

Reviving Giles

Quick action by Bloomfield school nurse and staff saved life of fifth grade teacher following cardiac arrest

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

Fifth graders at Bloomfield Elementary School were outside for an extra recess. It was a special treat during state testing, a chance to leave those stresses behind and enjoy the 78-degree, sunny weather.

Teacher Giles Laux was interacting with his students as he often does, running around and playing games. Feeling himself getting tired, he stepped away and told fellow fifth grade teacher Kristen Gibson that he was going to take his students inside. She said she would follow suit.

As they reached the door, Laux started to pull it open. He leaned into it for support. Then, his body slumped. Stumbling backward into Gibson's arms, she caught him and placed him on the ground. She used her communication radio to call for help. Fourth grade teacher Kari Brotherton pressed the alert button on the card that hung around her neck.

Seconds later, principal Ben Dues and school nurse Whitney Bruggeman arrived on the scene. Bruggeman assessed the situation. No pulse.

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"I think we all know that your school nurse is a hero," Dues said Thursday morning. Laux stepped to the podium moments later. In front of him were his students, some colleagues and those who responded when he suffered a cardiac arrest. He briefly addressed first responders and talked about safety training. Then he turned to Bruggeman.

"Thank you is not enough," Laux said. Those were the only words he could get out. Instead, he walked over and wrapped her in a hug.

Jay School Corporation honored Bruggeman, who is in her fourth year as Bloomfield's school nurse, with superintendent Jeremy Gulley and school board presi-



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Bloomfield Elementary School fifth grade teacher Giles Laux hugs school nurse Whitney Bruggeman during a commendation ceremony Thursday morning. Laux suffered a cardiac arrest at the school last week. Quick action by Bruggeman and school staff has been credited with saving his life.

dent Ron Laux presenting her with a commendation. Gulley praised her "skill, precision and calm under pressure." "Her rapid and decisive intervention performed in coordination with school personnel and emergency responders was instrumental in stabilizing the condition of Mr. Giles Laux prior to EMS arriving," he added. "Nurse Whitney's actions exemplify clinical excellence, courage, resolve and selfless dedication to duty. ... Her efforts not only preserved life but uplifted the spirit of all who witnessed her courage and capability."

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Laux remembers beginning to open the door to lead students back into the building. "Everything went dark, just like a curtain closing," he said. "The next thing, I'm talking to the EMS on the ambulance."

See **Reviving** page 2

Braun chides LG, defends his tax plan

Governor says he envisions further cuts to homestead tax

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Indiana cabinet members, lawmakers, lobbyists and more gathered Wednesday to celebrate Gov. Mike Braun's first 100 days in office — but the man of the hour had tough words for his second-in-command, critics of his marquee legislative accomplishments and the health care industry.

Lt. Gov. Micah Beckwith enraged civil rights activists and historians alike last Thursday when he dubbed the U.S. Constitution's Three-Fifths

Compromise "a great move" toward ending slavery. Braun didn't publicly weigh in for a nearly a week. "I definitely wouldn't have used that characterization, and I don't like it," he told reporters Wednesday.

"I'm a believer that you better start thinking about what you're saying before it comes out," he continued. "... And I think that you don't want to make headlines the wrong way, because it takes away from the substance of what you're trying to do."



Indiana Capital Chronicle/Leslie Bonilla Muñiz

Braun also defended the local property and income tax plan that lawmakers pushed past the finish line this month amid outcry from hard-hit units of local government and dissatisfied homeowners. "By far the biggest thing I heard about: we went from one version to a different version, and then the meat grinder of legislation took over," he told attendees. "And look at the product that we turned out. ... You're pissing off people on each end of the spectrum and most in between say that it was a solid package."

See **Braun** page 2

Deaths

Lindle Stephens, 83, Wells County
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 68 degrees Wednesday. The low was 46.
Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 50s with a chance of showers and thunderstorms. Expect highs in the lower 60s Saturday with a 50% chance of rain.
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Solid Waste Management District will have recycling trailers available from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday in the shopping center at 220 Lincoln St., Portland, the parking lot east of Redkey Post Office and the parking lot south of Salamonina Fire Station.

Coming up

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

Tuesday — Results from the JCHS baseball team at the Wapahani Invitational.

Wednesday — Coverage of next week's Portland City Council meeting.

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Braun ...

Continued from page 1

In comments to reporters, Braun envisioned further cuts to homestead property tax bills, done gradually “to where other sources of income can be used.” But he warned school districts and local governments that he wouldn’t allow their revenues to grow faster than the economy.

Former President Joe Biden got a knock as Braun said a grim revenue forecast forced lawmakers to cut \$2 billion in spending out of the state’s next two-year, now-\$44 billion budget in the space of a week.

“When it comes to what we really cut, nothing got hammered, and the most important stuff stayed intact,” he declared.

Most state agencies, along with public colleges and universities, were dealt 5% funding cuts. Lawmakers also squeezed eligibility requirements for the state’s pre-kindergarten program and subsidized child care.

But a two-year-old program to supplement local public health departments took a 60% cut, with funding falling from \$100 million each year to \$40 million. Legislative leaders argued that nearly half the funds disbursed last year hadn’t yet been spent.

“Don’t ever mistake that you got to have more money to do things better with. That’s called anti-productivity,” Braun replied, when asked about the public health funding cut. “When

you come up with better ideas, you may need more money to invest, and there’s nothing wrong with that, but in most cases, when it comes to government, you’ve got plenty of money. You’ve just got to learn how to spend it better.”

But he didn’t rule out funding boosts in the future.

“Don’t mistake the short-run — where you get whipsawed — with what you want to do in the mid-term and the long-term,” Braun said. “So that means we may be pouring more resources into it, if we can get a good (return on investment).”

He had big hopes for the interim and legislative sessions to come, repeatedly noting how tak-

ing office days after the session’s start hampered his efforts to shape proposals. His first 100 days overlapped entirely with the breakneck budget-writing session, ending just over a day before both chambers of the Indiana General Assembly adjourned sine die.

Braun reiterated his desire to tackle high health care costs as his top priority now that session is over. In both his speech and comments to reporters, he asked players in the health care industry for solutions while threatening punishment for stasis.

“That and more will be brought to bear if, in fact, they’re not lowering their prices and giving us better outcomes,” Braun said.

Obituaries

Lindle Lee Stephens, Nottingham Township, Wells County, Oct. 26, 1941-April 29, 2025. Services will be at 2 p.m. Friday, May 2, at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services.

There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.

CR almanac

Saturday 5/3	Sunday 5/4	Monday 5/5	Tuesday 5/6	Wednesday 5/7
61/44	60/46	64/47	70/51	72/51
There is a 50% chance of rain with a high near 61. Light winds will be out of the north.	The forecast calls for partly sunny skies with a high near 60 and a 40% chance of showers.	There is a 40% chance of showers again with otherwise partly sunny skies and a high of 64.	Expect skies to be mostly sunny with a high of 70.	The high temperature will be 72 degrees under mostly sunny skies.

