

The Commercial Review



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Memorial assist

Portland American Legion Post 211 commander Butch Micheau holds a speech in place for pastor Darrell Borders during Monday's breezy Memorial Day Service at Green Park Cemetery in Portland. Borders gave an address during the ceremony that also included patriotic songs, a 21-gun salute by the legion honor guard and the playing of "Taps."

County OKs more \$\$ for JCDC

A contract is also in the works for the rest of 2025

By BAILEY CLINE
The Commercial Review
More funding and a new contract are on the way. Jay County Commissioners approved a \$50,000 request — the remainder of Jay County Development Corporation's budget for the year — at their meeting Tuesday. The decision also put in motion plans for a contract between JCDC and the county to cover the remainder of the year. JCDC hired its new executive director Ceann Bales in early April. The county approved \$100,000 in funding for the organization in January, with a contract currently in place between the two entities through June 30. "When we initially met, we hadn't hired Ceann yet, we didn't know what our budget was going to look like," explained Jay County Development Corporation board president Angela Paxson on Monday. Earlier this month, JCDC's board of directors approved its 2025 budget at \$196,016.65. The organization had a total of \$172,150 pledged for the year at that time, leaving it at a deficit of just under \$24,000. The board planned to request enough funding from the county to put in reserve to cover six months of expenses, approximately \$116,330. (The organization spent down its reserves in 2024 as it did not receive funding from the county during a contract dispute.) "I do realize that your funding is tight this year, you've got other projects and other entities, and \$140,000 is more than we need as a cushion at this point," Paxson said to commissioners Monday. "It's taken us over 20 years to build up to that, so I can understand."

Food aid plan has been hobbled

By DAN WILLIAMS
Bloomberg News
Tribune News Service
A contested plan backed by the U.S. and Israel to deliver food to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip is off to a rocky start, with the top organizer resigning and the roll-out dogged by delay.

The Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF), a new Swiss-based nonprofit, opened one distribution station in a southern buffer zone on Monday, a day behind schedule, Israeli officials said. But there was no immediate indication that hand-outs were under way. The ruined coastal enclave's more than 2 million civilians have been brought to the brink of famine, relief agencies say, by an Israeli aid blockade imposed in March after the last truce with Hamas expired.

Top organizers resigned and roll-out has been delayed

Israel has mounted what Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu describes as the final push to win the more than 19-month-old war. Tanks and troops are under orders to conquer Gaza, rout Hamas holdouts, move civilians toward the southern buffer zone and recover the remaining 58 hostages held by the Iran-backed group. On Monday, the military issued evacuation orders to residents of

the southern town of Khan Younis, saying Hamas targets would be engaged there. Israeli strikes killed at least 52 people the same day, the Associated Press reported, citing local health officials. Whether the 20 hostages believed to be alive will survive the new sweep is a question wracking Israelis, most of whom, according to surveys, want to end the war with a negotiated repatriation — even if that

leaves Hamas in power. Israeli officials say Qatari- and Egyptian-mediated talks on a deal continue, spurred by the military pressure. The GHF's executive director, Jake Wood, resigned late on Sunday citing misgivings about the plan. Still, the GHF said that by week's end it would have two more distribution stations in the southern buffer zone and another in central Gaza, for an operating volume sufficient to feed 1 million people. It hopes to expand operations and reach others eventually. The GHF operation was held up, said Eli Cohen, Israel's energy minister and a security Cabinet member. "This was meant to begin yesterday — the 25th — but that didn't happen," he told Army Radio.

See Aid page 2

See JCDC page 2

Bills address farm issues

By CASEY SMITH
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com
Property tax tweaks and a new online portal were among this year's legislative wins for Hoosier farmers. But a high-priority proposal to help retiring farmers transition land to a new generation of growers failed to cross the finish line in the final days of the session. Rural-focused portions of Gov. Mike Braun's first agenda pledged to "cut red tape," strengthen the agricultural economy and protect Indiana farmland from encroaching development. The Republican governor had two early successes: property tax relief and a new online farmer portal. Baked into Senate

Legislation approved this year makes property tax tweaks and creates a new online portal

Enrolled Act 1, a hotly-debated property tax measure, were changes to how farmland is assessed for property taxes — increasing the capitalization rate in the farmland formula from 8% to 9%, and adding a new assessed value deduction. Braun maintained those changes will bring at least some relief for farmers. Agricultural lobbying groups agreed, in part, but said more works need to be

done on property taxes, specifically. "While this will provide relief to Hoosier farmers on their real property taxes the next couple of years, taxes on other agricultural infrastructure like farm buildings and permanent structures are expected to increase due to shifts within the tax base," said Andy Tauer, Indiana Farm Bureau's executive director of public policy. See Farm page 2



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Drone work

A drone operated by Josh Overman sprays fungicide on a field on the south side of Indiana 26 just east of county road 400 East on Saturday morning. The drone has a capacity of 18 gallons, which is enough to cover about 9 acres.

Deaths

Giles Laux, 60, Portland
Rhonda Toland, 75, rural Geneva
Details on page 2.

Weather

The high temperature was 70 degrees Monday in Jay County for Memorial Day. The low was 44. Tonight's forecast calls for a 40% chance of rain with a low in the lower 50s. Expect partly cloudy skies Thursday with a high in the lower 70s. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County Chamber of Commerce has hired Amanda Blair as its new executive director. A Jay County native who returned to the community in 2024, she will take over the role that has been vacant since Tabby Sprunger's resignation in July. For additional details, see Friday's edition of The Commercial Review.

Coming up

Thursday — Results from the girls track regional meet at Carroll.
Friday — Coverage of the Jay County baseball team's sectional opener.
Saturday — Details from Fort Recovery in the regional track meet at Troy.



Obituaries

Giles Laux
May 18, 1965-May 24, 2025
Giles William Laux, age 60, of Portland passed away on May 24, 2025, in Lutheran Hospital in Fort Wayne.
He was born in Portland on May 18, 1965, the son of Ralph W. and Virginia (Ura) Laux. He was married on Sept. 5, 1992, to Barbie Imel who survives.
Giles was a teacher at Bloomfield Elementary School, being involved in intramurals, student council and Just Say No. Prior to teaching he was owner of Photography by Giles Laux for over 20 years. He was a 1983

Jay County High School graduate and Ball State University graduate. He was a member of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, Professional Photographers of Indiana, Professional Photographers of America, Past Grand Knight of Knights of Columbus, Portland, Mother Teresa Council, Portland Park Board, The Portland Foundation Board of Trustees, Jay County High School girls soccer coach and Boomer soccer coach.



Laux

Surviving are his wife Barbie; two daughters, Emma Laux-Fisch (husband: Matthew) of Carmel and Lucy Laux of Indianapolis; his father Ralph Laux of Bryant; brothers Terence Laux of Bryant, Chris Laux (wife: Michelle) of South Bend and Frank Laux (wife: Toni of Celestine, Indiana), who preceded in death; sisters Teresa Laux of Indianapolis, Daria Laux-Walpole (husband: Mike) of Indianapolis, Maureen Baker (husband: Mark) of Roswell, Georgia, Amy Laux of Noblesville and Nicole Sholly (husband: Jon) of Indianapolis;

and several nieces and nephews and great-nieces and great-nephews. Also surviving are his dogs Cooper and Willow and grand-dogs Shay, Zion and Murphy.
Funeral services will be held on Friday, May 30, at 10 a.m. in Immaculate Conception Catholic Church with Fr. Peter Logsdon presiding. Burial will be in Green Park Cemetery. Visitation will be Thursday from 2 to 7 p.m. in the Baird-Freeman Funeral Home.
Memorials can be made to Hopes Harbor or The Portland Foundation.
Condolences may be

expressed online at bairdfreeman.com.
Rhonda G. (Woodard) Toland, rural Geneva, Nov. 30, 1949-May 22, 2025. A celebration of life will be held at 4 p.m. Friday at Cardinal Hall, 100 W. Line St., Geneva.
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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, 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 5/29	Friday 5/30	Saturday 5/31	Sunday 6/1	Monday 6/2
72/54 Mostly sunny skies are expected Thursday when the high will be in the lower 70s.	74/56 Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a slight chance of showers.	74/49 Mostly sunny on Saturday, when there's a small chance of rain. The high may reach the upper 70s.	76/53 Another day of mostly sunny skies is in the forecast for Sunday. There's also a chance of showers.	81/56 Mostly sunny on Monday as well. The temperature may swell to the 80s.

Lotteries

Powerball Monday 13-47-52-64-67 Power Ball: 25 Power Play: 2 Estimated jackpot: \$189 million	Daily Four: 8-2-7-8 Quick Draw: 5-7-9-15-16-21-25-26-27-29-36-47-59-64-65-68-69-71-74-78 Cash 5: 5-19-29-33-35 Estimated jackpot: \$80,000
Mega Millions Estimated jackpot: \$173 million	Ohio Monday Midday Pick 3: 9-8-3 Pick 4: 5-4-7-8 Pick 5: 5-6-4-2-3 Evening Pick 3: 7-0-6 Pick 4: 9-2-0-5 Pick 5: 2-3-1-0-2 Rolling Cash: 6-17-19-30-33 Estimated jackpot: \$411,000
Hoosier Monday Midday Daily Three: 5-8-8 Daily Four: 4-5-1-6 Quick Draw: 1-6-9-10-14-15-24-27-35-37-44-47-53-59-62-65-71-73-75-77 Evening Daily Three: 2-5-2	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.88 June corn4.90 July corn.....4.26	June beans10.80 Wheat 5.03
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.81 June corn4.81 July corn.....4.84	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.75 June corn4.75 Beans10.76 June beans10.79 Wheat4.93
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.80 June corn4.80 Beans10.75	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.87 June corn4.87 Beans10.55 June beans10.55 Wheat4.93

Today in history

In 1788, Alexander Hamilton, James Madison and Jay County's namesake John Jay published the Federalist papers, a group of essays in support of the U.S. Constitution.

