my desk calendar tell the story.

One week, back about mid-March, the calendar was full of meetings and events: A school board meeting, the Ag Day breakfast, a St. Patrick's Day

performance at Miller's Merry Manor with George Lopez and Arnold Clevenger, an Arts Place board meeting and more.

Now, the same week is a series of black scratches. I marked out event after event as they were canceled or postponed.

And the weeks that followed in the calendar? They are simply blank.

Nothing scheduled. Almost nothing on the agenda. And nothing planned.

That Rotary program I was supposed to provide April 29 has evaporated.

A Portland High School Class of 1966 gathering at a Fort Wayne TinCaps baseball game on a Sunday in early May has disappeared into the mist.

A son-in-law's commencement exercise at Indiana Uni-

versity for his master's degree has gone missing.

What all of those events had in common, of course, is that they were gatherings, events where people could get together and unknowingly transmit the coronavirus to one another, everyday events that could have deadly consequences for our friends and relatives.

But they were something more.

They were something to anticipate. And a sense of anticipation - dreaming about a future event - is something that sustains the human spirit. It can keep us going even when times are bleak.

A birthday party, a reunion, a festival, a date, all of them were something to look forward to. Maybe that's the key phrase in these difficult times: "Something to look forward to."

That's what the moment calls

for, and maybe it's the best way to deal with COVID-19 head-on.

Look forward to something.

Plan.

Put something on the calendar with red letters or a star beside it.

Start scheduling those family reunions in July that should have happened in June. Sketch out a trip to the grandchildren for Thanksgiving. Buy those concert tickets for the Jay County Fair. Start planning some play dates for the kids at the swimming pool.

Re-book that trip to Italy for your wife's retirement celebration.

Thumb your nose at the virus. Be safe, but don't let it rule your future.

Let anticipation of a better day help you get through the day ahead.

Plan for it.

## Guest Editorial

*... it showed that a person with no qualms about outright lying and fabrication could simply bluster his way to the United States Congress ...*



## Friendship won't be forgotten

**By YEHIEL POUPKO**  
Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

On Sept. 11, 2014, at the annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Chicago, Cardinal Francis George told the audience: "Before I went to the Conclave of the College of Cardinals this past February to elect a successor to Pope Benedict XVI, I asked Rabbi Poupko, 'What would the Jewish community like to see in the next pope?' He answered: 'We need a pope who knows us.'"

This is who was elected pope. As archbishop of Buenos Aires, then Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio attended Rosh Hashanah services at the Benei Tikva synagogue in September 2007. Bergoglio told the congregation that he was there "like a pilgrim, together with you, my elder brothers."

In 2010, Rabbi Abraham Skorka and Bergoglio began memorializing their two decades of conversation in a book. Friends since 1990, the two had much to share. In the introduction to the book they co-wrote, "On Heaven and Earth," Francis described their friendship: "With Rabbi Skorka I never had to compromise my Catholic identity, just like he never had to with his Jewish identity."

The Jewish people have good memories of Francis. One of the gestures of Francis' friendship with the Jewish people came early in his papacy. In 2013, in a letter to journalist Eugenio Scalfari in the Italian newspaper La Repubblica, Francis responded to the question: "What should we say to our Jewish brothers about the promise made to them by God: Has it all come to nothing?"

"This question, believe me, is a radical one for us Christians because with the help of God, especially in the light of the Second Vatican Council, we have rediscovered that the Jewish people remain for us the holy root from which Jesus was born. I too have cultivated many friendships through the years with my Jewish brothers in Argentina and often while in prayer, as my mind turned to

## Yehiel Poupko



the terrible experience of the Shoah, I looked to God," he wrote.

"God has never neglected his faithfulness to the covenant with Israel, and that, through the awful trials of these last centuries, the Jews have preserved their faith in God. And for this, we, the Church and the whole human family, can never be sufficiently grateful to them."

As the Germans murdered 6 million Jews, most of Christendom collaborated actively or passively with Nazism. In that time, the Jewish people gave witness to the one God. We alone were the sole sacred witness to the one God. Francis deepened that because he did not limit admiration and respect for Jewish witness to the period of the Shoah.

He refers to "the terrible trials of these centuries" in which "the Jews have kept their faith in God." He refers to the torment inflicted upon us by the Catholic Church and the Reformation churches throughout the ages. He affirms that the church and all of humanity will "never be sufficiently grateful to them." The pope affirms that Israel provided unique witness to the one God; that this unique witness came despite all the torment; and that Israel's faithfulness to the one God is a gift both to the church and to humanity. This is a remarkable affirmation of Judaism and the Jewish people.