Lotteries

Powerball 1-2-3-57-59 Power Ball: 9 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$44 million	Daily Four: 8-2-7-7 Quick Draw: 2-4-6-9-14-26-34-35-37-38-50-51-56-58-63-66-72-76-79-80 Cash 5: 11-12-25-39-42 Estimated jackpot: \$80,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$80 million	Ohio Wednesday Midday Pick 3: 3-4-0 Pick 4: 9-2-1-8 Pick 5: 8-2-8-4-0 Evening Pick 3: 7-6-0 Pick 4: 3-7-2-2 Pick 5: 7-6-6-9-4 Rolling Cash: 1-5-6-15-27 Estimated jackpot: \$100,000
Hoosier Wednesday Midday Daily Three: 4-1-1 Daily Four: 0-3-0-5 Quick Draw: 1-2-5-17-18-21-29-35-39-44-52-56-58-60-66-68-69-73-74-79 Evening Daily Three: 8-1-4	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.81 June corn4.85 July corn4.87	June beans10.48 Wheat 4.90
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.88 June corn4.92 July corn4.95	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.76 June corn4.76 Beans10.50 June beans10.52 Wheat4.84
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.80 June corn4.75 Beans10.58	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.81 June corn4.83 Beans10.59 June beans10.61 Wheat4.91

Today in history

<p>In 2014, Jay County High School’s softball team blasted Southern Wells 16-1 in five innings to improve to 13-0. Chelsea Tighe hit a solo home run as part of a three-run first inning for the Patriots, who added 11 runs in the second.</p> <p>In 2019, Portland Board of Works approved a five-year contract with East Central Recycling, which processes the city’s side collection from its curbside recycling program. (The program had been stopped in November 2018 because of rising costs, but Portland City</p>	<p>Council later voted to reinstate the program.)</p> <p>In 2022, the Jay County High School girls track team placed fourth at the Muncie Central Relays. Gabi Bilbrey set a new career-best in the discus at 120 feet even. She went on to be a state qualifier in the event.</p> <p>In 2023, Jeff Westlake won a four-way Republican primary for mayor of Portland. He ousted incumbent John Boggs, who finished third. (Westlake went on to defeat former two-term mayor Randy Geesaman in the general election.)</p> <p>—The CR</p>
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Citizen’s calendar

Monday 5:30 p.m. — Portland City Council, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7:30 p.m. — Fort Recovery Village Council, village hall, 201 S. Main St.	1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Pennville Town Council, town hall, 105 N. Washington St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
Tuesday 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station,	Thursday 6 p.m. — Jay County Plan Commission, Community Resource

‘I felt like I was almost looking down on the situation, the whole scenario. It really was like God was right there sitting with me, looking at the scenario and using me, us, the whole building to get this done.’

—Whitney Bruggeman, Bloomfield school nurse

Reviving ...

Continued from page 1

When she arrived, Bruggeman was hopeful. The exact nature of Laux’s medical issue was unclear. Maybe he had tripped and suffered a minor injury.

She removed his sunglasses.

“Your assessment was very clear that something was very wrong,” Bruggeman said to Laux as they sat across the room from each other while sharing the story.

He was unresponsive.

There was no pulse.

Bruggeman took action.

“I felt like I was almost looking down on the situation, the whole scenario,” she said. “It really was like God was right there sitting with me, looking at the scenario and using me, us, the whole building to get this done.”

She sent Dues to get the school’s automated external defibrillator (AED). Then, 35 seconds after arriving on scene, she cleared clothing from his chest and started CPR.

As she performed chest compressions, Dues returned with the AED. They attached the device. She started compressions again as the device booted up.

The AED signaled her to pause to allow it to assess the situation. It advised against a shock.

Bruggeman resumed chest compressions.

She was thinking about what else she should do or could do. Were rescue breaths needed? What would lead to a successful outcome?

She said she wasn’t counting compressions. She was praying.

“And then about that time, he kind of started responding,” said Bruggeman, tearing up. “And I was so thankful.”

His first response was just a stirring of his body. So she continued compressions.

About 15 to 20 seconds later, he responded more clearly: “Stop that.”

She checked for a pulse.

“I was able to clearly feel one,” she said. “His assessment immediately improved. He showed signs of recovery.”

“And he started talking to us,” she continued, the relief clear in her voice more than a week later.

A teacher at Bloomfield for 13 years, he wanted to go back to his classroom.

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Laux’s memory of those moments immediately after he regained consciousness is hazy.

He said he first thought he was

dreaming. He remembers his wife Barbie, formerly the secretary at the school, telling him he needed to get up and get ready for work. He thought he had fallen asleep again.

Then he thought maybe it was a prank, an elaborate one he would never be able to top.

“I was so confused,” he said.

It wasn’t until Portland firefighter Travis Theurer said he was going to be transported to Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne that Laux knew the situation was real.

He slept on and off on the way to the hospital, where he would spend two days.

“I was in kind of a fog,” Laux said.

While in his mind he was foggy, the initial assessment was good. Bruggeman, who started her career at IU Health Ball Memorial Hospital in Muncie and later worked at Jay County Hospital and IU Health Jay, was asking him questions.

He knew who he was.

He knew where he was.

“He looked a little confused, but quick Giles answers,” said Dues. “He was sharp.”

In addition to questions, she was concerned about some facial drooping. The continued assessment and Laux’s responses ruled out a stroke.

“It was clear he was a little groggy, but he answered every question correctly,” said Bruggeman.

Upon arriving at Lutheran Hospital, Barbie shared details of the incident with medical staff.

“The doctor said, ‘Perfect storm,’” Laux said. “He said, ‘You easily could have been walking your dogs and that would have been the end of your story.’ Even though I really don’t prefer passing out in front of kids like that, it was the best place to have an emergency.”

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Laux was released from Lutheran Hospital on Friday, April 25. He had seen emails indicating that firefighters involved in the response would be visiting the school that day.

“I told Barbie, ‘Let’s pop in and say hi to everybody so everybody sees me on two feet, talking, smiling,’” he said.

They visited a couple of classrooms, talked to some staff.

“It was better for me, I think, than you guys,” he said.

“I feel like that really helped us more than I even understood until after the fact, seeing you stop in,” said Bruggeman, a 2007 Jay County

High School graduate. “It just kind of helped close the circle a little bit. That was the visual — Mr. Laux being back to being Mr. Laux. It helped us process a lot.”

He returned to a house full of cards from students.

When he got settled, he texted Bruggeman: “Thanks for saving my life.”

Their connection goes beyond co-workers. Laux and his wife have vacationed with Bruggeman’s parents. He and her mother-in-law are first cousins. His daughters went through school at the same time as her sister. He was also her wedding photographer.

“Even just seeing his name pop up on the phone was just very emotional and powerful,” she said. “I’m just so thankful, so thankful.”

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Laux will not return to the classroom this year.

His activity is restricted and open-heart surgery has been scheduled for May 14. Surgeons will remove his aortic valve and replace it with a new one.

“I can’t wait,” Laux said.

In his absence, his former student teacher Nadia Hardman of Indiana State University is taking over for the rest of the school year. The 2022 JCHS graduate reached out to the school to offer her services after hearing about Laux’s situation.

He fully expects to be back teaching fifth graders for the 2025-26 school year, most likely playing games on that playground again.

On Thursday, though, all involved were simply grateful to be together.

“It definitely feels healing,” said Bruggeman. “I’m just so thankful that we can process this right now like we are because Mr. Laux is safe.

“It’s never been more clear that it feels like a family here.”

In his trademark fashion, Dues tossed in some humor.

“You scared us a little bit, buddy,” he said.

“What a blessing we can joke with one another,” he added. “I think that is a testament to what Whitney said — a family.”

Bruggeman’s commendation, Laux said, simply reaffirms what the folks at Bloomfield have always known.

“We tell her how thrilled we are and how great it is to have her here,” he said. “It reaffirms that she is truly special.”

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SERVICES

Friday
Knapschafer, Ralph: 2 p.m., Williamson-Spencer and Penrod Funeral Home, 208 N. Commerce St., Portland.