In 1851, the Ohio Women's Rights Convention began in Akron, Ohio. The convention focused on change to support women's rights.

In 1938, Jerry West was born in Chelyan, West Virginia. An American baseball player, coach and executive, West had a storied career in the National Basketball Association, taking the Mountaineers to the

NCAA Finals and winning the tournament's Most Outstanding Player award in 1959, among other accomplishments.

In 2007, the seventh-ranked Jay County High School baseball team edged Elwood 3-2 in the sectional semifinal at Blackford.

In 2021, Abbie Francis and Mara Pearson of Fort Recovery High School earned state berths with top-four finishes in the Division III regional meet at Troy. Pearson was the runner-up in the long jump while Francis finished third in the 100-meter dash.

— The CR

Citizen's calendar

Today 6 p.m. — Dunkirk Park Board, city building, 131 S. Main St.	Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
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.	5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schooler house Community Center.

JCDC ...

Continued from page 1
She explained the JCDC office costs about \$10,000 to operate each month. She also pointed out the board would like to compensate JCDC executive assistant Jodi Hayes, who Paxson said hasn't received a raise in two years and "kept the doors open" amid the board's search for a new director following Travis Richards' resignation in November.
Paxson then requested \$50,000 for the remainder of JCDC's budget for the year, which would cover the deficit as well as enough for two months of reserve dollars.
"I've got no issues with that, you want to cover your budget shortfall," responded commissioners

president Chad Aker. "Again, I agree, as far as giving the full six months, yeah, we're tight right now, but also, just showing that we're working together; I don't have an issue with providing an extra two and a half months or two months or whatever for additional funding."
He noted the organization may approach commissioners for funding as needed to pay for projects, saying commissioners will fund those efforts. Aker also voiced support for JCDC's new director and the county's relationship with the organization moving forward.
"I've got full faith and confidence in Ceann, I think that, you know, she's going to follow through on

this stuff, and I think it's going to be a success, and this also shows that we want to work together," said Aker.
Commissioners then approved the \$50,000 request. Plans are to begin drafting a contract with JCDC for the rest of 2025.
In related business, commissioners agreed to push back the economic development income tax (EDIT) request deadline for 2026 by another month.
Request were originally due by June 13, with commissioners to host a special meeting at 4 p.m. June 25 to review requests and select projects to be paid for out of next year's budget.
Paxson asked for an extension Monday, noting

that JCDC hadn't received notice about the deadline for 2026.
"I think it was just an oversight that we didn't receive ours, because we received our funding in January," Paxson said.
County auditor Emily Franks pointed out the county's budget process has been delayed by a month because of various questions with the state's finances surrounding Senate Enrolled Act 1, which made various changes to taxes among other items. Commissioners then decided to extend their original EDIT request deadline for all entities accordingly.
.....
For more news from the commissioners' meeting, see Thursday's newspaper.

Aid ...

Continued from page 1
U.N. agencies have voiced concern that a limited resumption of food distribution would be insufficient, push civilians into small areas and politicize aid.
Israel's strategy is drawing increasing global censure, angering its allies in Europe and isolating it in international forums.
The GHF has said it offers "a pragmatic plan that is able to immediately get aid into Gaza under the conditions as they exist today," and deemed "no longer viable" the United Nations-led mechanism that was in place for decades before Hamas triggered the war by invading Israel on Oct. 7, 2023.

Hamas warned Gazans it would "take necessary measures" against any who avail themselves of the distribution centers.
Officials have said that the Israeli military would guard the periphery of the sites while U.S. contractors provide security. Recipients will be the heads of Palestinian households, vetted to ensure they are not mem-

bers of Hamas, and given provisions to last each family a week. Concerns have been raised over how onerous carrying the rations long distances could prove to those already weak from hunger. But the plan aims to limit the chances of Hamas operatives seizing truckloads, Israel has said.
In his resignation letter, Wood said: "It is not possible to implement this plan while also strictly adhering to the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality, and independence."

Farm ...

Continued from page 1
"Our members have seen property tax bills go up 60% over the past three years, while net farm incomes have gone down. So, we need to return to the Statehouse in the coming years to craft a more comprehensive and sustainable solution for farmers."
Another win came in House Enrolled Act 1149, the first bill signed into law by Braun.

issues and ensure that agriculture is protected in cases when usable water is unavailable. Braun signed the legislation in mid-April.
Other agricultural sector bills that passed and were supported by Indiana Farm Bureau and other lobbying groups included:
•Senate Enrolled Act 461: Clarifies the responsibilities of the Indiana Grain Buyers and Warehouse Licensing Agency, ensuring better compliance and support for struggling licensees.
•House Enrolled Act 1012: Requires law enforcement to inform landowners of any damage to their property resulting from motor vehicle accidents.
•House Enrolled Act 1461: Provides additional funding and tax options for local government infrastructure projects, benefiting rural communities.

The measure, authored by Rep. Kendell Culp, R-Rensselaer, creates an online "one-stop-shop" portal for farmers to access funding opportunities, regulatory information and state agency contacts.
"Hoosier farmers feed America and power our economy, and this bill makes their important job a little bit easier," the governor told reporters at a Statehouse bill signing ceremony.

Axed from the final draft of the state's next two-year budget, however, was a tax credit to support land transitions.
Braun's plan additionally called for the creation of a farmland preservation task force, as well as upgrades in rural communities, including roads, broadband and water systems.

Members of Indiana Farm Bureau's water task force in 2024 identified a "gap" in protections for agriculture and significant groundwater well users who utilize irrigation or need water for livestock, Tauer said. Under earlier state law, those users were responsible for proving any loss of water and were liable in court.
Farm bureau leadership said the lobbying group worked with Republican Sen. Sue Glick, of LaGrange, to craft Senate Enrolled Act 28, which establishes a reporting and investigation process managed by the Indiana Department of Natural Resources to fix those

SERVICES

Thursday
Martin, Alethea: 11 a.m., Downing & Glancy Funeral Home, 100 Washington St., Geneva.

Friday
Laux, Giles: 10 a.m., Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, 506 E. Walnut St., Portland.
Toland, Rhonda: 4 p.m., Cardinal Hall, 100 W. Line St., Geneva.

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm

Follow through on goals you set

By OLIVIA SMITH
The Commercial Review

During finals week, I remember turning to a friend and saying, “I hope summer is boring — just me working and hanging out with family.” At the time, that sounded like the ideal break after a stressful semester. I think I jinxed myself.

This summer has been anything but boring. It’s brought unexpected situations and tough decisions, some of which I never anticipated having to face. There have been moments of frustration, doubt and stress. But I quickly realized that dragging anger or

You’re On Your Own, Kid



anxiety into each situation only made things harder. So instead, I’ve made the decision to look at every challenge as an opportunity — to learn, to grow and to prepare myself for whatever lies ahead.

That’s the thing about college: just because you’re home for the summer doesn’t mean you’re done grow-

ing. The work of becoming an adult doesn’t take a break. Whether you’re working to pay for tuition, gaining job experience or figuring out things like insurance and car maintenance (even when you’d rather not), every step is part of preparing for the future.

This summer, I’m working in an office by myself for most of the day. At first, I felt like I wasn’t really “getting experience” the way I expected to. But then I realized — I am gaining something valuable. I’m learning how to manage my time without supervision. I’m building connec-

tions and showing this team what kind of employee I can be. I’m earning their trust and their praise, which could turn into a strong reference or even a future opportunity.

Even jobs that don’t seem related to your goals can still teach you something. Maybe you’re working fast food and wondering what flipping burgers has to do with your future. Well, maybe it’s teaching you how to stay calm under pressure, how to interact with difficult customers or how to work with a team. Maybe it’s showing you how to speak up for yourself. All of those things

matter — and all of them are part of growing up.

There are also more structured ways to prepare for your future. Internships and job shadowing can give you a closer look at the fields you’re interested in. Sometimes, all it takes is a day spent watching someone else do their job to spark a new interest or confirm that a path isn’t for you. And preparation doesn’t always have to be career-related. Watching a documentary, reading a book, learning a new skill — anything that helps you grow as a person is time well spent.

This summer, my person-

al motto is “show up for yourself.” That means following through on the goals you set, even if no one else is holding you accountable. It means putting in the work now, not just for today, but for the person you’re becoming.

You might not always see the results right away. Maybe what you’re doing doesn’t seem useful in your career, and maybe it won’t solve every problem at home either. But you’re still learning. You’re still growing. And one day, you’ll be grateful that you took the time to show up — not just for work or for school, but for yourself.

Boyfriend wants to let sleeping dogs lie

DEAR ABBY: I am recently divorced after a 37-year marriage. My boyfriend, “Grant,” has been divorced for a long time. He is a lovely man — honest, intelligent, healthy, helpful, neat and a great communicator. Our physical relationship is wonderful, too.