People do not often pay enough attention to performance theology. Instead of issuing formal statements and teachings in well-reasoned theological papers, occasionally a pope will act out, will express in behavior, a religious idea.

In an act of performance theology while in Israel in 2014, Francis visited

the grave of Theodor Herzl, the founder of Zionism, the Jewish national liberation movement.

The honor paid to Herzl at his last resting place is compelling. One hundred and 10 years earlier, on Jan. 26, 1904, Herzl had an audience with Pope Pius X. Herzl sought the pope's support for Zionism. The pope replied, "We cannot give approval to this movement. We cannot prevent the Jews from going to Jerusalem — but we could never sanction it. The soil of Jerusalem ... has been sanctified by the life of Jesus Christ. As the Head of the Church, I cannot tell you anything different. The Jews have not recognized our Lord, therefore we cannot recognize the Jewish people."

Pius X established what was the popular and official Christian attitude to Zionism and the establishment of the state of Israel. Christian theology has had a difficult time accounting for the Jewish return to the ancient homeland.

Francis' act of honor and respect to Herzl and to Zionism demonstrated that the Roman Catholic Church no longer holds any theological objection to the Jewish return to sovereignty in the ancient homeland.

In every relationship, there are disappointments. It is because of Francis' friendship extended to the Jewish people that several of his statements on Israel's war to prevent Hamas from annihilating Israel were received with pain.

The Jewish people will remember that as the sun set on Passover, Francis departed this life. He left behind the great Passover legacy, to ever seek freedom from slavery; to ever fulfill the mitzvah (commandment) to take care of the poor and the stranger.

In these days following his passing, we know that his abiding friendship for us will never be forgotten. Judaism holds that good deeds will ever endure. This is his gift and legacy.

\*\*\*\*\*

*Poupko is a Rabbinic scholar at the Jewish United Fund/Jewish Federation of Chicago.*

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—Thomas Jefferson

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## Craft show

Montpelier Civic Center hosted a spring craft show Saturday. Pictured, Carol Rose of Portland looks at wares offered by Scottie Teegarden of Pennville.

# Conclave set to begin May 7

By ROBERT MESSER and CHRISTOPH SATOR

dpa  
Tribune News Service

ROME — The papal conclave to elect a new leader of the world's 1.4 billion Catholics will begin on May 7, Vatican spokesman Matteo Bruni said on Monday.

The cardinals set to participate in the conclave agreed the date after consultations in the Vatican, exactly one week after Pope Francis died at 88 on Easter Monday.

The Argentine pontiff was buried at the church of Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome on Saturday after a funeral ceremony in the Vatican attended by global leaders and hundreds of thousands of onlookers.

The Catholic Church stands at a crossroads, with some members hoping for the next pontiff to continue Francis' reformist course, while others seek a return to its conservative traditions.

In order to pick Francis' successor, the church's top dignitaries will retire to the Sistine Chapel in strict seclusion from May 7, with all contact to the outside world forbidden.

In total, 135 cardinals under the age of 80 from across the world are eligible to vote, although one is unable to travel due to health reasons.

Some 108 of them were appointed by Francis after he succeeded pope Benedict XVI in 2013.

A two-thirds majority of the 134 cardinals expected to be involved in the conclave is needed to choose Francis' successor in a process that could take days, if not weeks.

The longest ever conclave began in late 1268 and lasted two years before Gregory X was elected.

Recent elections have been speedier, however, with Francis selected after just over 26 hours and Benedikt having been chosen after only four rounds.

Once the necessary majority is achieved, the would-be pope is asked if he accepts the post.

If he says yes, he assumes office from that moment and is asked to state the name he has chosen to use as pope — generally that of a former pontiff or of a beloved saint.

# Trump signs order to 'unleash' law enforcement

By JENNY JARVIE and ANDREA CASTILLO

Los Angeles Times  
Tribune News Service

The Trump administration escalated its show-down with Democratic-led states and cities over immigration enforcement on Monday, with the president signing executive orders that his press secretary said will "unleash America's law enforcement to pursue criminals" and direct federal agencies to publish a list of "sanctuary cities" that do not cooperate with immigration agents.

White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt described the sanctuary city executive order in a morning news briefing as "focused on protecting American communities from criminal aliens."

"This president is trying to simply enforce our nation's immigration laws and is facing roadblock after roadblock," Leavitt said. "... We're going to continue to forge ahead with this mass deportation campaign."

Local and state officials who obstruct the enforcement of federal immigration laws, according to the "Protecting American Communities from Criminal Aliens" order, engage in "a lawless insurrection against the supremacy of Federal law and the Federal Government's obligation to defend the territorial sovereignty of the United States."