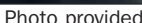
Stephens, Lindle: 2 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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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Portland, Indiana 47371
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Annette Alexander was honored recently with the United Way of Jay County's Lee Hall Award. Alexander is pictured with board president Patrick Wells.



No Phone Calls Please

We are born into the world diverse

By MORTON J. MARCUS

I've been reading Robert Shiller's 2019 book "Narrative Economics," which details, in simple English, how stories, fact or fiction, have influenced economic affairs.

The tale of brokers jumping from Wall Street windows in response to the 1929 stock market collapse engendered a bleak situation and panic.

The Bitcoin mania of our times is based on endorsements by reputedly successful investors like Elon Musk and President Donald Trump, first-class storytellers.

It got me thinking of another phrase with much power and little reality, "All men are created equal."

It's not true. We come into the world with different genetic

Eye on the Pie



endowments, taking our first breaths in vastly different environments, swaddled by dissimilar adults. In short, we are born diverse.

No matter what the Trump or Mike Braun administrations, and their co-conspirators may wish to believe, diversity is a fundamental condition of humanity. It is the basic reality of "identical" twins.

Trump may declare that we bear no differentiation except

that precisely stated on our birth certificates. The world knows differently.

Legislators bind themselves to those five words, "All men are created equal." We see it with the failures of the recently completed General Assembly session. All Indiana families, despite an extreme range of income and differentiation by circumstances, are to have vouchers paid by the state for the education of their children. All income is to be taxed at the same flat rate.

Virtually all children, despite the extreme range of their capabilities and interests, are to be subjected to the same set of educational aspirations. They are to be passed through a STEM cauldron and formed into marketable ingots.

Companies are exceptionally differentiated by what they do. But they too are seen today primarily through the prism of finance. They became commodities to be aggregated, shipped from place to place, homogenized and traded. It's Taco Bell shackled up with KFC and Pizza Hut in a nightmare of indigestion.

However, student athletes are now monetized by expectations of their differentiated performances.

Politicians may rail against diversity, but there never was a quest for equality or equity. Inclusion was a temporary awkwardness of commercials on TV. Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) offices were rarely of consequence to any in the upper reaches of institutions.

So why this war on diversity? It is an example of the ignorance and indifference that plagues those with responsibilities they cannot manage. They can pander to the misinformed and malefactors who hide behind the shield of the Declaration of Independence.

Yet that shield is out of date. It was pseudo-religious and irrelevant when written in a nation that still supported slavery, the suppression of women and the imposition of indignities on immigrants. To mandate no recognition of diversity is to deny our basic humanity.

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

Political uniformity is bad for democracy

Chicago Tribune
Tribune News Service

The Democratic National Committee's ultimatum to activist and vice chair David Hogg — demanding neutrality from party officers during primary elections — highlights the risks of enforcing political conformity.

Hogg, 25, recently unveiled a strategy to spend big on primaries against "ineffective, asleep at the wheel" Democrats, taking the unusual step of targeting fellow Democrats instead of Republicans.

Democrats' response is unsurprising and logical, but it feels a lot like the old workplace cliché, "that's how we've always done things," typically uttered by people in comfortable positions who are uninterested in change, even if needed.

We're not here to defend Hogg. But we do support challenging the status quo that has left many Americans disenchanted and politically homeless.

While political cohesion can offer short-term strategic advantages, demanding strict uniformity often silences fresh voices and stifles innovation. It can also dampen voter engagement — especially among younger voters and moderates who feel alienated by partisan purity tests.

A 2022 Pew survey showed that, even before the 2024 election, half of young voters wished they had more political parties to choose from. In 2023, another Pew poll found that 3 in 10 Americans were dissatisfied with both major parties.

Healthy democracies thrive on competition, discussion and respectful disagreement. When political parties become monolithic, rigidly discouraging challenges and critiques, they risk becoming out of touch, complacent and ultimately less effective.

Democrats are facing that reckoning now. The party's approval rating has been well below 40% in recent polls, unusually low marks fueled in no small part by disaffection from Democrats themselves.

This isn't a challenge exclusive to Democrats by any means. Congressional Republicans have become shrinking violets on legislative matters, falling in line with President Donald Trump's agenda even when it conflicts fundamentally with their own long-held views.

Guest Editorial

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul, a Kentucky Republican who leans libertarian, is one of the few conservative voices speaking out against his party and the president on tariffs and a budget that does too little to address the federal deficit, and he's taking heat for it. We applaud Paul's consistency on the issues and his willingness to stick to principle over party.

Demands for unquestioning conformity — whether from Democrats or Republicans — run counter to the spirit of our democratic republic, which champions diversity of thought and a higher allegiance to principles over party orthodoxy. This board supports a more inclusive politics that values honest debate as a cornerstone of democratic health.

Our concerns extend to state and local politics as well. For example, we view Illinois House Speaker Chris Welch's informal rule requiring any bill getting a floor vote to be able to pass with only Democratic votes even if it would win approval on a bipartisan basis as an undemocratic restraint. It undermines what a legislature is meant to do: debate ideas on their merits no matter their provenance.

If the goal of American politics is merely to erase the other side's advantage, we've lost sight of what matters most: serving the public. Our country's founders warned that "factionalism," embodied by political parties, could be fatal to the nascent republic's health. More than two centuries later, we're uncomfortably close to proving those early skeptics right.

The only time party bosses seem concerned with reconsidering their rigid positions is after they lose. That's not enough. Americans' growing frustration with both parties, illustrated in poll after poll, to our minds is a cry for change.

We need a system that focuses less on partisan success and top-down control and more on fostering political discourse that embraces a diversity of thought and ideas.



Industry is at a crossroads

By A.J. BAUER
Bloomberg Opinion
Tribune News Service

When executive producer Bill Owens resigned from "60 Minutes," he was not forced out by President Donald Trump — at least not directly.

Rather, Owens bristled at increasing editorial oversight by CBS executives and those of its parent company, Paramount Global. His exit is a reminder of longstanding tensions between editorial and corporate interests in American journalism that have heightened in the Internet and Trump eras. Owens acknowledged as much in a meeting with staff, an audio recording of which was obtained by the New York Times.

"I do think this will be a moment for the corporation to take a hard look at itself and its relationship to us," he said.

Faced with an increasingly lawless president who has leveraged federal power to exact revenge against his perceived enemies in the legal and higher education sectors, the media industry, too, finds itself in the crosshairs.

The storied CBS News magazine has been under fire since November, when Trump sued, claiming the program had favorably edited an interview with his 2024 electoral opponent Kamala Harris. He initially wanted \$10 billion but doubled that in February, a hardball strategy seemingly designed to induce a nine-figure settlement from Paramount.

As the president is well aware, Paramount is in a particularly vulnerable position at the moment — the company's controlling shareholder, Shari Redstone, has been working on a \$8 billion merger with Skydance Media, owned by David Ellison (whose father, Oracle

A.J. Bauer



Corp. founder Larry Ellison, has been increasingly aligned with the Republican Party under Trump). That merger would need Federal Communications Commission approval, and on Thursday, the Wall Street Journal reported that Paramount is reportedly discussing diversity policy concessions — perhaps to further grease the wheels with the FCC.

Paramount's fiduciary responsibilities to shareholders are increasingly at odds with CBS News' journalistic imperative to cover the administration accurately. While the company has agreed to enter into mediation toward a settlement, Trump has continued to publicly rail against both CBS and 60 Minutes.

"They are not a 'News Show,' but a dishonest Political Operative simply disguised as 'News,' and must be responsible for what they have done, and are doing," Trump posted on Truth Social recently. "They should lose their license!"