My problem? Grant has two small dogs that sleep in bed with him. They have since they were puppies. They are 11 and 13 years old now. I have a large dog that sleeps in his bed on the floor and is not allowed on any furniture. He doesn’t shed. The dogs all get along fine.

I slept in Grant’s bed once when his dogs were at the kennel and was grossed out by the

Dear Abby



only on vacations away from home.

I’m tired of sleeping apart but don’t feel like giving any ultimatums. Is he right to not want to disrupt the dogs’ sleeping habits to accommodate me once or twice a week? — SLEEPING SOLO IN OREGON

DEAR SLEEPING SOLO: I think your boyfriend is right. Because Grant has habituated his dogs to sleeping in his bed (not to mention that the bed is filthy), I don’t think it would be practical to disrupt them at this stage of their lives. On the nights you’re at his place, it might make more sense for Grant to spend the night in the guest room with you until

his sleeping buddies cross the rainbow bridge.

DEAR ABBY: A few years ago, I became acquainted with a Catholic priest after he hired me to give him conversation lessons. (He was visiting from another country; English is not his first language.) We hit it off and found we had a lot in common. After the lessons ended, we stayed in touch.

Not long after that, he returned to his home country. Since then, we have emailed and texted regularly, and video-chatted over the holidays. I love my friendship with him, and he seems to feel the same way.

To be honest, though, I have a bit of a crush on him. I was hop-

ing it would fade, but it hasn’t. I feel somewhat guilty about it and wonder if I am being dishonest by not telling him. Should I say something and risk having the friendship (which I really enjoy) end? Or is it OK to keep these kinds of secrets? — CRUSHING ON THE COAST

DEAR CRUSHING: As long as your “bit of a crush” doesn’t have a negative impact on the rest of your life, I see no reason to burden the priest with this secret. However, if it causes a disruption in the relationships you have (i.e., with a husband or boyfriend), then speak up and be prepared for the relationship to slow down, if not end.

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.

EUCHRE CLUB — Will meet at 2 p.m. the fourth Wednesday of each month at Chalet Village Health and Rehabilitation in the North Lounge.

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.

PORTLAND EAGLES — Will meet at 6 p.m., on the second and fourth Wednesday of the month at the Eagles’ lodge, 320 N. Meridian 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 strug-

gling 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.

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. To learn more information, please call (260) 251-3259.

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.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE – BRIANNA’S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions,

will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at Fellowship Baptist Church, 289 S. 200 West, Portland. Come early for a meal. For more information, call (260) 766-2006.

Monday

PORTLAND BREAKFAST OPTIMISTS — Will meet at 7 a.m. for breakfast at Richards Restaurant.

PING PONG — Will be played from 9 a.m. to noon each Monday at Jay Community Center.

EUCHRE — Will be played starting at 1 p.m. each Monday at West Jay Community Center, 125 Hoover St., Dunkirk.

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

PREGNANCY CARE CENTER — Free pregnancy testing with ongoing support during and after pregnancy. The center is located at 216 S. Meridian St., Portland. Hours are 1 to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday. For more information or to schedule an appointment, call (260) 726-8636. Walk-ins accepted.

BREAD OF LIFE COMMUNITY FAMILY MEAL — Will be served from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church, 204 E. Arch St. in Portland.

Sudoku

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

Level: Intermediate

Saturday’s Solution

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

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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Help Campofiores with trip to Spain

To the editor:

Four local young men — Anthony, Walter, Paul, and Virgil Campofiore — have achieved a remarkable honor: they have been selected to represent the United States at the prestigious International Table Soccer Federation World Championships for table soccer (foosball) in Spain.

Their dedication and hard work on the 2022 through 2024 tour seasons have earned them this recognition from the United States Table Soccer Organization.

The championship event will take place from June 23 through 29, 2025, where they will compete on a global stage against players from five continents and 40 different countries in this exciting mind and technique game.

(For those interested in learning more about the sport, statistics or upcoming events, check out the International Table Soccer Federation and the United States Table Soccer Organization online at tablesoccer.org.)

Competing internationally comes with significant costs. To help offset the expenses, which are approximately \$2,000 per youth (totaling around

Letters to the Editor

\$8,000), our community has several opportunities to pitch in:

- Benefit Rummage Sale — 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. June 5 through 7, 2025
- Huli Huli Carry Out Chicken Dinner — 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. June 6 and 7, 2025

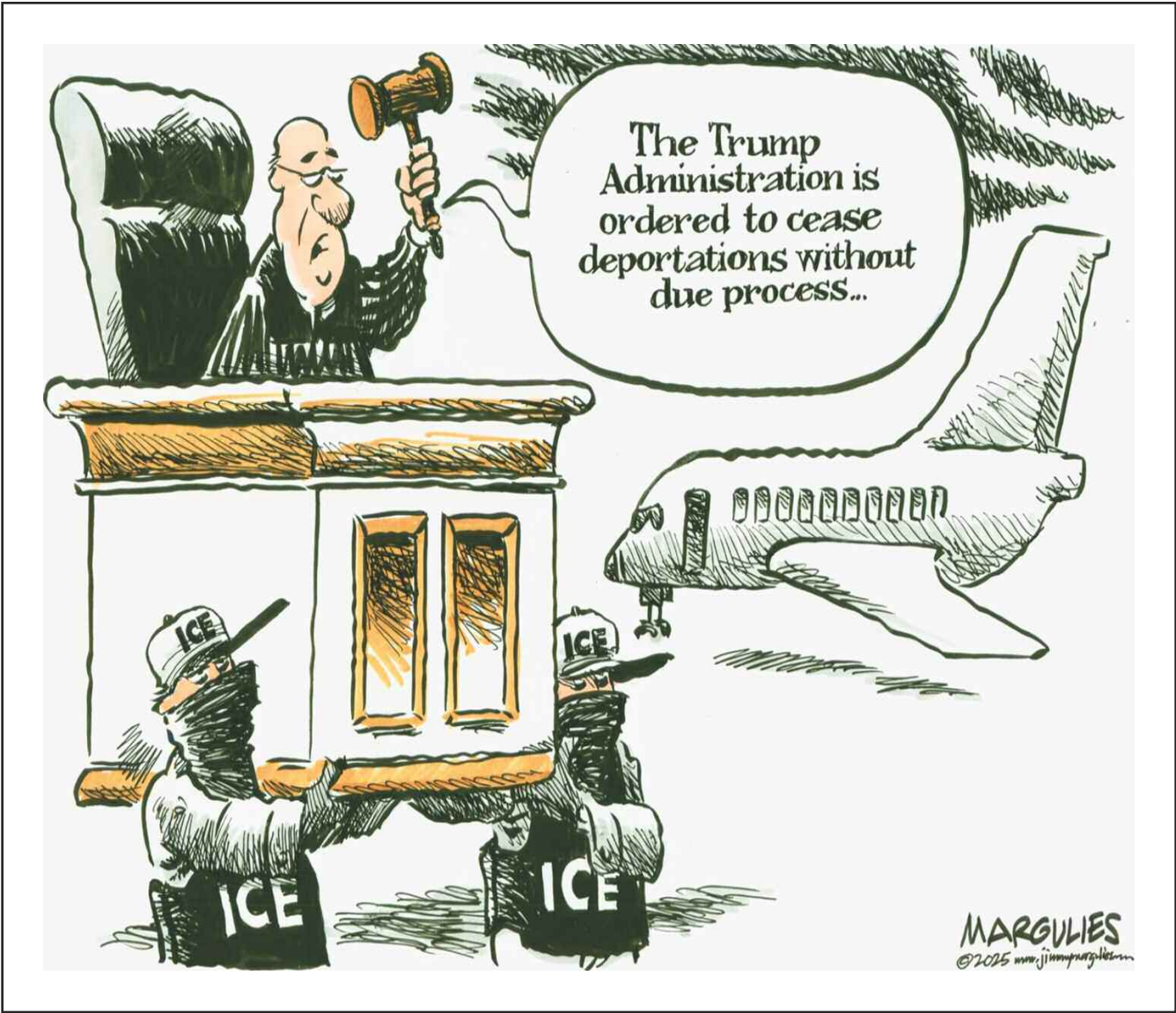
(Both events will be in the parking lot of All Weather Heating & Air Conditioning located at 973 S. Meridian St., Portland.)

If you are unable to attend the events but would like to make a monetary donation, you can make it through Venmo at @All-weather-Heatingandcooling.

Supporting these young men helps them achieve their international dream and represents our community and the United States with pride and skill on the world stage.

Thank you in advance for your generosity and support in helping the Campofiore boys go international.

Ashley Keen
Portland



Enjoy rich sports landscape

By NIKI KELLY
Indiana Capital Chronicle
indianacapitalchronicle.com

I remember the first time I went to the Indianapolis 500 after moving to Indiana. It was a muddy mess with little sleep. It is also one of the best memories I have with my friend Anita, and it brings us laughter to this day.

Another fond sports memory is my spontaneous decision, driving through Indianapolis after a morning work assignment, to grab a friend and snag tickets for Game 5 of the Eastern Conference Finals between the Indiana Pacers and New York Knicks in 2000. Talk about an electric atmosphere.

This year's 500 coincides with the Pacers being back in the conference finals, and I am reminded how lucky we are to have a vibrant sports world right here in Indiana.