Cities and states that find themselves on the Trump administration's list of sanctuary jurisdictions could face a withdrawal of federal funding, as well as criminal and civil rights lawsuits, if they continue to resist Trump's immigration agenda. They could even find themselves charged with violating the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act.

The order instructs Atty. Gen. Pam Bondi, in consultation with the secretary of Homeland Security, to

"take appropriate action against" cities and states "favoring aliens over any groups of American citizens that are unlawful, preempted by Federal law." It could also target 24 states, including California, and D.C. that provide some immigrants lower in-state tuition rates at public universities than out-of-state U.S. citizens.

"It's quite simple," Leavitt said in the briefing with border czar Tom Homan. "Obey the law, respect the law, and don't obstruct federal immigration officials and law enforcement officials when they are simply trying to remove public safety threats from our nation's communities."

Trump is focusing on immigration — a key platform of his 2024 election campaign — as he approaches his 100th day in office. On Monday, the White House erected a line of placards around its lawn featuring mug shots of 100 people taken into custody by Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

"ARRESTED" the signs said above a photograph and a list of the crimes they had allegedly committed, from murder to rape to distribution of fentanyl.

After the two executive orders are signed, Leavitt said, the president will have signed more than 140 executive orders in three months, a number that she described as "rapidly approaching the total number signed by the Biden administration over the course of four years in office."

But the administration is already running into legal roadblocks as it seeks to penalize sanctuary cities.

Last week, a federal judge in California barred the Trump administration from denying or conditioning the use of federal funds to San Francisco and more than a dozen other municipalities that limit cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

## Dunkirk ...

Continued from page 1  
Also tabled was an invoice from law firm Barnes and Thornburg.

In other business, council:

- Heard from Revolt that work is underway to prepare Dunkirk City Pool for the summer and that applications to work at the facility will be accepted until Thursday, May 1.
- Agreed to leave city and payment of council districts as they

are currently drawn. (Formal approval of the decision will still be needed.)

- Learned from Bivens that new fire hydrants have been ordered and are expected to be delivered in late June.
- Approved a \$12,403.51 invoice from Culy Contracting of Winchester for work on a sewer line

and payment of \$224,867.36 in claims.

# HEALTHCARE

## Signs and symptoms of Parkinson's disease

Retired NBA power forward Brian Grant; best-selling musician Neil Diamond; star of television and film Michael J. Fox; and the forty-first president of the United States, George H.W. Bush, have had wildly different careers, but all shared one thing in common: Parkinson's disease. This is proof positive that PD touches people from all walks of life.

The National Institutes of Health say Parkinson's disease is a neurodegenerative disorder that affects people of all ages, races and genders. Certain factors can increase the risk of developing PD, including being over the age of 60, being male, having a family history of the disease, and exposure to certain toxins like pesticides and herbicides.

Symptoms of PD start slowly and can worsen over time. The Mayo Clinic says the first symptom of the disease may be a barely noticeable tremor in just one hand or sometimes the jaw or foot. While there is no cure for PD, early intervention therapies may slow its progression, making diagnosis at the earliest of symptoms advantageous. The following are some of the common symptoms of Parkinson's disease, courtesy of the Parkinson's Foundation and the Mayo Clinic.

- **A slight shaking (tremor)** in a finger, thumb, hand, or chin while at rest.
- **Small handwriting**, also known as micrographia, may be a sign of PD. This is when letter sizes are smaller and the words are crowded together.
- **Slowed movement**, also called



bradykinesia, can be a symptom. People with bradykinesia may find it hard to get out of a chair, shower or get dressed. Bradykinesia also may make it more difficult to blink and a person may have less expression in his or her face.

- **Although a loss of sense of smell** can be linked to a respiratory condition like the common cold or even COVID-19, no longer smelling certain foods also might be a symptom of PD.
- **Loss of automatic movements**, such as smiling or swinging arms while walking, can occur.
- **Those with PD** often have diminished posture that becomes stooped,

causing balance problems and falls.

- **Voice changes**, such as a breathy, soft or hoarse voice, could be an indicator of PD, as can slurring of words.
- **Facial masking**, which involves a serious or angry looking face, is present in some people with PD.

Additional potential symptoms of PD can include vivid dreams that cause acting out, frequent need to urinate, constipation, feeling very tired, and problems with thinking and memory.

A person should see a health care professional if any of these symptoms seem familiar. A doctor can help diagnose the condition and rule out other potential causes.