This isn't the first time he has threatened a major U.S. broadcaster. Last September, following a weak debate performance against Harris, Trump called upon the FCC to revoke ABC's broadcasting license. In December, as Trump prepared his return to the White House, the network agreed to pay \$15 million toward his presidential library to settle a defamation claim he filed against ABC earlier last year. Two major newspapers, The Washington

Post and the Los Angeles Times, have both recently shown a willingness to tailor their journalism in ways that raise questions about whether they were merely pandering to Washington's new power dynamics.

This sense of industrial coziness with the White House would be disconcerting under any presidential administration. But it is particularly jarring when there is an ever-increasing array of media choices that are continuing to fragment what was once a mass news audience. It's also been widely reported how popular podcasts helped decide the 2024 election. And a Pew survey from November found that about 20% of adults in the U.S. said that they routinely got news from influencers on social media. That jumped to 37% for people under 30.

Since digital media often eschews traditional journalistic commitments to fairness and accuracy and social media companies don't want the responsibility of being publishers, this trend is troubling. Audiences, indifferent or uncertain about the quality of information they receive, can be left ill-informed — or entirely uninformed.

Journalists are still producing valuable reporting, analysis and commentary, of course.

But legacy U.S. journalism has historically thrived when its financial foundations and constitutional protections have been robust. With both of those pillars under siege due to the digital revolution and Trump's attacks, the industry has reached an existential crossroads. Just ask Bill Owens.

Bauer is an assistant professor of journalism at the University of Alabama.

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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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Purdue names its new leaders

By EMILY MATCHAR
Purdue Ag News

Bernie Engel, Purdue University's Glenn W. Sample Dean of Agriculture, has appointed new leaders for the departments of Agricultural Economics and Forestry and Natural Resources.

"I am pleased to announce that Dr. Nicole Widmar has accepted my offer to become department head of Agricultural Economics immediately, and Dr. Tomas Höök my offer to become head of Forestry and Natural Resources effective in July," Engel said. "Both leaders bring exceptional leadership skills and experience to their positions, and they will be key members of our college's leadership team."

A native of New York state, Widmar has a bachelor's degree in animal science from Cornell University and a doctorate in agricultural economics from Michigan State University. Her research focuses on farm business management, production economics and decision-making under risk.

"The land-grant mission, including an emphasis on making research-based knowledge accessible for the benefit of the public, is what I love about working at Purdue," she said.

Widmar says she's proud of the "uniquely entrepreneurial" nature of the agricultural economics department and the way its research directly impacts stakeholders.

"We align around the notion that each of us is fundamentally looking at the allocation of scarce resources to improve the human condition through some means," she said.

Widmar, who has been at Purdue since 2010, said she looks forward to supporting faculty development, guiding students and helping shape the strategic development of the department.

"I want to foster an environment where people want to be a part of something bigger than themselves," she said.

During his years at Purdue, Great Lakes expert Höök has secured nearly \$50 million in research funding and published more than 145 peer-reviewed articles. Since 2018, he has also served as director of Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant, which aims to serve the ecosystems, communities and economies of the southern Lake Michigan region through education, outreach, applied research and competitive funding.

"Forestry and Natural Resources has been my home since 2008, and I really value our department's legacy," Höök said. "At the same time, I am energized about how our collective programs can effectively transition and grow to address the ever-changing natural resources and conservation challenges of the future."

Höök's research focuses on the fish and fisheries ecology of the Great Lakes. He studied biology at the University of Michigan, the same place he earned his doctorate in natural resources. In his 17 years at Purdue, he's led a variety of community-facing activities relating to the Great Lakes.

"Purdue is obviously a leading research university characterized by foundational discoveries, but it is also a quintessential land-grant (and sea-grant) institution with a focus on getting things done," he said. "I really appreciate Purdue and the College of Agriculture's collective culture. People are generally approachable and willing to work collectively to accomplish positive things."



Purdue University

Purdue University researcher Brady Hardiman has developed new ways to track invasive species using lidar and satellite imagery to gauge density and greenness.

New method Researchers develop way to track invasive species

By EMILY MATCHAR
Purdue Ag News

We tend to think all green landscapes are healthy. But Brady Hardiman, an associate professor of forestry and natural resources and environmental and ecological engineering, knows that's not always the case. In fact, if it's early or late in the growing season, a very green landscape on satellite imagery can be a sign of invasive species.

"Invasive buckthorn tends to leaf out earlier, and retains its leaves later into the fall," says Hardiman. "And bush honeysuckle retains leaves into December when all the native species have long since gone dormant."

New work by Hardiman and his colleagues uses satellite imagery and the innovative addition of lidar data to track invasive species. Satellite images spot excessive greenness, while the innovation of using lidar shows the canopy density that marks the presence of invasives.

"Detecting invasive shrub

species is particularly challenging in large areas like the Chicago region due to the extensive area, labor demand and associated costs," says Dennis Heejoon Choi, formerly a postdoc in Hardiman's lab who was also advised by Songlin Fei, director of Purdue's Institute for Digital Forestry. He is now an assistant professor at Dankook University in South Korea. "This work demonstrates how large-scale, high-quality remote sensing data can support the accurate detection of these shrubs, with validation provided by regional forest managers. The resulting invasion map will be valuable for urban forest managers seeking to identify and eradicate invasive species efficiently."

More than 75 percent of Chicago area forests showed evidence of invasive species, composing over a third of all trees. Many of these species, including buckthorn and bush honeysuckle, were initially introduced as ornamental gar-

den plants, prized for their quick growth and lush greenness. These species, long since escaped from gardens, are problematic for native forests.

"Shrubby invasives are one of the biggest challenges in the management of natural areas in much of the US," explains Lindsay Darling, who earned her PhD at Purdue and is now the data and GIS administrator of The Morton Arboretum outside Chicago. "They form short, dense canopies that keep sunlight from reaching the forest floor. This prevents other plants and trees from growing underneath them."

Since native forests – especially oak – support animals and native plants in a way that invasives don't, protecting them is a priority.

"Understanding the extent of these shrubs is critical to managing them," Darling adds. "Land ownership in urban areas is often quite fragmented, with residential, institutional, and commercial properties

adjoining publicly owned natural areas. Managing invasive species is best achieved at a landscape scale, where they are removed not by parcel boundaries but across them."

Although the work took place around Chicago, shrubby invaders are a problem across much of the country and beyond. The team is seeking ways to make the data accessible to community members who aren't technical experts. Darling has developed an online tool for looking at invasives data, and has hosted workshops to show how the research can be applied to real-world problems.

Brady Hardiman leads the Forest and Urban Systems Ecology Lab (FUSE). Besides Hardiman, Fei, Choi and Darling, the team included Purdue chemical engineering undergraduate Isaac Morton. The results of the team's research will be published in the May issue of the journal Urban Forestry and Urban Greening.

Farms to get EU aid

dpa
Tribune News Service

BERLIN — German farmers affected by a recent outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) are eligible to receive financial aid from the European Union, the German Agriculture Ministry said on Tuesday.

Germany saw its first outbreak of FDM in more than 35 years when the disease was discovered in a herd of buffalo in the eastern state of Brandenburg, just outside Berlin, in January.

The European Commission subsequently ordered a 6-kilometer exclusion zone around the site of the outbreak, restricting the

Germany had first foot-and-mouth outbreak in 35 years

transport of animals from the area, while several countries announced bans on imports of German agricultural products.