So, I put together a Hoosier sports-related bucket list. Go make some memories!

Go to the Indy 500

I don't go every year because, frankly, it's a lot. Plus, my husband likes to go early. This year, he is taking our daughter, and I am excited for them to have that experience together for the first time. He's a spectator now, but at one point he was engine tuner for Vitor Meira's Team Menard car. And three years ago, as a splurge, I gave him a ride in the two-seater, which blew his mind. The speedway is an absolute gem that we should be proud of — from holding races to hosting citizenship ceremonies, vaccination clinics and solar eclipses.

Indiana Fever game

I have been to many Fever games but not since Caitlin Clark arrived. I must rectify that soon. The hype and excitement is contagious.

Niki Kelly



And Clark is someone I want to say I saw play, because she will undoubtedly be an icon.

March Madness

Basketball doesn't get any better than the NCAA college basketball tournament in Indiana. Whether it's the first or final round, it's fun to see fans of other teams come to the city and discover its hospitality and love of the game. While heart-breaking, watching Butler University play Duke in the 2010 championship game will forever be a highlight of my personal sports bucket list.

If I could make a subcategory here, I would add going to a game at Hinkle Fieldhouse. It has an old-school feel that easily trumps new, fancier facilities.

Olympic trials

Indianapolis has hosted swimming and diving trials at multiple locations. I spent a few hours watching diving years ago and was amazed at the precision and power. I am still kicking myself for not going to the last year's swimming event at Lucas Oil Stadium. So many friends have said how great it was to immerse themselves in a new sport.

But the fun isn't just in Indianapolis.

Notre Dame football

Find time to see the Fighting Irish at Notre Dame Stadium on a fall day. Nothing beats it. My husband and I went a few years ago to the Navy game and it was everything we had hoped. We walked the campus a bit before the game, taking in

This year's 500 coincides with the Pacers being back in the conference finals, and I am reminded how lucky we are to have a vibrant sports world right here in Indiana.

the revelry and the beauty. By far the best part of the day was seeing all the traditions on display.

Parkview field

The stadium in downtown Fort Wayne hosts the TinCaps and is a delight for families. I have only been to one game there, but it was full of quirky entertainment, with a great location and reasonable food prices (for a stadium).

This is not an exhaustive list. I'm sure I will hear from a few Colts fans and my dad won't forgive me for leaving out the U.S. Nationals at Indianapolis Raceway Park. The point is that Hoosiers are lucky to have such a rich sports ecosystem and should make sure to enjoy it!

.....
Kelly, editor-in-chief of Indiana Capital Chronicle, has covered the Indiana Statehouse since 1999. Indiana Capital Chronicle is an independent, nonprofit news organization. Its website is indianacapitalchronicle.com.

Old grill outshined shiny, new options

Editor's note: This column is being reprinted from May 28, 2003. One of the true signs of summer is the smell of burgers on the grill. Jack preferred his old, grungy grill to a new shiny one. It cooked meat and inspired memories.

By JACK RONALD
The Commercial Review

Someone's trying to take the fun out of grilling.

Backyard cooking combines some basic elements that strike a chord in the primordial soul of most men. It has it all: Fire, meat, smoke, sharp objects, solitude, control, and a chance to work outdoors.

What could be better?

But now someone's decided that a basic grill is not enough.

The stores and the catalogs are full of grills the size of Buicks, with more features than the average home computer.

You want a fridge with that backyard barbecue outfit? No problem. How about a rotisserie? Maybe a popcorn popper?

Call me a sentimentalist or a throwback, but I think a grill ought to be pretty basic. That means it ought to be black, and it ought to be a little grungy.

Our first grill was something of a disappointment. The grill itself was fine — a little hibachi — but it came in a box labeled "color television" when we received it as a wedding present. Since we had a little seven-inch black and white set, our hearts fell when we learned the box was just being recycled.

Over the years, the hibachi gave way to a Smoky Joe, another little tabletop charcoal grill that we still have somewhere in the attic of the garage.

Then, back when a discount store in Portland was going out of business, we finally bought the grill of our dreams, a classic Weber kettle-style with enough space to cook burgers for the entire neighborhood.

The discount store is gone, lost to the annals of local history. But the grill lives on.

Every few years, yielding to my wife's insistence and the fear of threats from the county board of health, I replace the grill surface itself, buying a shiny new chrome one. But the kettle itself, with the

Back in the Saddle



Maybe my hesitation to replace it with some whiz-bang 21st century unit comes from memories of my father's grill.

metal dinged here and there, still serves.

Maybe my hesitation to replace it with some whiz-bang 21st century unit comes from memories of my father's grill.

It must have been a gift or maybe he won it as a prize. I certainly can't imagine him buying it. The thing was fitted out in brushed aluminum and was the 1950s equivalent of the upscale "outdoor kitchens" being pushed on the market today. It bore a logo with a man wearing a chef's hat, something I can't imagine my father doing in his life.

It was, in short, an embarrassment, the sort of grill that was so extravagant it made you feel guilty if you weren't cooking on it. By my best recollection, it was used maybe three or four times, then sat on the patio as a silent reproach.

Not so my old smoker. It may be ugly, and it may be grungy. And it's probably time to buy another shiny new grill surface just for the sake of sanitation. But it works just fine. Now, if you'll excuse me, it's time to flip the burgers.

The Commercial Review



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JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

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We welcome letters to the editor, which are accepted by email only to letters@thecr.com. They should be 700 words or fewer, signed, with city/town of residence and include a phone number for verification purposes. We reserve the right to edit for content and clarity.

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TONIA HARDY
Business manager

LOUISE RONALD
Board chair

BRIAN DODD
Production manager

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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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Photos provided

Ribbon cuttings

Jay County Chamber of Commerce recently held ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Mike Wright State Farm Insurance and the Cincinnatus League's new Frostee ice cream machine. Mike Wright State Farm Insurance is located at 1216 N. Meridian St., Portland. The Cincinnatus League sells Frostees at the Jay County Fair and other events at Jay County Fairgrounds.

Klenke receives state award

A local healthcare official was honored with an award last week.

The Ohio Hospital Association presented Mercer Health CEO Lisa Klenke with its Leadership Award during its annual recognition dinner last week in Columbus, Ohio.

Klenke has worked in healthcare for more than 30 years, including 20 as Mercer Health's chief nursing officer and a dozen as its CEO. She led the facility to an America's Best-in-State Hospitals designation this year.

She also served for 16 years on the Ohio Board of Nursing, including a term as its president.

"Lisa's leadership has profoundly shaped healthcare in our community," said Mercer Health vice president of development marketing and communications Mindy Kremer in a press release. "Her dedication to ensuring quality care and fostering innovation is truly inspiring."

Hosting update

Ball State University will host a community update on Village revitalization at 6 p.m. Wednesday, June 4, in the Legacy Room at Cornerstone Center for the Arts.

The event will feature an update from BSU president Geoffrey S. Mearns. It will include details about the performing arts center and hotel scheduled to open in summer 2026, the Center for Innovation and Collaboration and apartments.

"These community events have been well attended, and I'm grateful for the strong interest in this project," Mearns said in a press release. "With construction underway on several

Business roundup

sites, we're seeing real progress."

Cornerstone is located at 520 E. Main St., Muncie.

For more information, visit bsu.edu/thevillage.

Certification earned

Adams Health Network announced last week that it has completed geriatric nursing education through the Nurses Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders.

The program is designed to help healthcare organizations improve the care of older adults. It covers topics such as helping older patients with falls, confusion, immobility and medication management.

"This certification reflects our dedication to clinical excellence and our deep respect for the elderly members of our community," said Chris Butler, chief nursing officer at Adams Health Network, in a press release. "Through NICHE, our nurses are empowered with advanced tools, continuous process improvement and evidence-based practices that promote dignity, independence, and quality of life for older patients."

Grants awarded

Duke Energy recently made grants to three local economic development organizations.

The grants of \$5,000 each went to East Central Indiana Regional Partnership, Muncie-Delaware County Economic Development Alliance and

Grant County Economic Growth Council.

The grant to the regional partnership will go toward creating a new website and marketing materials, as well as supporting attendance at conferences and sales trips to market and promote the region and interact with site consultants. The alliance will also develop a new website.

"This program gives our local economic development partners the tools they need to showcase the strengths of their communities — both at home and on the national stage," said Erin Schneider, managing director of economic development at Duke Energy, in a press release. "It's just one of the many ways we're helping influence growth in the state to build competitive, thriving communities."

Seeking nominees

Indiana Chamber of Commerce is seeking nominees for its annual awards.

Awards include the Ogletree Deakins Business Leader of the Year, Birch Bayh-Richard Lugar Government Leader of the Year, NextEra Energy Resources Community of the Year and Yamaha Dynamic Leader of the Year.

"We're eager to recognize the impressive recipients that make Indiana such a great place — showcasing its brightest is always a highlight of our annual awards dinner," said Vanessa Green Sinders, Indiana Chamber president and CEO, in a press release. "There certainly is no lack of worthy individuals and communities around the state so we hope to receive many nominations for our slate of awards."

Nominations can be made at indianachamber.com/annu

alawards. The deadline is Friday, June 20.

Teaming up

The Indiana Fever has named Old National Bank as its official bank partner.

The partnership will include the Old National Bank Radio Network for broadcasting Fever games, a spotlight in the program and other branded products.