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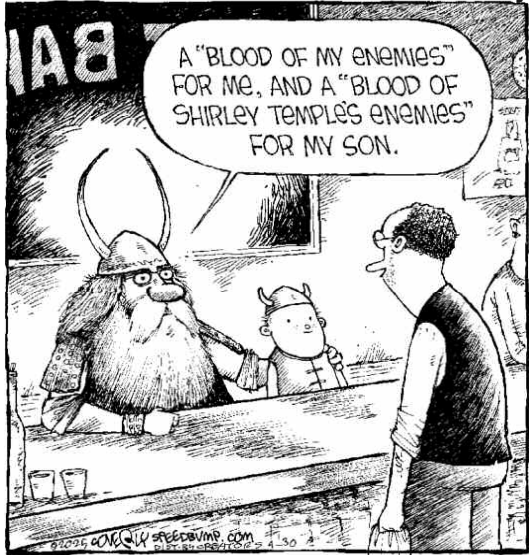
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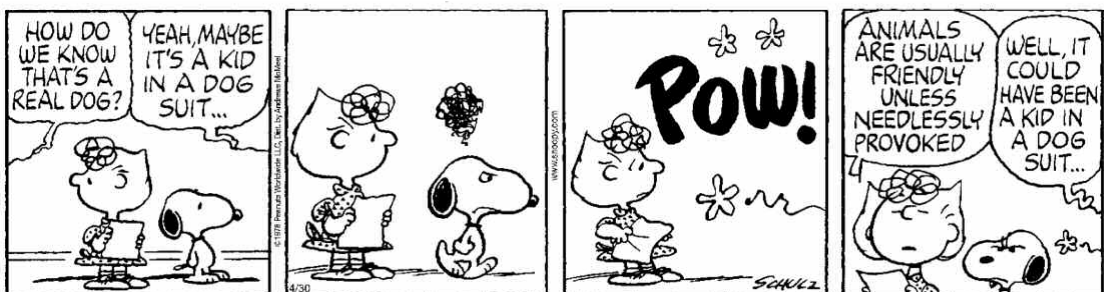
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



Peanuts



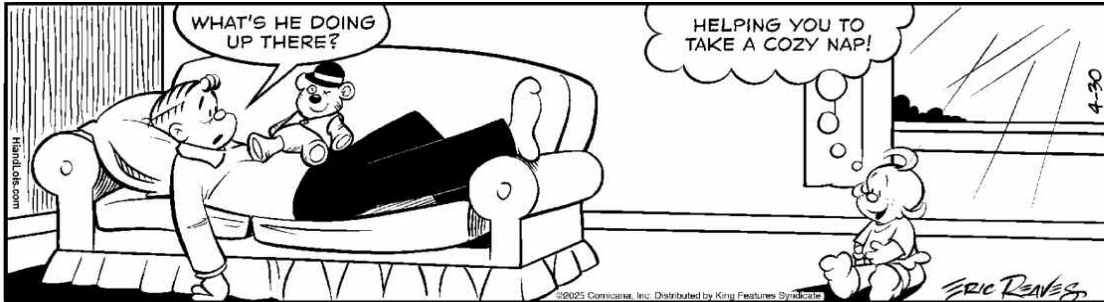
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Two shots are better than one

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

**NORTH**  
♠ 8 4  
♥ J 7 6  
♦ Q 10 9 3  
♣ A 7 4 2

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

**EAST**  
♠ Q 2  
♥ 10 9 8 4 2  
♦ A 7 4  
♣ J 9 5

**SOUTH**  
♠ A 10 6 5  
♥ A Q  
♦ K J 8 5  
♣ K Q 6

The bidding:  
South 1♦ West Pass North 2♦ East Pass  
3 NT

Opening lead — seven of spades.  
It is not uncommon for declarer to reach a point in the play where he wishes he had done something differently a little earlier.  
Take the present case, where West leads a spade against three notrump. Let's assume declarer ducks twice and wins the third spade with the ace. Next, he leads a diamond and is pleased that East, rather than West, wins with the ace.

However, East now returns a heart, creating a problem of sorts.

The question is whether to try for a ninth trick by taking the heart finesse, or whether to go up with the ace and hope the opposing clubs are divided 3-3. South knows that the chance of winning the heart finesse is about 50%, and that the chance of a 3-3 club division is only 36%.

So, declarer opts for the finesse, and when the smoke clears, he is down two. This doesn't really bother him very much, since he made the "percentage play," but sometime later he realizes that he actually didn't give himself the best chance to make the contract.

The critical moment came at trick four, when he should have cashed the K-Q-A of clubs before driving out the diamond ace. This would have disclosed the 3-3 club division and allowed South to avert an uncomfortable guess later on. If the clubs did not divide 3-3, South would still have had the heart finesse to fall back on.