However, all tests for FMD in domestic and wild animals in the affected region have since been

negative, enabling all trade restrictions to be lifted. On April 15, the country was officially declared free of the disease.

To help them deal with the fallout, all dairy and pig farmers within the exclusion zone are eligible for EU aid, according to the ministry.

Affected farmers can now breathe a sigh of relief, said acting Agriculture Minister Cem Özdemir, adding that the payments were "important for them to be able to carry on."

He stressed that his goal had always been to prevent any farmer of having to give up due to the outbreak.

Festival Specials

1/2 Page Color – \$450 (limited availability)	Space for color ads is limited and will be on a first-come, first-serve basis. Deadline for ads is Monday, May 12.
1/2 Page B&W – \$375	
1/4 Page Color – \$350 (limited availability)	
1/4 Page B&W – \$250	

Big business card (3x3.5) \$100
Business card (2x2) \$60

Contact Lindsey at L.Cochran@theocr.com or 260.126-8141

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

GRAPHIC PRINTING NEWSPAPERS

A Choired Taste Free Community Concert



The twenty-two voices of *A Choired Taste* will sing under the direction of Eric Rogers, with Linda Braun as the accompanist. The choir will perform American, Irish, and Scottish folk songs, as well as contemporary secular and sacred music. The community choir will be joined by local instrumentalists, Pete Vogler, Reid Knuth, and Zec Landers.

First Presbyterian Church of Portland is sponsoring *A Choired Taste* as a part of its community outreach program.

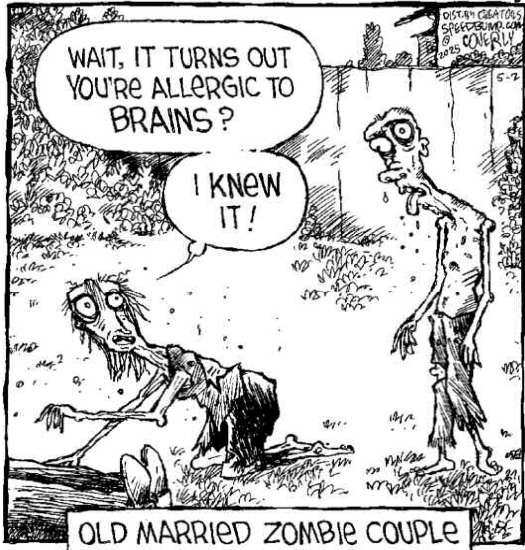
Tuesday, May 6, 2025 at 7:00 pm
First Presbyterian Church, 402 North Ship St., Portland, IN

ADMISSION IS FREE OF CHARGE



SPEED BUMP

Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS

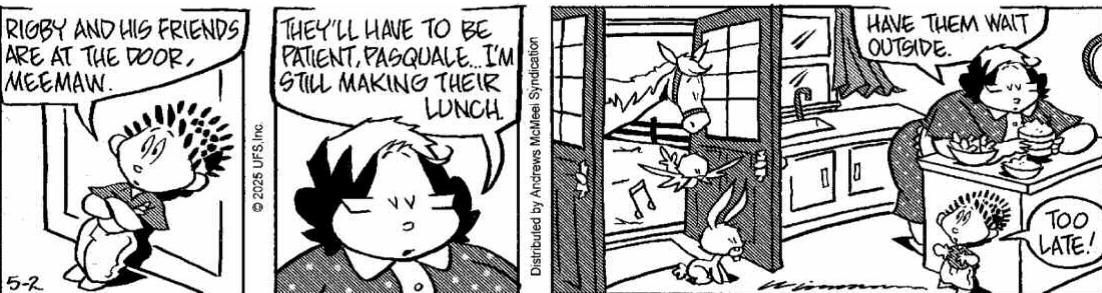
By Bil Keane



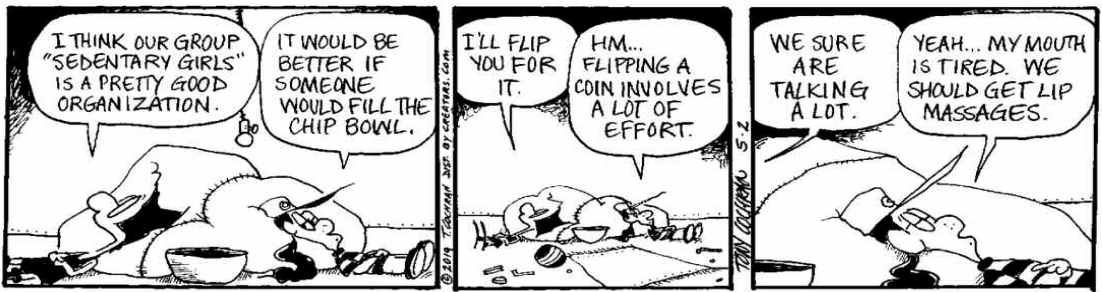
Peanuts



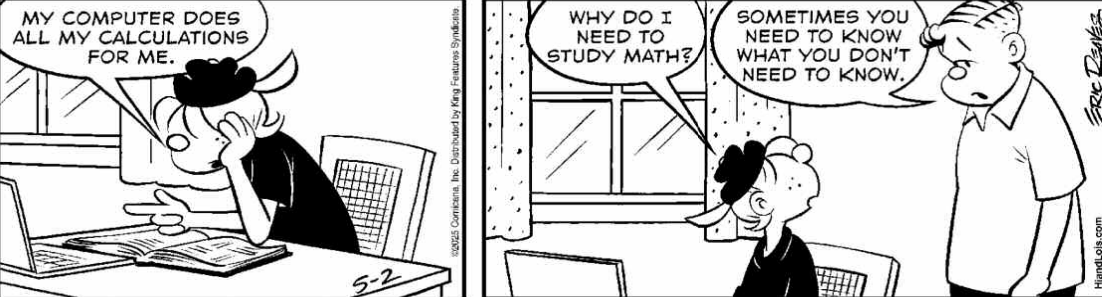
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge

By Steve Becker

Test your play

1. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Spades, and North leads the king of clubs. How would you play the hand?

West
♠ A Q J 10 9 8
♥ A Q J
♦ A Q J
♣ 6

East
♠ 5 2
♥ K 10 8
♦ 9 7 4
♣ A J 8 4 3

2. You are declarer with the West hand at Six Hearts, and North leads the queen of spades, which you win with the ace. How would you play the hand? (Assume the trumps are divided 3-2).

West
♠ A K
♥ K Q J 5
♦ A 9 8 6 2
♣ A Q

East
♠ 7
♥ A 10 9 3
♦ K J 10 4
♣ 9 7 5 3

1. With only two entries to dummy, the question is whether, after taking the ace of clubs, it is better to try a trump finesse or a diamond finesse. It is true that South might have either king, and to that extent either finesse has a 50-50 chance of winning. But insofar as making the contract is concerned, you are much better off to start with a diamond finesse. If South has the king of diamonds, your worries are over, because you will next play the ace

and another trump, planning to repeat the diamond finesse later on. If the diamond finesse loses, you will then have to hope South started with the singleton or doubleton king of spades to avoid a trump loser.

A key factor here is that an early trump finesse does not necessarily make the slam even if it succeeds, because South might have been dealt four or five trumps to the king, while the diamond finesse makes the slam if South has any number of diamonds including the king. The immediate diamond finesse is therefore the better play.

2. Draw three rounds of trump and cash the king of spades, discarding a club from dummy. Then play a diamond to the king, and, if both opponents follow suit, you are sure to make the contract. Continue with the jack and, if South follows low, finesse.