"We're always looking for ways to support our fans and local communities, and Old National Bank shares that same passion," said Fever president of basketball and business operations Kelly Krauskopf. "They have not only shown their support for women's basketball but are committed to shining a light on small businesses that make Indiana special."

Old National Bank will also sponsor fan appreciation night on Sept. 9.

Hosting drive

First Financial Bank is hosting a book drive at various locations.

The drive will run from May 5 through 31. It is part of an effort to support financial literacy.

Books can be dropped off at the following locations:

- 112 N. Meridian St., Portland
- 211 W. Pearl St., Union City
- 101 W. Washington St., Hartford City

"In recent years, our book drives have collected thousands of volumes to foster improved financial literacy in our communities, and we're proud to continue this campaign as another way to help our clients and communities thrive," said Roddell McCullough, chief corporate responsibility officer for First Financial Bank, in a press release.

More than 4,000 books were

collected in Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Illinois last year.

Training offered

ServSafe training will be available at John Jay Center for Learning in Portland.

The next session is scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday, May 20.

An additional session is scheduled for June 24.

The certification course is open to all food service employees and emphasizes safe food- and beverage-handling practices to minimize the risk of food-borne illnesses.

For more information, or to register, call (260) 729-5525.

Classes available

Indiana Chamber of Commerce will host Forklift Safety: Train the Trainer from 8 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 20.

The event offers in-person and virtual options and will be held at the Indiana Chamber Conference Center in Indianapolis. Participants will learn about training staff on forklift operation.

For more information, or to register, visit indianachamber.com.

Hosting drive

Menards stores are holding a pet supplies drive through the end of May.

Supplies needed include food, treats, feeders, collars and beds. Items collected will be donated to local humane associations.

Donation boxes will be near the next doors at Menards locations, including in Muncie, Richmond and Celina, Ohio.

Does your business have news to share? Email us at news@thecr.com to be included in our weekly business roundup.

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Local Businesses & Services

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Fort Recovery, OH 45846

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Fortkampfoam.com

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www.allcircuitelectrical.com

Jay County Drug Prevention Coalition

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260-251-3259

Email: jcdpcccontact@gmail.com

Ohio Valley Gas

129 E. Main St., Portland

260-726-8114

www.ovgc.com

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Portland, IN

260-726-4535

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110 W. North St.

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Schools scramble to fill vacancies

By **ROBBIE SEQUEIRA**

Stateline.org

As another school year ends, superintendents across the United States are staring down an autumn staffing crisis, with 1 in 8 teaching positions either vacant or filled by an underqualified educator. States that are struggling with post-pandemic teacher shortages have spent millions to lure replacements and retain veterans with hiring bonuses and bumps in salaries. But hiring gaps remain, so some states also are trying another tactic: changing their standards. The changes in teacher training and licensing come amid widespread turmoil in public schools: Tax revenue is being siphoned toward private school vouchers in many states; some classrooms are being scrutinized for banned books, displays or teaching lessons that trip into diversity, equity and inclusion territory; and students who went through pandemic-era shutdowns are struggling both with sitting still and with learning the material. Some surveys show that fewer than a fifth of teachers are happy in their jobs. “Teaching is not seen as an attractive profession right now,” said Drew Gitomer, an expert on teaching assessment at Rutgers Graduate School of Education.

“COVID exacerbated things, and teachers are caught in the middle of political battles — over curriculum, book bans, even personal attacks,” he said. “It’s not a healthy work environment, and that drives people away.” Last year, Illinois enacted a law allowing teacher candidates to begin student teaching before passing content-area exams. It was an effort to reduce barriers for underrepresented groups, the measure’s sponsor said. A bill under consideration this year would give more districts discretion over whether to factor pupils’ test scores into teacher evaluations, a break from a 15-year-old mandate. In New Jersey, a new law formally removes the Praxis Core exam — traditionally used as an entry-level screening tool for aspiring teachers — from certification requirements. And in Nevada — one of the states hit hardest by teacher shortages — a bill would streamline licensure for incoming educators. The bill would allow teachers credentialed in other states to begin working in Nevada classrooms while awaiting formal approval. It also would remove extra steps for teachers switching grade levels and would waive application

fees for recent substitute teachers. Linda Darling-Hammond, founding president and chief knowledge officer of the Learning Policy Institute, a nonpartisan think tank, said teacher shortages hit hardest in schools serving low-income students and students of color, where instability often leads to larger class sizes, canceled courses or a revolving door of substitute teachers. “When you walk into a school facing shortages, you see instability,” she said. “Students may be taught by people who don’t know what to do, who leave quickly, and who often rely more on discipline than engagement.” The root cause? Teacher attrition. “Nine out of 10 vacancies every year are because of attrition — and two-thirds of that is not retirement,” Darling-Hammond said. “Support in the beginning matters. Teachers who come in and get a mentor stay longer. If you’re just thrown in to sink or swim, the odds of leaving are much greater.” States have long struggled to attract teachers, and credentialing changes aren’t unusual. But some education advocates fear long-term repercussions. Melissa Tooley, director of K-12 educator quality at the left-leaning think tank New America, said most

states now offer alternative and fast-track teacher certification pathways, many of which allow candidates to start teaching with little or no pedagogical training in how to teach. “We’re churning through people who might have potential, but we’re not setting them up for success,” she said. “A lot of what states are doing is short term. It’s about filling seats, not necessarily building a sustainable or high-quality workforce.” More than 40 states require aspiring teachers to take the costly Praxis Subject test for the subject they want to teach, which some experts argue excludes strong candidates and duplicates other assessments. “You were excluding people who might be good teachers but didn’t do well on that specific test,” said Rutgers’ Gitomer, who has researched the test’s effects on recruitment. However, he added, dropping tests doesn’t necessarily help. Several states — Georgia, New Jersey, New York, Washington and Wisconsin — have dropped a licensure requirement known as edTPA since 2022, but there’s little evidence the move has helped ease teacher shortages, Gitomer said. (The acronym stands for Educative Teacher Performance Assessment and involves a

portfolio that includes testing and videos of classroom performance.) “The state eliminated edTPA but didn’t replace it with a specific alternative,” he said. “Instead, it gave full discretion back to individual institutions to develop or adopt their own performance assessments,” he said. “When we talked to institutions, it became pretty clear they didn’t think removing edTPA would be a major driver in addressing the shortage — and they haven’t seen evidence that it has been.” Tooley said state credentialing systems must navigate a delicate balance: ensuring there are enough teachers, maintaining instructional quality and increasing workforce diversity. “There’s this triangle — three pieces that need to be in place — and I think there are real tensions when it comes to how states are designing their certification policies,” she said. And Gitomer described a fragmented national landscape, where some states are tightening teacher entry standards while others are dramatically loosening them — even allowing non-degreed individuals to teach. “Some states are trying to raise standards; others are relaxing them to the point where you may not

even need a college degree,” he said. Indiana now requires all pre-K through grade 6 and special education teachers to complete 80 hours of training on the “science of reading,” a method that includes phonics, and pass an exam by 2027. State Sen. Jean Leising, a Republican, has proposed cutting the requirement in half, calling it “an excessive burden with little actual benefit” in a news release. In Texas, a bill aims to reduce the use of uncertified teachers by the 2029-30 school year. The legislation would set a gradual cap on the percentage of uncertified teachers districts can employ in core curriculum classes — starting at 20% in 2026-27 and decreasing to 5% in 2029-30. According to the Texas Education Agency, 31% of new hires in 2024-25 lacked a state teaching certificate or permit. Yet some states stand out for how they’re changing their requirements, Tooley said. She pointed to Washington, which has designed a recruitment strategy encouraging paraprofessionals, often known as teacher’s aides, to become classroom teachers. Also known as paraeducators, they’re a group with classroom experience, community ties and higher retention likelihood.



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Music by
Tom Kitt

Lyrics by
Brian Yorkey

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SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



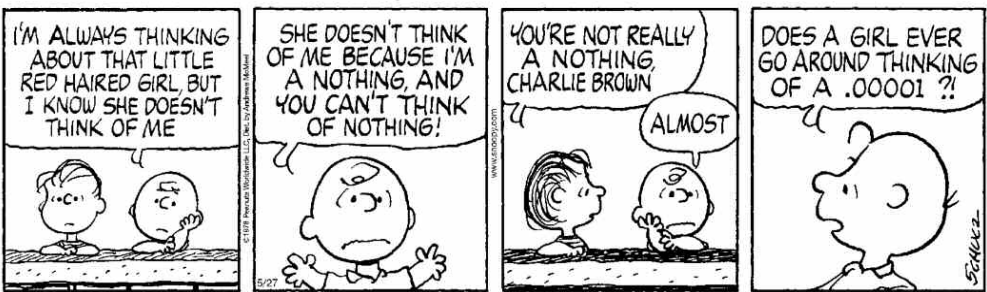
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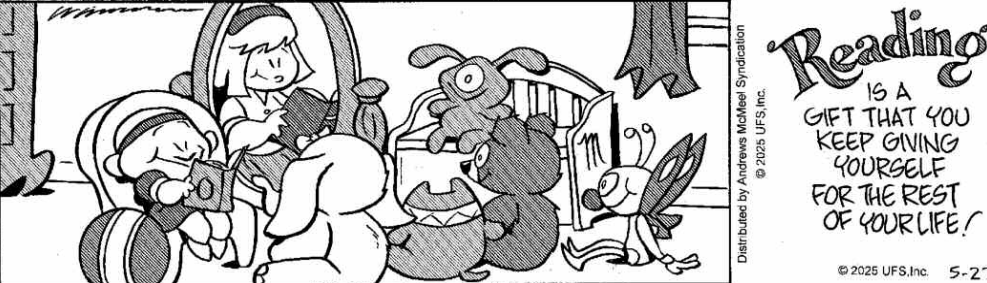
Peanuts