By testing the clubs first, declarer would thus have given himself two chances to get home safely instead of only one.

Tomorrow: A matter of card-reading.  
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4-30

CRYPTOQUIP

TQ GK HDE TKQSA DV JTK ZKR  
OSDEY DV YKDY PK RTD IQPP  
JTKNLKPGKL LDIUQP GKOQZL?  
JTKH QGDUA NKKJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF THERE WERE A BUSINESS IN WHICH WORKERS TIED PEOPLE'S SHOELACES, IT WOULD BE A KNOT-FOR-PROFIT.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Y equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

**ACROSS**  
1 Drive- window  
5 Choose-  
8 Profes- sional gp.  
12 Penn or  
13 Victory sign  
14 San —, Italy  
15 Identity verifier  
17 Wilde- beasts  
18 Direct, as a car  
19 Mascara goof  
21 Seeing things  
24 "Yucky!"  
25 Pottery oven  
28 Cross- word hint  
30 Prefix with meter  
33 Historic time  
34 Candid  
35 Operate  
36 "Indeed!"  
37 A deadly sin  
38 Big fusses  
39 — -la-la

**DOWN**  
41 Pueblo people  
43 Lake Ontario port  
46 Inert gas  
50 Grand  
51 Trendy term  
54 Rain- delay cover  
55 Acapulco gold  
56 Met solo  
57 Prob- ability  
58 Compass dir.  
59 Longings  
61 Recipe amts.  
62 Warmth

**3 Demolish in Dover finale**  
**4 Hidden**  
**5 Egg (Pref.)**  
**6 Part of MPH**  
**7 Turner and Danson**  
**8 Quarrel**  
**9 Notify**  
**10 Over- confident**  
**11 Probos- cis**  
**16 Like some humor**  
**20 Timid**  
**22 Beige**  
**23 Cut with a sword**  
**25 Crucial**  
**26 Hot temper**

**27 Debate**  
**29 "Do — others ..."**  
**31 Pair with an air**  
**32 Carry- (travel bags)**  
**34 Banner**  
**38 Ventila- tion shaft**  
**40 Enlists again**  
**42 La —, Bolivia**  
**43 Director Prem- inger**  
**44 Roe**  
**45 Bas- soon's kin**  
**47 Slasher film fare**  
**48 Double bassist O'Brien, subject of "The Only Girl in the Orches- tra"**  
**49 Secret- protecting docs**  
**52 Coffee vessel**  
**53 Orange Muppet**

**Solution time: 23 mins.**

T	R	U	E	A	D	S	R	O	T	H
B	O	R	N	L	I	E	A	R	A	T
S	O	N	A	T	I	N	A	H	E	L
C	O	T	S	C	R	O	L	L		
S	I	L	T	Y	C	O	M	A		
U	N	I	S		S	O	N	D	H	E
D	D	E		U	M	B	E	R	G	N
S	O	N	G	B	I	R	D	S	A	C
				D	E	L	A	M	Y	N
B	E	W	A	R	E	S	A	D		
O	M	E	N		S	O	N	I	N	L
X	M	A	S		A	V	I	E	A	S
Y	A	N	K		T	A	T	Y	O	K

Yesterday's answer 4-30

1	2	3	4		5	6	7		8	9	10	11
					13				14			
12												
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			

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# Gaining ...

Continued from page 8

After JCHS took the 6-2 lead, it began to hammer the game home as A.J. Myers set the Golden Bears down in order in the third.

Caleb Leudike led off with a flyout to Foster at second base before Myers sat the next two batters himself.

Myers went the distance for Jay County, giving up one earned run on three hits and four walks. He also struck out five batters during his five innings of work.

“He started with a lot of first-pitch strikes and just threw strikes to give us a chance for our defense to make some plays there,” said Farr. “When you do that, you give us an opportunity to stay in the ball game and get the momentum going in our direction and it was great to feed off of that.”

Right after Monroe Central got put down in order, the Patriots put up three more runs, all of which were unearned, in the bottom half without getting a hit.

Camden Fraley led off with a strikeout but reached base on a dropped third strike. Duncan hit a batter and

walked two more to push Fraley in to score. Duncan struck out another batter, and a fielder's choice secured what ended up being the first two outs without any more scoring. Duncan then plunked Patriots in back-to-back at bats to let two more cross the plate.

Two more mistakes in the bottom of the fourth inning led to Jay County scoring five more runs, only two of which were earned.

