



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Solemn salute

Members of the Robert Guy Ayers American Legion Post 211 perform a 21-gun salute Monday during a Memorial Day ceremony at Green Park Cemetery in Portland. Pastor Darrell Borders shared some of the history of the holiday with those in attendance, including that it was first introduced as Decoration Day in 1868.

Redkey audit showed various problems

Council establishes standards in response to findings

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review REDKEY — The town has some changes to make. Redkey Town Council approved an ordinance Tuesday establishing internal control standards and passed a resolution establishing the creation of a capital assets policy in response to a recent audit that indicated various deficiencies. Indiana State Board of Accounts recently conducted a financial statements audit report on the town for the period from Jan. 1, 2020, through Dec. 31, 2023. The report was officially filed May 20. A supplemental compliance report filed in connection with the audit laid out various issues with the town's operations, specifically pointing to deficiencies in the town's internal control system. Per the report, resulting problems included: •Several funding overstatements and understatements that were entered on financial reporting system Indiana Gateway •Various incorrect utility bill charges •Failure to maintain a complete, detailed list of capital assets •Lack of supporting documentation kept on file •Restricted funds spent incorrectly •Incorrectly maintained records of compensatory time and compensatory time payments not lining up with the salary ordinance Both reports are available on the town's new website at in.gov/towns/redkey. Council president Brenda Beaty talked about the audit, saying the town would need to approve legislation to correct itself moving forward. One of those changes includes implementing an internal control plan, as required by Indiana Code. (The town was unable to locate any current ordinance or policy establishing such a plan.) As approved Tuesday, the plan calls for the town to adopt internal control standards as defined by the State Board of Accounts. It addresses areas including control environment, risk assessment, control activities, information and communication and monitoring. In addition to adopting the aforementioned standards, council must also make sure employees receive proper training, including required certifications. The clerk-treasurer is responsible for overseeing administration of the policy, training and certifications, the ordinance says. Another change involved creating a capital assets policy. Beaty noted the last record of such a policy in Redkey dates back to 2011. See Audit page 2

Mobile home exception approved

By BAILEY CLINE The Commercial Review Pennville's mobile home park is growing. Jay County Commissioners agreed Tuesday to a zoning request from Dar- rick Plummer of Pennville Partners to allow three parcels to join the new park. Plummer is planning to convert property west of South Street, just south of Max Drive, and the lot south of Daisy Lane — it's located next to the exist- ing Freedom Village Mobile Home Park — into

Commissioners OK expansion of facility on south side of Pennville

more mobile home park space. Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals OK'd Plummer's request in October to combine two parcels — about 12 acres — and create the mobile home park. One of the new parcels added to the project is located on the west side of coun- ty road 300 North, north of

Daily Lane, and the other two new parcels are located on the north side of Max Drive. Both parcels were zoned as single family resi- dential and required a spe- cial exception use approval through Jay County Board of Zoning Appeals and Jay County Plan Commission in the last few months before coming to commis- sioners. Hopes are for Plummer to put in 50 lots for homes over the next four to five years. Also Tuesday, communi- ty coordinator Darlesia Lee noted four homes have been completed through the county's owner-occupied rehabilitation program. Plans are in the works to move forward with the third and final round of projects in the program. Answering a question from Horn, Lee noted work with the owner-occupied reha- bilitation program must be completed by August. Relatedly, Lee talked about efforts to install a mural on the south side of the Community Resource Center in Portland. See Exception page 2

NPR sues administration for funding

Stations argue violation of will of Congress

By JENNIFER SHUTT States Newsroom statesnewsroom.org WASHINGTON — A collection of National Public Radio stations sued the Trump administration on Tuesday, seeking to block an executive order that would cut off their federal funding. The 43-page filing says the order that President Donald Trump signed earlier this month "violates the expressed will of Congress and the First Amendment's bedrock guarantees of freedom of speech, freedom of the press, and freedom of association, and also threatens the existence of a public radio system that millions of Americans across the country rely

on for vital news and informa- tion." The executive order called on the Corporation for Public Broad- casting, which receives its funding from Congress, to cease sending money to the Public Broadcasting Service and NPR. The order stated that govern- ment funding for public media "is not only outdated and unnecessary but corrosive to the appearance of journalistic independence." The Trump administration also appeared to take issue with the types of news stories that PBS and NPR report, arguing "that neither entity presents a fair, accurate, or unbiased portrayal of current events to taxpaying citizens." The suit says the executive order has an "overt retaliatory purpose" and "is unlawful in multiple ways." "The Order is textbook retalia- tion and viewpoint-based discrimi- nation in violation of the First Amendment, and it interferes with NPR's and the Local Member Sta- tions' freedom of expressive asso- ciation and editorial discretion," the lawsuit states.