Peanuts



Rose is Rose



Rose is Rose



Agnes



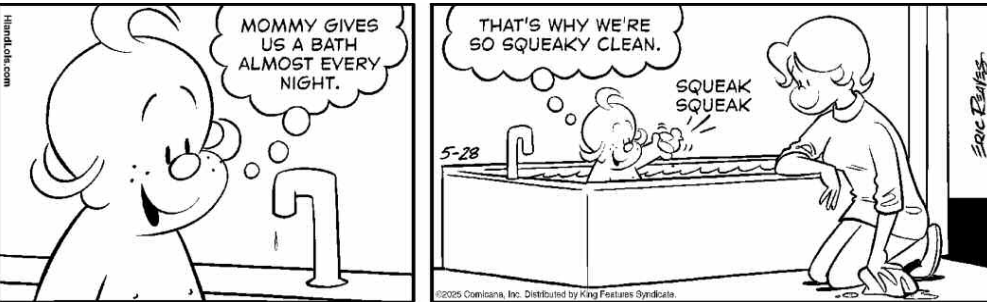
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Hi and Lois



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



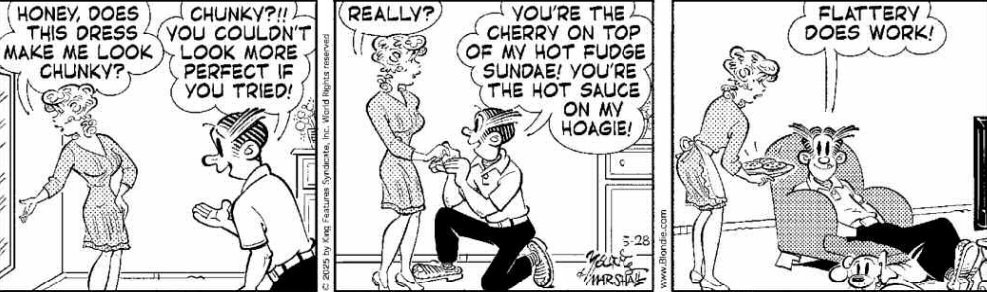
Between Friends



Blondie



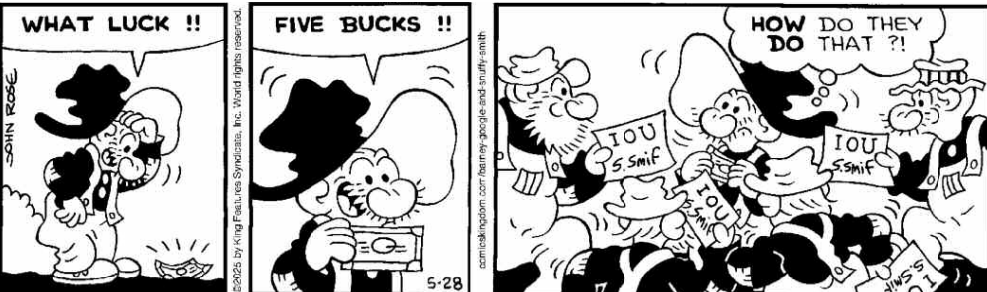
Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



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

Laughter

The Commercial Review We Deliver

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

For your own peace of mind

South dealer. North-South vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ 8 4 3
♥ A J 10 7 4 3
♦ J 6
♣ 5 4

EAST

♠ K J
♥ K 5
♦ 7 4 3 2
♣ J 10 7 6 2

WEST

♠ Q 10 9 7
♥ Q 9 8 2
♦ 10 9 8 5
♣ 3

SOUTH

♠ A 6 5 2
♥ 6
♦ A K Q
♠ A K Q 9 8

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♣	Pass	1 ♥	Pass
2 ♠	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
3 NT			

Opening lead — ten of diamonds.

Most players find mathematical probabilities in bridge very dull, but the fact is that even a superficial knowledge of the subject will reap big dividends on many deals.

Assume you're in three notrump and West leads a diamond. As soon as the dummy is tabled, you can count eight top tricks, and you don't have to be an Einstein to realize that your best chance for a ninth

trick lies in clubs.

If you play momma-poppa style and start by cashing the A-K-Q of clubs, you will make the contract whenever the suit divides 3-3 (a 36% chance) or 4-2 (a 48% chance). In the latter case, you would next concede a club to assure nine tricks.

On top of this 84% chance, there is also the possibility that when you start leading clubs, the singleton ten or jack will fall on the first round (another 5%). If this occurs, you continue the suit to guarantee the contract.

But even this 89% chance can be improved an additional 5% by cashing the ace of clubs, leading a heart to the ace and returning a club from dummy, planning to finesse the eight if East follows low. This guards against East's holding the J-10-x-x of clubs and is needed to make the contract in the actual deal.

For the mathematically disinclined, this safety play makes a lot of sense even if you know nothing whatsoever about probabilities. Nevertheless, it is nice to know at the outset — if only for the sake of your peace of mind — that the safety play raised your overall chance of success to 94%.

Tomorrow: Mind over matter.
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5-27 CRYPTOQUIP

ZBP WR PRK LKOORLD ODHDQ QW CNJMX PSC GJFAKZO S

OVG MXADL VQRKGW AG HBD

VAQ HZDGHP-MRKQ-LDUDG? BD

GDUDQXVGWL.

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WRIGLEY PRODUCT SPECIALLY MANUFACTURED FOR HAIRY, STINGING BEES TO CHEW ON: BUMBLE-GUM.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: O equals P

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	36 Mob scene	DOWN	23 Blueprint
1 Swedish car	37 "Awe-some!"	1 Airline to Sweden	24 Brainy Pounces upon suddenly
5 Tease	38 Freeway entrance	2 Past cry	27 Peddled item
8 — Minor (constellation)	41 Sheepish remark	3 Canine	28 Concept
12 Taj Mahal city	42 Heckles	4 Fight	29 Sala-mander
13 Have debts	43 Dress for cold	5 Source	31 Do laps
14 Classic soda	48 "Alternatively," in a text	6 — Jima	34 Deliciously
15 Pine, for one	49 Apr. ad-dressee	7 Night table	9 500 lowbrow, as novels
17 Flunk	50 Praise	8 Open up, as a flag	10 Model in a bottle slowly
18 Pre-schooler	51 Relaxed	11 Feels unwell	37 The "G" of
19 Baffles	52 "Unh-unh"	16 Misery	35 Moves
21 Sufficient	53 Rockwell and	20 Chat	38 Slender
24 Twinkler in the sky	Cooke	21 Tag sale words	39 — bene
25 Shopper's dream		22 Long hair	40 Aussie hoppers
26 Tiny victory			41 Wild party
30 Garden of the Food Network			44 La-la lead-in
31 Posh			45 Small battery
32 Citric beverage			46 Pirates' drink
33 Notified			47 Rx writers
35 Ship's staff			

Solution time: 22 mins.

DEN	ETHIC	DAD
ELO	MAUNA	AVE
FISTB	BUMPS	TIN
HON	USNA	VY
BEHEST	TIED	
AMT	SET	ETUDE
BUGS	DUA	SMUT
ASHES	GNP	PD
LOU	DER	ORS
ELM	FUEL	PUMPS
TAP	FERAL	BEA
OYS	TRENE	APT

Yesterday's answer 5-27

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
			18			19	20			
21	22	23			24					
25				26				27	28	29
30				31				32		
33			34					35		
			36				37			
38	39	40				41				
42				43	44			45	46	47
48				49				50		
51				52				53		

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Mind over matter

South dealer. Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH

♠ A 9 6 2
♥ 8 7 3
♦ 5
♠ A K 8 6 2

EAST

♠ J 8 7 4
♥ Q 10 4
♦ J 9 4 3
♠ J 9

WEST

♠ K Q 10 5
♥ J 9 6 2
♦ 7
♠ Q 10 7 4

SOUTH

♠ 3
♥ A K 5
♦ A K Q 10 8 6 2
♠ 5 3

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1 ♦	Pass	2 ♣	Pass
3 ♦	Pass	3 ♣	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♥	Pass
5 NT	Pass	6 ♦	

Opening lead — king of spades.

Bridge is not as tough a game as it may sometimes seem — if you put your mind to it. If you don't, well, you might occasionally have to pay the consequences.

Assume you get to six diamonds and West leads the king of spades. How would you play the hand?

At first glance, there seems to be nothing to the play. So, without giving the matter much thought, you might win the king of spades with the ace and start to draw

trump by playing the A-K.

Unfortunately, West shows out on the second trump, and eventually you go down one, losing a heart trick and a trump trick. You might easily conclude that the reason the slam failed was because you ran into a 4-1 trump division. In a sense this is true — the odds were about 3-to-1 against either opponent holding the J-x-x of trump — but, even so, you should have made the slam.