“We just weren’t able to stop the bleeding,” said MCHS coach Sean Richardson. “You boot the ball around a little bit and walk a couple here and there and they put the runs on and we didn’t answer.”

In contrast, JCHS stayed mostly clean on defense, only committing one error in the first inning.

The Patriots had a lot of balance from their lineup as eight of the nine scored a run, five collected RBIs and four notched hits.

Outside of Foster and Fugiett, Gessaman drew three walks and three runs scored, while Jetmore collected three runs and two RBIs on two hits and a walk.

Box score

Monroe Central Golden Bears  
vs. Jay County Patriots

Monroe Central (7-8)

	ab	r	h	bi
Duncan 1	2	1	1	0
Luedike ss	1	1	0	0
Wilson 3b	3	0	0	0
Walker lf	2	0	0	0
McCreery p	1	0	0	0
Pence 1b	1	0	0	1
Middleton cf	2	1	0	0
Bouge dh	2	0	1	0
Oliphant rf	1	0	1	1
Baker 2b	1	0	0	0
Totals	16	3	3	2

Jay County (4-6)

	ab	r	h	bi
Brown rf	3	1	0	1
Bennett rf	0	0	0	0
Foster 2b	3	2	2	3
Fugiett ss	3	1	3	5
Schemenaur c	3	0	0	0
Sommers ph	0	0	0	0
Fraley dh	4	2	0	0
Phillips lf	1	1	0	0
Sollars lf	0	0	0	0
Geesaman 1b	0	3	0	0
Jetmore cf	2	3	2	2
Wendel 3b	2	1	1	1
Totals	21	14	8	11

Mon. Cent. 200 10X X — 3

Jay Co. 153 5XX X —14

LOB — Monroe Central 6, Jay County 6, 2B — Monroe Central 1 (Bouge), Jay County 3 (Foster, Fugiett, Wendel). HR — Jay County 1 (Fugiett). SB — Monroe Central 3 (Bouge, Oliphant, Baker).

IP H R ER BB SO

Monroe Central

Duncan	3	5	9	6	4	5
McCreery	1	3	5	2	2	2

Jay County

Myers	5	3	3	1	4	5
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The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Jay County High School's Carter Fugiett (20) celebrates with Brady Jetmore after his three-run blast in the bottom of the second inning during Monday's 14-3 win over Monroe Central. Fugiett led the offense with five RBIs.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Thursday**

Jay County — Boys golf vs. Blackford — 4:30 p.m.; Baseball vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Girls tennis at Blackford — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Adams Central — 5 p.m.; Junior high baseball at Blackford — 5:30 p.m.

Fort Recovery — Baseball at Versailles — 5 p.m.; Softball vs. Versailles — 5 p.m.; Middle school track at Coldwater JH Track Invite — 4:30 p.m.

## TV sports

**Today**

3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League soccer: FC Barcelona at Inter (CBS)

3:15 p.m. — Women's Super League soccer: Manchester United at Chelsea Women (ESPN2)

6:40 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

7 p.m. — NHL Playoffs: Montreal Canadiens at Washington Capitals (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — NHL Playoffs: Montreal Florida Panthers at Tampa Bay Lightning (ESPN2)

8 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup soccer: Inter Miami at Vancouver Whitecaps (FOX)

9:30 p.m. — NHL Playoffs: St. Louis Blues at Winnipeg Jets (ESPN)

10 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Minnesota Timberwolves at Los Angeles Lakers (TNT)

**Thursday**

12:40 p.m. — MLB: St. Louis Cardinals at

Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)

2:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Nottingham Forest at Brentford (USA)

5 p.m. — College lacrosse: Big Ten Tournament (BTN)

7 p.m. — College baseball: Texas at Arkansas (ESPN)

7:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: New York Knicks at Detroit Pistons (TNT)

8 p.m. — USL Championship soccer: Louisville City at Lexington (FOX)

9:40 p.m. — MLB: Detroit Tigers at Los Angeles Angels (FOX)

10 p.m. — MMA: Professional Fighters League (ESPN2)

10 p.m. — LIV Golf: LIV Golf Korea (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 Belmont High School and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.

**Challenge set**

The Adams County 5K Run/Walk Challenge is set to begin May 10.

The Challenge includes seven races and the Challenge Series award will be given to the first

100 participants over the age of 19 to compete in five or more events.

Registration forms are available at [www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com](http://www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com) and can be submitted to Debra Gerber at 656 W Van Buren St., Berne, IN 46711.

The series fee is \$125 with a t-shirt included in each race or \$90 without it. For students under the age of 18 registering, the cost will be \$100 with the t-shirts or \$80 without.