If the jack wins, you make at least 12 tricks, while if it loses, the slam is still certain, since North must return a club or present you with a ruff-and-discard.

If South shows out on the jack of diamonds, the slam is still assured. In that case, you take the jack with the ace and put North on lead with a diamond, forcing him to make the same losing return.

Tomorrow: The safety factor.
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5-2

CRYPTOQUIP

KMMSPMSWKUT EKYT IPS UCT

BSTTR ASKEGC PI K OTZZ-REPOE

GKS STEUKZ PSBKWEJKUWPE:

PYTBK-CTSUJ.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: TO ORDER A SPECIFIC KIND OF ROAST BEEF, I HEARD A BISTRO PATRON CALL OUT "CHUCK, PLEASE!"

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: Z equals L

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Nasser's succe-
sor
6 Hanoi holiday
9 Holy Fr. woman
12 Carried
13 Ever-green tree
14 Price point?
15 Pooch with an upturned tail
16 Near
18 Some Sep-tember babies
20 Item on stage
21 Hot temper
23 "—-hoo!"
24 Wine grape
25 Chicago team
27 Hypno-tized
29 ATM part
31 Van Gogh painting
35 Minimal

DOWN

1 Govt. lender for a start-up
2 Fine, to NASA
3 Cruise past
4 Against
5 Demon-strably upset
6 Business bigwig
7 Congers
8 Duo
9 Ship's rear
10 For-bidden
11 Cairo's nation
17 Verve
19 Dutch cheese

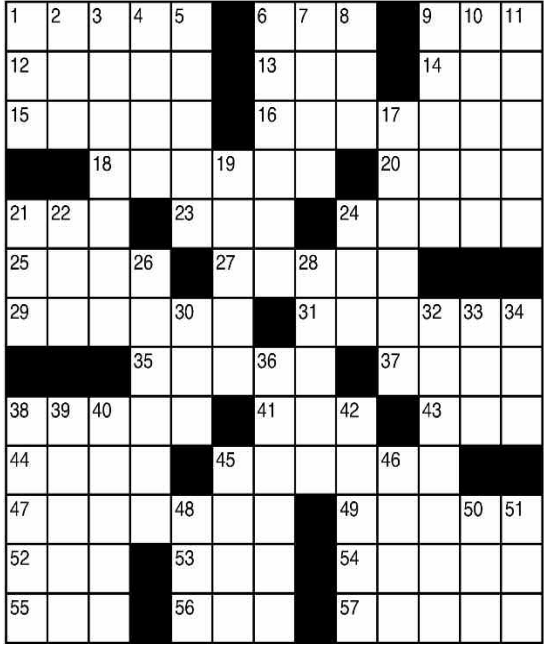
21 "Nasty!"

22 Wish other-wise
24 Part of MPH
26 Ill will
28 "Same here"
30 DDE's opponent
32 Have faith in
33 Corn serving
34 Away from
36 Be agreeable
38 Indian tea region
39 Barbecue site
40 Brainy
42 Sleep problem
45 Many corp. recruits
46 Pet food brand
48 Dr. of hip-hop
50 Animation frame
51 Madrid Mrs.

Solution time: 25 mins.

SWAP TIS CTOS
TATA HAL OHTO
ALOT RNA GROW
GEMINI VENUES
OOF LAW
SETS TITICACA
ACH ETH YIN
CORRIDOR PSAT
AIR OWL
DISNEY TEASEL
RAHS APT COKE
AGEE REL IBET
TODD NAE DADO

Yesterday's answer 5-2



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Aaron Loy AU11200112
Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

Favorites ...

Continued from page 8

Here's a look at how the race-time favorite has historically performed in the Kentucky Derby.

Information used is from the pari-mutuel wager era (since 1908).

How often does the favorite win the Kentucky Derby?

The Kentucky Derby has been run 117 times since 1908, and the post-time favorite has won the race 40 times. That's a success rate of 34.2%.

This includes instances when there's been co-favorites at race time. For example, the 1973 Kentucky Derby that was won by Secretariat counts, as Secretariat was the co-favorite for that

Derby with Angle Light (who finished 10th).

As such, Derby favorites have won the race slightly more than one-third of the time since 1908.

The race-time Kentucky Derby favorite won six straight editions of the race from 2013-2018, but none since.

While we're currently in a drought when it comes to the post-time favorite going on to win the Derby, this is far from the lengthiest such occurrence. From 1980 through 1999, 20 editions of the Kentucky Derby came and went without the favorite winning.

While the Derby favorite hasn't won in the last six editions of the race, several have come close.

Improbable was fourth in 2019. Tiz the Law ran second in 2020. Essential Quality was third in 2021. Epicenter had the lead in the stretch before finishing second behind historic long shot Rich Strike in 2022. Angel of Empire ran third as the post-time favorite in 2023.

The only clunker run by a favorite in the last six editions of the Derby was Fierceness (15th) last year.

Only 11 horses have finished worse than 12th after leaving the starting gate as the Kentucky Derby favorite since 1908: Cherry Pie (20th in 1923), Pick-eter (15th in 1923), Bay Beauty (13th in 1929), Proud Appeal (18th in 1981), Golden Derby (21st in 1981), Total Departure

(20th in 1983), Althea (19th in 1984), Demons Begone (DNF in 1987), Serena's Song (16th in 1995), Friesan Fire (18th in 2009) and Fierceness (15th in 2024).

Kentucky Derby favorites usually finish in the top three

It's probably no surprise that one of the safest bets to make on the Kentucky Derby is to wager on the favorite finishing in the money.

In the 117 editions of the Kentucky Derby in the pari-mutuel wagering era (since 1908), the Derby favorite has finished in the top three on 74 occasions. That's an in-the-money success rate of 63.3%. This also includes instances when two horses were co-favorites for the Derby at post time.

If nothing else, having a financial stake in the Derby favorite will likely keep you interested for the entirety of the race.

Since 1908, the only Derby favorite at race time to not finish the event was Demons Begone in 1987.

How are Journalism's chances shaping up for Saturday's race?

"If anybody can handle the pressure, it's Michael McCarthy," Scott Hazelton, a horse racing host and reporter for FanDuel TV, told the Herald-Leader about the favorite's trainer. "He's a very soft-spoken guy, straight-to-the-point guy. He's on top of everything."

Sweep ...

Continued from page 8

Matz with an encore

In his second start as the sixth member of a five-man band, Matz continued to press for looks as a featured player, not just recurring guest appearances.

Out of the bullpen and into the rotation once more, Matz threw four shutout innings. He countered five hits allowed with six strikeouts, did not walk a batter, and whenever he got into an iota of trouble had the ability to miss bats to get back int control of an inning. He struck out Gavin Lux after back-to-back singles in the second inning to unplug Cincinnati's threat. In the fourth, a one-double went nowhere when Matz carved up catcher Austin Wynn on four pitches for a looking strike-out.

Matz, who won his only other start of this season, did not qualify for the win because he was lifted after four innings. He had thrown 73 pitches, and it's possible he was nearing a cap of 75 or 80 pitches due to recent relief use or future use as the Cardinals adjust their rotation in the coming week.

Paired with Mikolas' 5 1/3 scoreless innings in the first game Wednesday, and the Cardinals starters held the Reds scoreless for their 9 1/3 innings, struck out 10 Reds, did not walk a Red, and allowed only eight hits.

eras finally got to hit in the evening.

Spelling Nolan Arenado for the night as the Cardinals' cleanup hitter, Contreras came up in the first inning and delivered what the Cardinals so rarely did a year ago. With two teammates on base, Contreras welcomed Reds prospect Petty to the majors with a first-pitch, three-run homer that traveled 421 feet and over the center-field wall.