To make the contract, you must have the presence of mind to ruff a spade at trick two. The reason you do this is that it might help you overcome a 4-1 trump division if you happen to run into one. Now when you play the A-K of trump and discover that East started with the J-9-4-3, you have an excellent chance to get home safely.

All you have to do is to continue to shorten your trump holding. Accordingly, you cash the A-K of hearts, lead a club to the king, ruff a spade, then lead a club to the ace and ruff another spade.

You are now down to three cards — the five of hearts and Q-10 of trump — and it's clear sailing from here on. You lead the heart five, not caring which defender wins the trick, since you're sure to win the last two tricks with the Q-10 of trump.

Tomorrow: Case of the telltale deuce.
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5-28 CRYPTOQUIP

QW CNJMX PSC GJFAKZO S

GLOX CSFX JZ AMSDXC, PKNG

NGX AKCEFSKQXM “ELMNSKZ

MXCNMKENKJZC SDDFW.”

Yesterday's Cryptquip: WHY DO YOU SUPPOSE PETER PAN FLIES AROUND IN THE AIR TWENTY-FOUR-SEVEN? HE NEVERLANDS.

Today's Cryptquip Clue: G equals H

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS	38 Whispered “Hey!”	DOWN	23 Prefix with violet
1 Animation frames	39 English channel?	1 Taxis	25 Half- (latte option)
5 French vineyard	41 Love god	3 LummoX	26 Vintage
8 Regarding	43 Friends in battle	4 Takes the helm	27 Singing birds
12 Oodles	46 Valentine's gift	5 Spy org.	29 “Up and —!”
13 Cyclades isle	50 Obey	6 “Crying” singer	31 Daybreak goddess
14 Harvest birds	51 Waddling birds	7 Cold War initials	32 Make lace
17 Exceptional	54 Hibernia	8 Orderly grouping	34 Vegas cubes
18 Filled fully	55 U.K. recording label	9 Coastal birds	38 Writer Marcel
19 40th president	56 Piggy bank opening	10 Skater Lipinski	40 Fancy bathroom fixture
21 Alpha-betic sequence	57 Sail support	11 Unlock	42 URL ending
24 Big Apple sch.	58 Tri-umphed	16 Law grads	43 “Excuse me ...”
25 Farm grazers	59 Pitch	20 Jealousy figure	44 “Star Wars” princess
28 Norwegian saint			45 Gush
30 Rent out			47 Missile shelter
33 Carte lead-in			48 Adam's grandson
34 A bit crazy			49 Swift jets
35 Mauna —			52 Moody rock genre
36 Dime portrait			53 Diarist
37 Concerning			Anais

Solution time: 23 mins.

SAAB	RIB	URSA
AGRA	OWE	NEHI
SOFT	WOOD	FAIL
TOT	STUMPS	
AMPLE	STAR	
SALE	SMALL	WIN
INA	SWANK	ADE
SENT	WORD	CREW
RIOT	GREAT	
ONRAMP	BABA	
BOOS	STAY	WARM
OTOH	IRS	LAUD
EASY	NAH	SAMS

Yesterday's answer 5-28

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12				13			14			
15				16			17			
18						19	20			
		21	22	23		24				
25	26	27		28		29		30	31	32
33				34				35		
36				37				38		
		39	40			41	42			
43	44			45			46	47	48	49
50				51	52	53				
54				55				56		
57				58				59		

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Loy Auction AC#31600027

Auctioneers Gary Loy AU01031608

Travis Theurer AU11200131

Aaron Loy AU11200112

Kaden Khayyata AU12400069

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Rewritten ...

Continued from page 10

All of her times were district records as she easily obliterated more than decade-old marks of 12.35 in the 100 dash and 25.44 in the 200 dash, both of which were previously held by Gretchen Walter of Lehman Catholic. The previous 400 dash record was set in 2018 at 56.93 by Covington's Rayna Horner.

Roessner set the new records by 0.39 seconds, 1.26 seconds and 0.52 seconds, respectively, despite having no one at her heels.

"It's a huge mental game," she said. "Just with track in general it's super mental. I always just envision someone right behind me, pushing me along. I really don't know where anybody is behind me. They could be a step. They could be 10 feet."

Isaac Roessner, Anna's sophomore brother, provided the surprise of the day for the Indians as he ran a career-best time to earn a regional berth as well.

Seeded eighth in the 300 hurdles following Tuesday's preliminaries, he said he saw opportunity when No. 4 seed Aaron Bruner of Tri-Village and No. 6 seed Colt Barnes of Tri-County North did not come to the start line for the finals.

The regional swung open even more when No. 2 seed Day'Lynn Garrett of Covington fell while going over a hurdle on the curve. Garrett may have been able to get back into the top four but clipped every hurdle the rest of the way. Roessner said he didn't know for sure where he stood coming down the stretch, but just focused on trying to hold his position.

He finished in 41.88 seconds, nearly two seconds faster than his preliminary time from just four days earlier.

"My first hurdle wasn't very good, but my second, third and fourth, I was feeling good," said Roessner, who was also the district runner-up in the long jump on Tuesday at 19 feet, 11 3/4 inches. "So, I was like, all right, I have a real opportunity here. So I just wanted to go capture it."

The Indians' other regional berths Saturday came in the throwing events, where Karlie Niekamp finished fourth in the girls discus and Carson Fullenkamp was fourth in the boys shot put.

Niekamp was in danger of not even making the top nine to advance to Saturday's finals as her first toss came in under 100 feet and her second was a foul. But she found her groove on throw No. 3, sending it 117 feet, 4 inches, to move her from 10th to second.

"I've done it before," said Niekamp. "I do it

every day in practice. So it was really hit my marks and stay smooth in the ring and trusting myself that I can do that."

That toss stood through the finals as her best of the day for fourth place just 2 inches behind Alex-is Moody of Ansonia and 3 inches behind Madison Snider of Fort Loramie. Arcanum's Faith Wooten won solidly at 125 feet, 6 inches.

Fullenkamp had no issue reaching the finals as his first toss of 45 feet, 6 inches, safely put him amongst the best in the field but was in danger of not advancing to the regional as he sat fifth heading into his final attempt. He did just enough, matching the 45 feet, 9 1/2 inches, from Paul Hickey of Dixie and claiming the final regional spot thanks to the tiebreaker.

"Carson Fullenkamp pulling out a fourth-place finish, we thought he could do that but we knew it was going to be really tight," said Diller. "So that was really cool."

The junior broke through to the regional after coming up one spot short with a fifth-place finish in the discus on Tuesday.

Madison Heitkamp narrowly missed a regional berth in the 100 hurdles, finishing fifth as Dixie's Maddison Caldwell edged her at the finish line.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Carson Fullenkamp gets fully extended during one of his attempts in the finals of the shot put during Saturday's district meet at Piqua. He came up big on his final throw, matching Paul Hickey of Dixie at 45 feet, 9 1/2 inches. He took fourth place on the tiebreaker to earn the final regional berth in the event.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/Jared C. Tilton

Ross Chastain, driver of the #1 Jockey x Folds of Honor Chevrolet, celebrates in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Cup Series Coca-Cola 600 at Charlotte Motor Speedway on Sunday, May 25, 2025, in Concord, North Carolina.

Sports on tap

Local schedule

Today
Jay County — Baseball sectional opener vs. New Castle at Yorktown — 7:30 p.m.;
Fort Recovery — Softball regional semifinal vs. Tri-Village at Bellefontaine — 2 p.m.; Track regional prelims at Troy — 4 p.m.; Baseball district semifinal vs. Twin Valley South — 5 p.m.

Thursday
Jay County — Boys golf at Adams Central — 4:30 p.m.; Boys track regional

at Carroll — 6 p.m.; Junior high baseball vs. Eastbrook — 5 p.m.

TV schedule

Today
6 a.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)
2:30 p.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)
7:40 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Kansas City Royals (FDSN Indiana)
8 p.m. — NHL Playoffs: Florida Panthers at Carolina Hurricanes (TNT)
8 p.m. — MLS: Columbus Crew at Nashville SC (FS1)
8:30 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Minnesota

Timberwolves at Oklahoma City Thunder (ESPN)
10 p.m. — MLS: Los Angeles Galaxy at San Jose Earthquakes (FS1)
10 p.m. — USL Cup soccer: Monterey Bay at Spokane Velocity (FOX)

Thursday
6 a.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)
12 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament: Texas vs. Florida (ESPN)
12 p.m. — LPGA Tour: U.S. Women's Open (USA)
2 p.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)
2:30 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament: Tennessee vs. Oklahoma (ESPN)
7 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament: Ole Miss vs. Texas Tech (ESPN2)
8 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Indiana Pacers at New York Knicks (TNT)
8 p.m. — NHL Playoffs: Edmonton Oilers at Dallas Stars (ESPN)
9:30 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament: Oregon vs. UCLA (ESPN2)
9:40 p.m. — MLB: Washington Nationals at Seattle Mariners (FS1)

Local notes

Challenge continues
The Adams County Challenge continues with a pair of races in June.

The first will be held on June 7, as the Youth for Christ 5K starts at the Ceylon Covered Bridge outside of Geneva at 8:30 a.m. Registration is \$20.

The Fitness Delivered Charity 5K and Fun Run will be held on June 21 at 8:30 a.m. The race will begin at Fitness Delivered located at 141 N. First St. in Decatur. Registration will cost \$20 and includes a t-shirt if done by June 1. The Fun Run is free for anyone 12 and younger.