The first race, Monroe Lions 5K, is set for May 10 at 8:15 a.m. For more information contact Alan Arnold at (260) 216-1101 or email [pamalam@myfibersolution.com](mailto:pamalam@myfibersolution.com).

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To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to [sports@theocr.com](mailto:sports@theocr.com).

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**PUBLIC AUCTION** Located 620 N Pierce Street, Portland IN Saturday Morning MAY 24, 2025 9:30 A.M.

**REAL ESTATE**

3 Bedroom manufactured home with approximately 1400 square feet of living area sitting on concrete crawl space. This 1994 home features 2 full bathrooms, gas forced air furnace, central air, metal roof, and attached carport with approximately 736 square feet. This home is situated on a 136í x 173í corner lot which is equivalent to 3 city lots. Property also has 2 outdoor storage sheds. This home is located at the east end of Portland near the Jay County Fairgrounds which allows you to live in the city limits while enjoying the rural sitting. For more information or private showing contact GARY LOY, AUCTIONEER at (260) 726-5160 or KIM LOY, REAL ESTATE BROKER at (260) 729-2213. ELDON MILLER By Ron Miller POA And ROWENA MILLER, DECEASED Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608

90 SALE CALENDAR

Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

**PUBLIC AUCTION** Located: 505 West Line Street, Geneva, IN Saturday Morning MAY 3, 2025 REAL ESTATE WILL SELL AT 9:30 A.M.

Personal property will sell immediately following real estate.

**REAL ESTATE:**

1 Ω story home with 3 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom and 1426 square feet of living area. Home has gas forced air furnace with central air, gas water heater, a water softener and a partial basement. The kitchen has nice oak cabinets with space for a table along with a dining room.

There is a 24í x 26í 2 car detached garage with heat and water, a small utility barn with a walk in cooler and a 32í x 48í pole barn that has a workshop with heat and water. This property sits on 2.06 acres. This property has been well maintained and has a spacious yard.

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90 SALE CALENDAR

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2025-1 CCMG Dunkirk Project Sealed Bids for the 2025-1 CCMG Dunkirk Project will be received by the City of Dunkirk at the Jay County Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian Street, Suite D, Portland, Indiana 47371, until Wednesday, May 7, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. local time. At that time the Bids received will be publicly opened and read. The Project includes the following Work: The resurfacing of various streets within the City of Dunkirk. Information and Bidding Documents for the Project can be found and downloaded at the following website: [choiceoneengineering.com/pr](http://choiceoneengineering.com/pr) ojects-out-for-bid. All official notifications, addenda, and other Bidding Documents will be offered through the designated website. Neither Owner nor Engineer will be responsible for Bidding Documents, including addenda, if any, obtained from sources other than the Issuing Office of Choice One. For all further requirements regarding bid submittal, qualifications, procedures, and contract award, refer to the Instructions to Bidders that are included in the Bidding Documents.

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Patriots pushed 19 runs across against Wapahani, see roundup below

Sports

FRHS softball takes on Versailles today, see Sports on tap

Gaining steam



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Rylee Sollars of the Jay County High School baseball team camps under a fly ball in left field during Monday's 14-3 win over Monroe Central. Sollars caught the ball for the second out of the fifth inning to help end the game via mercy rule.

Jay baseball beats up on Monroe Central for second consecutive victory

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

The Patriots finally had a breakthrough game against Woodlan, but the lingering question was if they could build off the success.

The Golden Bears punched the Patriots in the mouth, but a big second inning swung the momentum.

From there, the Patriots had control and captured back-to-back wins for the first time this season.

Jay County High School's baseball team claimed its second straight victory with a 14-3 win over the Monroe Central Golden Bears in five innings on Monday.

"It's finally nice to start getting something going here," said JCHS coach Todd Farr. "The win over Woodlan was a good, quality win for us. Tonight it was just about getting momentum and moving in that right direction. They're not a bad team. ... We're starting to make plays. We're starting to be locked in a little bit more every pitch, so definitely getting there."

The Patriots (4-6) gave up two runs in the first inning, but swiped one back in the bottom half after a single by Wyatt Foster, who finished with two hits, two runs and three RBIs, and a Carter Fugiett double.

The real damage came in the second inning.

Brady Jetmore hit a single to left field and Joe Geesaman and Leighton Brown both drew walks to load the bases with two outs. Monroe Central catcher Carson Siekmann took the trip out to the mound to talk things over with Carter Duncan, but it was to no avail as Foster delivered a two-run double to left field on the first pitch.