Contreras' third homer of the season struck a quick lead for the Cardinals just a few hours after their 6-0 victory in Game 1.

It also gave the Cardinals something that curiously absent from last season.

The Cardinals hit only 10 three-run homers in 2024 — the fewest in a single season for more than three decades. With Scott's three-run homer Wednesday afternoon and Contreras' bolt that night the Cardinals already have eight three-run homers this season. That is the most in the National League and second most to Boston's 12 in the majors. And the two Wednesday both came on the first and technically came in consecutive innings.

Scott's purchased the Cardinals a comfortable lead in the ninth inning of Game 1, and Contreras' launched them to a lead they would not lose in the first inning of Game 2.

for the evening game, Graceffo flashed the kind of power repertoire that continues to make him an intriguing relief option for the big league staff. By the end of the seventh inning, Graceffo had thrown the seven swiftest pitches in the game. That included a stunning 98.9-mph fastball for a strikeout to end his first inning, the fifth. Graceffo averaged 96.9 mph on his fastball, touches 93 mph with his slider and dropped a hammer of a curveball a few times at 86.9 mph. Consistently showing and then sustaining that kind of velocity has been the catch for the young right-hander.


Nootbaar walks way toward history

Leadoff hitter Lars Nootbaar ended the month exactly like he started a record-setting amount of games.

Nootbaar walked to start Game 2 and finish April with 11 leadoff walks to start games. If March and April are fused together for consideration as the regular season's first month, Nootbaar's total of 11 lead-off walks is the second most for any month in recorded major league history. Eddie Yost had a dozen leadoff walks for Washington in August 1952. Stick to the calendar month of April and Nootbaar's walk Wednesday night gave him 10.

That ranked the third most in MLB history.

Hall of Famer Richie Ashburn had that many in a month twice in his career.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Bending over backwards

Jay County High School catcher Drew Schemenaur reaches back to try and catch a pop-up during Monday's game against Monroe Central. A strong defensive performance led Jay County to a 14-3 win.

Sports on tap

Local schedule			
Today			
Jay County — Track at New Castle – 5 p.m.			
Fort Recovery — Track at New Bremen – 4:30 p.m.			
Saturday			
Jay County — Boys golf at Winchester Invitational – 9 a.m.; Baseball at Wapahai Invitational – 9:30 a.m.; Softball at Woodlan – 10 a.m.; JV girls tennis at New Castle – 12 p.m.			
Fort Recovery — Baseball doubleheader at Russia – 11 a.m.; JV baseball doubleheader vs. Russia – 5 p.m.; JV softball vs. Russia – 11 a.m.			
TV sports			
Today			
1 p.m. — Horse racing: Kentucky Oaks (USA)			
6:10 p.m. — MLB: Washington Nationals at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)			
8 p.m. — NASCAR Craftsman Truck Sereis: SpeedyCash.com 250 (FS1)			
8 p.m. — UFL: Arlington Renegades at St. Louis Battlehawks (FOX)			
8:15 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)			
9 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Houston Rockets at Golden State Warriors (ESPN)			
10:30 p.m. — LIV Golf: LIV Golf Korea (FS1)			
10:30 p.m. — Major League Rugby: Los Angeles at Seattle Seawolves (FOX)			
Saturday			
TBA — NBA Playoffs: Detroit Pistons at New York Knicks (TNT); Los Angeles Clippers at Denver Nuggets (TNT)			
7:30 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Aston Villa at Fulham (USA)			
10 a.m. — Premier League soccer: Everton at Ipswich Town (USA)			
10 a.m. — Indy NXT Series: Grand Prix of Alabama (FS1)			
12 p.m. — Formula 1: Miami Grand Prix (ESPN)			
12 p.m. — College baseball: Michigan at Ohio State (BTN)			
12 p.m. — Horse racing: Kentucky Derby (USA)			
12 p.m. — UFL: Memphis Showboats at Houston Roughnecks (ABC)			
12:30 p.m. — Premier League soccer: Arsenal FC at AFC Bournemouth (NBC)			
2:15 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at St. Louis Cardinals (FDSN Indiana)			
2:45 p.m. — MLS: Atlanta United at Nashville SC (FOX)			
3 p.m. — PGA Tour: The CJ Cup (CBS)			
3:30 p.m. — UFL: Memphis Showboats at Houston Roughnecks (NBC)			
4:10 p.m. — MLB: Minnesota Twins at Boston Red Sox (FS1)			
6:40 p.m. — MLB: Washington Nationals at Cincinnati Reds (FDSN Indiana)			
7 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN2)			
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Kansas City Royals at Baltimore Orioles (FOX)			
9:30 p.m. — MLS: San Diego at FC Dallas (FS1)			
Local notes			
Registration open			
Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.			
There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.			
The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Bellmont High School and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.			
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 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 pamalarn@myfibersolution.com .			

To have an event listed in "Sports on tap," email details to sports@thecr.com .			

90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	90 SALE CALENDAR	100 JOBS WANTED	170 PETS
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 ½ story home with 3 bedrooms, 1 full bathroom and 1426 square feet of living area. Home has gas forced air furnace with central air, gas water heater, a water softener and a partial basement. The kitchen has nice oak cabinets with space for a table along with a dining room. There is a 24½ x 26½ car detached garage with heat and water, a small utility barn with a walk in cooler and a 32½ x 48½ 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.	For more information or private showing contact LOY REAL ESTATE KIM LOY BROKER 260-726-2700 OR GARY LOY AUCTIONEER 260-726-5160 HOUSEHOLD GOODS & OLD & COLLECTOR ITEMS Whirlpool refrigerator; GE washer & dryer; Coldspot freezer; vintage Frigidaire refrigerator; vintage upholstered occasional chair; deer head mount; Coke and 7Up wood cases; JEWELRY: 10k ladies ring (4.7g), 14k ladies ring (7.3g), COINS: Silver Dollars (1881,1885,1922), Walking Liberty Silver Half Dollars (1927,1934,1935,1936,1939,1941,1942,1943), along with other coins not listed. BOOKS & TRI STATE MEMORABILIA Large collection of Gene Stratton Porter Books (80+), ; Tri State belt buckles, collector engines, mugs, books and other assort-	ed items. MOWERS & TRAILER - TOOLS Cub Cadet 1250 Hydrostat mower; International tiller for garden tractor; Craftsman gas blower; US 1941 and 1945 hatchets; screws; washers; bolts; nuts; wood and metal pulleys; fishing poles; antlers; hoes; shoves; corn jobber; hammers; galvanized cans; and other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: We will be running 2 rings most of the day. KEN & MARCELLA DOHERTY, Deceased By Lois Debolt and Penny Hirschy Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069	PUBLIC AUCTION Located: Bubp Exhibition Hall at the Jay County Fairgrounds, 806 W Votaw St., Portland, IN MAY 10, 2025 9:30 A. M. OLD ITEMS & COLLECTORS ITEMS & HOUSEHOLD GOODS Oak 2 pc. cupboard; tall entry bench with coat pegs; old mustard cabinet; (2) hump back trunks; ; Royal Crest iCastle Roseí Sterling flatware (123 pieces); Sterling spoons; Sterling candleholders; Sterling tray and 2 teapots;Portland Typhoons, 1942 thru 1945; JEWELRY: 10k ring (3.7g), 10K ring (3.3g), 10K heart necklace (1.6g), 14K ring (2.3g); Boyds Bears; drums and guitars; (2) Star Wars Battling Drones (new); LARGE ASSORTMENT OF GNOMES; large lot of holiday dÉcor; and many other items not listed. TRAILER - BOWS & TOOLS 2017 Look 20½ x 8½ tan-	dem axle enclosed trailer with generator, refrigerator, air conditioning and trailer has been set up as a mobile retail unit; Barnett crossbow and arrow with scope; Browning compound bow and arrows; 5i bridge for outdoors; Big Dog tree stand safety harness;12V clay thrower; yard tools; hand tools; and many other items not listed. AUCTIONEERS NOTE: Please note that we will be running 2 rings a portion of the day. Doors will open at 8:00 a.m. day of auction for preview. JOANNA STONE, Deceased And BOLLENBACHER FAMILY Loy Auction AC#31600027 Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608 Travis Theurer AU11200131 Aaron Loy AU11200112 Kaden Khayyata AU12400069	AMISH CREW LOOKING FOR any work. No job is too big or small. Pole barns, roofing, remodeling. 260-849-2489. 130 MISC. FOR SALE SCRATCH PADS ARE BACK various bundles sizes and XL pads. \$1.25 plus tax. Pick up at The Commercial Review Tuesday thru Friday 10am to 4pm. PAPER END ROLLS FOR SALE Various sizes and prices. Call The Commercial Review at 260-726-8141 for more information. ALUMINUM SHEETS 23"x30",.007 thick. Clean and shiny on one side..35 cents each or four for \$1.40, plus tax. The Commercial Review, 309 W Main, Portland 260-726-8141.	cines. Ready Motherís Day! Call 419-852-3331 190 FARMERS COLUMN AG RENTAL Spreaders: BBI, Artsway Vertical. New Holland 228 skid loaders w/full cab, heat/ac. Fort Recovery 419-852-0309 200 FOR RENT LEASE SPACE available, Coldwater, OH. Manufacturing, warehousing, assembly, distribution, offices, inside and outdoor storage. Easy access to major highways and railroad access with loading docks and overhead cranes available. Contact Sycamore Group, 419-678-5318, www.sycamorespace.com 230 AUTOS, TRUCKS WE PAY CASH for junk autos. We pick up at your location. 1-765-546-2642 or 1-765-857-1071. Slocumis Salvage