Registration forms for both races can be found at www.adamscounty5kchallenge.com.

members at the shop in the wee hours of Sunday morning. After crew members were working late, several returned by 5:30 a.m. Crew chief Phil Surgen said he got two-and-a-half hours of sleep.

It normally takes about three or four weeks — working from 6:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Monday through Friday — to build a chassis. The car had been fully assembled, as the team was planning on using it as the backup car for next week's race at Nashville.

"Pretty deflating midday on Saturday," Surgen said. "This group of guys I've got is relentless, and there was no question that everybody was going to give every bit of effort they had. ... All the road crew that was at the track was there. We had engine support from (Earnhardt Childress Racing). We had shop guys who were at concerts and ball games and everything that just dropped what they were doing and came to the shop."

"A couple of hours of sleep, and back at it in the morning. And we worked all the way up until we had to reinspect (Sunday) at 2 p.m."

Registration open

Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit RunSignUp.com.

There are rides ranging from 20 to 100 miles long.

The event will be held at 7 a.m. Saturday, June 21. It will start at Bellmont High School and will have stops in Willshire, Geneva and Monroe with refreshments.

.....

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

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION
Saturday JUNE 14th, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 1207 N SR 167 DUNKIRK, IN
REAL ESTATE
Real Estate sells at 10:00 AM.
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90 SALE CALENDAR

ture. Fishing Poles and Supplies. Generator. Shop Mate. Large Chicken Feeder. Several Items Not Mentioned.
OWNER: Mary L Shory
Estate by Crystal R Suman and Michael Dahlestrom
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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PUBLIC AUCTION
SATURDAY JUNE 7TH, 2025
TIME 10:00 A.M.
LOCATED: 127 Rayburn Dr, Portland IN.
REAL ESTATE

90 SALE CALENDAR

Real Estate sells at 10:00 AM.
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath brick ranch style home containing 1,328 sq ft finished living area. Central Air, Sun room, 2 car attached garage.
Detached garage/ shop building. Home has been well maintained.
Open House: Sunday May 25th from 1-3 PM or for private showing phone Auctioneers.
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2003 Chevrolet Venture Minivan. Cast Iron Bulldog.
Grandfather Clock. 8 Track Stereo/ Record Player. Glider Rocker w/ Ottoman. 3 Cushion Sofa. Rocker Recliner. Metal Patio Set. Bird Bath. Lawn Cart. Craftsman 10i Table Saw. Craftsman Router w/ Stand. Craftsman Scroll

90 SALE CALENDAR

Saw. Craftsman Grinder/Sander. Shop, Hand, and Lawn and Garden Tools.
OWNER: Rose Fennig Estate,
by Dale W Fennig
Note: Check Auctionsoft and AuctionZip for more photos.
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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

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State of Indiana
County of Jay
IN The Jay Circuit Court
Case No. 38C01-2505-MI-11
In RE the name change of minor:
Ashton Castillo,
Name of Minor
Tiana Gaucin, Petitioner
NOTICE OF PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME
Notice is hereby given that Petitioner, Tiana Gaucin, as a self-represented litigant, filed a Verified Petition for Change of Name on May 2, 2025 to change the name of Ashton Brandon Castillo to Ashton Brandon Gaucin.
The Petition is schedule for hearing in the Circuit Court on June 26, 2025 at 8:30 am, which is more than thirty (30) days after the third notice of publication. Any person has the right to appear at the hearing and to file written objections on or before the hearing date.
May 5, 2025
Melissa Elliott, Clerk
CR 5-21,28,6-4, 2025-HSPALP

READ THE CR THEN RECYCLE

Records rewritten



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School senior Anna Roessner runs well ahead of the field in the 400-meter dash during Saturday's Division III district meet at Piqua. She won the 100 dash, 200 dash and 400 dash, all in district record times. Her 200 dash time also broke her own school record.

Anna Roessner ran her own race in the sprints at the district meet; Fullenkamp, Niekamp and Isaac Roessner also advanced to regional

By RAY COONEY
The Commercial Review

PIQUA, Ohio — There were two races in the individual girls sprint events Saturday.

One featured the fastest Patriots, Jets, Panthers, Tigers, Pirates and others.

In the other, Anna Roessner had just two opponents — herself and the record book.

The Fort Recovery High School senior won three championships during the Division III girls track district at Piqua, setting meet records in all of them to lead the Indian girls to a

fifth-place finish among 19 scoring teams.

“Honestly, I’m just super thankful,” said Roessner moments after her 200-meter dash win. “Very, very thankful. I kind of just went into today with no expectations, kind of just having the mentality of just having fun and seeing what came out with it. It’s a beautiful day, so I’m just very thankful.”

Joining her at the regional meet — it is being contested tonight and Friday at Troy — will be her brother Isaac, Karlie Niekamp and Carson Fullenkamp. (The top four athletes

in each event earned regional berths.)

Roessner’s effort accounted for most of the points for the Tribe girls to finish behind champion Fort Loramie (162), Versailles (110), Ansonia (68) and Russia (46).

“She did not need to do any of that today,” said FRHS coach Christy Diller. “But she sets very high standards for herself. She wants to get records.

“She’s very capable, but even us, we watch her, we’re just like, ‘Wow, what did she just do?’ It’s pretty fun.”

Fort Recovery’s boys tallied 24

points for 13th out of 17 scoring squads. Ansonia won the title with 108.

As it turned out, even the district record book was no match for Anna Roessner.

She set the tone in her first race of the day, crossing the finish line nearly 10 meters ahead of everyone else as she won in 11.96 seconds. She was more than a second faster than runner-up Adalynn Hines (12.98) of Tri-Village while no one else broke the 13-second mark.

It was more of the same in the other two sprints, as Roessner made up the stagger on before

leaving the first curve of the 400 dash and spent the rest of the race running away from the field. She posted her biggest win of the day proportionally, beating Newton Local’s Cole Thompson by 4.22 seconds. She finished in 56.41 seconds as the only athlete in the race to break the 1-minute mark.

She erased the stagger on the curve again in the 200 dash, winning by 1.65 seconds over runner-up Taylor Schmitmeyer of Fort Loramie in 24.18. (She broke her own school record of 24.34.)

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Tribe wins finale 9-2

FORT LORAMIE, Ohio — A seven-run burst and strong pitching was all it took for the Tribe to win the final game of the regular season.

The Fort Recovery High School baseball team picked up a 9-2 victory over Fort Loramie in the regular season finale on Monday.

The Tribe (16-8) put together seven runs between the second and third innings to jump ahead. The first two Indians came around to score during the third inning on a triple by Colson Post and a final run crossed on an error.

In the fourth frame, a single and a walk allowed Caden Homan to push a run across home with a sacrifice fly to right field. Two more Indians drew walks before back-to-back singles from Reece Wendel and Mason Diller drove runs in.

Fort Recovery tacked on some extra insurance in

Baseball Roundup

the fourth on a Homan single and the seventh with a Luke Fortkamp line drive.

Homan earned the win on the bump for FRHS after tossing four innings. He gave up one earned run on six hits and one walk. Jonas Foote finished off the game by pitching three scoreless frames.

Jay swept

RUSSIAVILLE — Jay County's baseball team dropped a pair of games to the Class 3A No. 8 Western Panthers by a combined three runs in an added doubleheader on Saturday that closed out the regular season.

The Patriots (10-14) developed a lead in the first game but fell 4-3. JCHS put

up a pair of runs in the first inning on a single by Aiden Phillips and added a third in the second on a Carter Fugiett groundout.

Western (23-4) managed to score a pair of runs in the same time frame by playing small ball. The first Panther drew a walk on Zedrian Vazquez before another laid down a sacrifice bunt. A single by Ryan Rodman and a Gavin Denton groundout pushed the runs home.

WHS scored two more runs off Vazquez in the fourth inning on a single and a bases-loaded walk.

JCHS only mustered up one hit in the 2-0 loss in game No. 2. Fugiett delivered the sole hit in the sixth. Jay County had baserunners in five of the seven innings, but only reached scoring position once.

Joe Geesaman suffered the loss after surrendering one run on two hits and three walks over four innings.

How Ross Chastain won Coca-Cola 600 with a backup car

By SHANE CONNUCK

The Charlotte Observer
Tribune News Service

CONCORD, N.C. — Trackhouse Racing has captured NASCAR Cup Series wins on various stages.

Long before Ross Chastain became the first driver in 54 years to win a Cup Series race from the tail of the field at the Coca-Cola 600, Shane Van Gisbergen captured the inaugural Chicago Street Race in his debut, and Daniel Suárez got the best of the infamous three-wide photo finish at Atlanta.

Sunday night's Coke 600 victory, however, may be Trackhouse's most hard-fought one yet.

Chastain crashed during Saturday's practice session, and the No. 1 team went to its backup car. Crew members were at

the shop until about 2:30 a.m. ET Sunday morning working on it, and some were right back there within less than three hours.

"You saw us crash," Chastain said. "They were up till 2:30; I left at 10 (p.m. Saturday). They stayed there long after I was gone, they're back at 5:30 (a.m. Sunday). We built another car, and we put ourselves in like we just slowly worked our way. It took all 600 miles.

"If I've got a 400-mile race here, we don't get there. We're not in contention. It took the whole time."

'Working basically 48 hours straight'

Team owner Justin Marks could sense how much Sunday's win meant right away.

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