One pitch later Fugiett, the Patriots' offensive leader on the day with five RBIs, three hits and one run, added three more runs with a high fly ball that carried over the left field wall.

"Wyatt stepped up like that from the get go when he started for us a couple of weeks ago," Fugiett said. "I know when he steps up there he's going to do something positive. ...

"When I was in the dugout I saw he had a hanging curveball. In the first at bat, when I had the double, he threw me a fastball and I put it down the line. I knew he probably wasn't going to give me a fastball again, so he threw me a first pitch curveball. It was just hanging so I just put it in the air and we've got a little wind so that helped it out too. But I just put it in the air and let the ball do its job."

See Gaining page 7

JCHS softball stays perfect against Raiders

SELMA — The Patriots put up nine runs in the first inning and the offensive onslaught led to their ninth win of the year.

The Jay County High School softball team stayed undefeated on the season with a 19-2 victory over the Wapahani Raiders on Monday.

Jay County (9-0), which finished 11th in this week's Class 3A Softball Coaches Association of Indiana poll, got to work early as six singles, a triple, a double, a hit batter and an error pushed nine runs across in the opening frame. The Patriots continued to score with two runs in the second inning, three in the third, one in the fourth and four in their final at bat.

Brenna Ruble, Jaelynn Lykins, Jozey Shimp and Carley Trinidad all drove in three runs apiece. Lykins and Shimp led the team in hits with four, while Morgan Missicano, Mallory Winner and Trinidad each slashed three.

Winner got the win after just three innings in the circle. She gave up two unearned runs to Wapahani (0-8).

Homan leads

SIDNEY, Ohio — Caden Homan put together a strong day at the plate as the Fort Recovery baseball team rolled to an 11-1 win over the Lehman Catholic Cavaliers on Monday.

Homan drove in four runs and collected three hits, including a three-run home run in the sixth inning, to lead the Indians' offensive effort. Dylan Klenke followed with three RBIs despite not notching any hits.

Klenke earned the win for the Tribe (9-4), pitching all six innings. He

Local roundup

nearly earned a shutout, but Lehman Catholic (6-5) executed a double steal just before the final out of the contest.

FRHS put up at least two runs in four out of six innings.

Patriots split

FARMLAND — The Jay County boys golf team split a tri match on Monday at Hickory Hills Golf Club, beating Winchester 180-213 while falling to host Monroe Central 171-180.

Griffin Byrum led the way for the Patriots (4-2) with 43 strokes out of the third position. His highlight came on the 152-yard, par-3 eighth hole that the senior birdied. Byrum also made par twice and bogey three times. Byrum was two strokes behind match medalist Cohen West of MCHS.

Tucker Griffin and Isaac Homan followed with 45 strokes apiece. Griffin had more success at the start of his round with a bogey on the first hole and pars on the three that followed. He hit a bit of a hiccup on the fifth and sixth holes before finishing with three bogeys. Homan made par three times as well and bogeyed three holes.

Cody DeHoff rounded out the team score with a 47, while Dawson Goldsworthy's 51 didn't affect the final.

Slow start

NEW MADISON, Ohio — Fort Recovery's softball team gave up all five

runs in the first two innings as it fell to the Division VI No. 2 Tri-Village Patriots 5-2 Monday.

Jenna Homan gave up a pair of singles and a double that gave the Patriots (16-0) a 2-0 advantage in the first inning. TVHS struck for three more runs in the second on two singles, a double, a hit batter and a sacrifice fly-out. In total, Homan gave up seven hits, three walks and five runs in the loss.

Both of the runs for Fort Recovery (8-6) scored in the third inning. Paisley Hart and Emma Will both reached base on singles before Ava Grisez knocked them in with a double to center field.

Jay loses

The Jay County girls tennis team lost its second Allen County Athletic Conference match of the season on Monday as the South Adams Starfires picked off the No. 3 singles and both doubles matches for a 3-2 victory.

Brenna Bailey remained perfect at 6-0 on the season with a 6-3, 6-0 win over Ava Kinsey at the No. 1 singles position.

Meredith Dirksen picked up the other win at No. 2 singles by beating Abby Claghorn 6-1, 6-3.

Lilly Johnson gave Olivia Oswalt a run for her money, but couldn't come up with the point from the No. 3 singles position, falling 6-2, 6-7 (2-7), 6-0.

Both doubles teams won four games while losing their matches. Faith Faulkner and Raylah Newton fell to Malina Mawhorr and Kenzie Miller 6-1, 6-3 in the No. 1 doubles match, while Gracie Baker and Lanie Bryan beat Gretchen Link and Sophia Sprunger 6-2, 6-2 at No. 2 doubles.





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