Niekamp signs

Karlie Niekamp signed her letter of intent Monday to play basketball at Bluffton University. Pictured in the first row from right are father and assistant coach Brent Niekamp, Karlie and mother Kim Niekamp. Back row are Fort Recovery High School girls basketball coach Tyler Deitsch and siblings Audrey Niekamp, Andy Niekamp and Ellie Niekamp.



Photo provided

How often do favorites win the Kentucky Derby?

By CAMERON DRUMMOND
The Bellingham Herald (Washington) Tribune News Service
It's been seven years since the post-time favorite won the Kentucky Derby. Justify — who went on to become horse racing's 13th, and most recent, Triple Crown champion — was the last race-time favorite to win the Derby when he did so in 2018 at Churchill Downs in Louisville. Since then, six post-time favorites have entered the starting gate and failed to win the Run for the Roses. This happened again last year, when post-time favorite Fierceness ran 15th in the Derby. Will fortunes change for the

favorite on Saturday in the 151st edition of the Grade 1, \$5 million Kentucky Derby? This year's post-time favorite is likely to be Journalism, the Santa Anita Derby winner who enters the Kentucky Derby on a four-race winning streak. Trained by Michael McCarthy and to be ridden by Italian jockey Umberto Rispoli, Journalism was made the morning-line favorite at 3-1 odds following last Saturday's post-position draw at Churchill Downs. "I've been fortunate enough to work for Todd Pletcher for 11 years and change, nearly 12 years. During my time with

him, I lived here in Louisville for nearly six years, so I was fortunate enough to walk over to the paddock with 20 participants in the Kentucky Derby," said McCarthy, who made his Kentucky Derby debut as a solo trainer last year with Endlessly (ninth). "... I've seen it attacked from all different ways, with favorites, with long shots. You pretty much know what's expected of you. As the week goes on here, things will start ramping up. Plenty of patrons on the backside, plenty of promotion, a lot going on." For his career, Journalism has four wins from five career

starts. He's never raced outside the state of California. Rispoli, the jockey, is 0-for-2 all-time in the Run for the Roses. Rispoli rode Endlessly last year and Brooklyn Strong (14th) in 2021. "Journalism will make his way to the paddock a few times, he'll school. We'll get him used to that, to the large crowd, the music, the humidity, maybe even the rain. We'll see what's coming this week," McCarthy added. "But these are all things as a trainer that I'm sort of responsible for. I just try to make sure that (Journalism) is as well schooled as possible for everything that goes into Sat-

urday's event. Some of it is almost circus-like with the amount of people and the amount of noise." The betting odds can and will shift ahead of Saturday's 6:57 p.m. post time for the Derby, but there's a good chance that Journalism will remain the favorite when the horses are called to the starting gate. Other candidates to potentially be the post-time favorite for the Derby include Florida Derby runner-up Sovereignty (5-1 morning-line odds) and Arkansas Derby winner Sandman (6-1 morning-line odds). See Favorites page 7



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Cards sweep doubleheader against Reds

By DERRICK GOOLD
St. Louis Post-Dispatch Tribune News Service

CINCINNATI — All it took was almost everything they could want for the Cardinals to win as many road games in one day as they had won at all in the previous month. Mix strong starting pitching with a raucous offense spiked with power and — voila! — the Cardinals romped to a doubleheader sweep of the host Cincinnati Reds on Wednesday at Great American Ball Park. The Cardinals, held to a single run in Monday's loss to the Reds, slugged five home runs total during the day and took an early, mammoth lead with two homers in the evening game on the way to a 9-1 victory. Willson Contreras greeted Reds rookie Chase Petty to the majors with a three-run homer in the first inning. Pedro Pages followed with an 11-pitch at-bat against Petty that ended with a solo homer. All that was before the Cardinals' five-run jubilee in the third inning. The Cardinals began the season with only two wins in their first 14 road games, and then got back-to-back emphatic wins Wednesday to put themselves in position to win their first road series of the season in Thursday's finale against the Reds. Steven Matz started and provided four shutout innings to echo Miles Mikolas' scoreless start in the afternoon game. In a game started by one of the Reds' top pitching prospects it was Cardinals right-hander Gordon Graceffo, fresh up from the minors for a

cameo, who earned his first major league win for five innings of relief and five strikeouts. **RISP and reward** With a second look at the young Reds' prospect making his first start, the Cardinals were even less hospitable than they were taking a four-run lead. Sparked by a leadoff double by Masyn Winn — his sixth time on base in the doubleheader — the Cardinals raged for five runs on five hits in the third inning to chase Petty from his big league debut after getting one out in the inning. Jordan Walker's two-run double that landed like a thunderclap ejected the 22-year-old right-hander from his start. The line-drive double left Walker's bat at 113.1 mph and it scored teammates Brendan Donovan and Contreras to increase the Cardinals' lead to 7-0. Entering Wednesday's final game, the Cardinals were 2 for 22 with runners in scoring position (RISP) in their previous three games. They took the first game because the one in their 1 for 5 was a home run. They lost Sunday's game to Milwaukee going 0 for 11. After that 2 for 22 in their previous three games, the Cardinals were 4 for 9 in their first three innings Wednesday night with RISP. Contreras's three-run homer came with runners in scoring position as did Walker's two-run double. When Victor Scott II singled to score Walker from second, the Cardinals took a 9-0 lead. See Sweep page 7