Tribune News Service/Getty Images/AFP/Saul Loeb

People participate in a rally to call on Congress to protect funding for U.S. public broadcasters, Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) and National Public Radio (NPR), outside the NPR headquarters March 26 in Washington, D.C. NPR filed a lawsuit this week against the Trump administration, seeking to block an executive order to cut off its funding.

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Deaths

Anthony Bergman, 71, Fort Recovery Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high tem- perature of 68 degrees Tues- day. The low was 55. Tonight's forecast calls for a low in the lower 50s. Expect mostly cloudy skies Friday with a slight chance of show- ers and thunderstorms and a high around 70. See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County High School will celebrate its 50th graduat- ing class with its commence- ment ceremony at 2 p.m. Sun- day.

Coming up

Friday — Coverage of the Jay County baseball team's sec- tional opener. Saturday — Details from Fort Recovery in the regional track meet at Troy. Tuesday — Jay County Civic Theatre is preparing to put "Freaky Friday" on stage.



Exception ...

Continued from page 1

She referenced an ongoing crowdfunding campaign to raise \$10,000 for the project through East Central Indiana Regional Planning District. (It is currently at just over 10% of that goal. Those interested in contributing can do so at givebutter.com/jay-countymural.)

In other business, commissioners Chad Aker, Doug Horn and Duane Monroe:

- Heard updates from Jay County Country Living director Stacey Johnson, who noted ongoing renovations to the downstairs men's restroom. There are currently 19 residents at the facility. Johnson talked about coordinating with The Journey Home to bring more veterans to the living center.

Fundraising campaign continues for Portland mural

- Agreed to host a hearing July 14 to consider combining the Iris Scholer and Salamonie River watersheds located in the area of county roads 200 South and 400 East.
- Approved the following: a \$24,000 matching request from LifeStream Services for purchasing a mini van; paying

\$36,205 for a 2025 Chevy Tahoe for Jay County Coroner's Office; spending \$5,388.32 on 19 sound panels and \$2,927.78 on two speakers to enhance sound quality for recording meetings in Jay County Courthouse auditorium.

- Heard Jay Emergency Medical Service's financial break-

down for April from Jay Emergency Medical Service director Gary Barnett. The department had \$148,766.07 in expenses and \$84,671.55 in income. Answering a question from Barnett on whether to continue providing the breakdowns monthly, Aker noted he would be interested in also seeing statistics each month on runs, transfers and other data the department takes each month.

- Appointed Aker as Americans with Disabilities Act Title VI compliance coordinator.
- Paid \$5.68 million in claims, as well as a few additional claims, including \$67,000 for Jay County Highway Department's annual lease payment for its MowerMax equipment.






Obituaries

Anthony "Tony" Joseph Bergman, Fort Recovery, Feb. 7, 1954-May 26, 2025. A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 10:30 a.m. Friday at Mary Help of Christians Catholic Church, Fort Recovery.

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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				
Friday 5/30	Saturday 5/31	Sunday 6/1	Monday 6/2	Tuesday 6/3
 71/55 Friday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with a slight chance of showers.	 73/49 Mostly sunny on Saturday, when there's a small chance of rain. The high may reach the mid 70s.	 76/52 Another day of mostly sunny skies is in the forecast for Sunday. There's also a chance of showers.	 81/58 Mostly sunny on Monday as well. The temperature may swell to the 80s.	 85/66 Tuesday's forecast shows mostly sunny skies with highs in the mid 80s.

Lotteries

Powerball Estimated jackpot: \$189 million	Daily Three: 6-4-4 Daily Four: 3-7-3-4 Quick Draw: 2-6-20-22-24-34-39-40-41-44-47-51-53-54-59-60-63-74-76-79
Mega Millions 6-28-34-48-62 Mega Ball: 9 Estimated jackpot: \$189 million	Ohio Tuesday Midday Pick 3: 9-2-9 Pick 4: 1-6-1-7 Pick 5: 6-0-1-8-9 Evening Pick 3: 6-4-0 Pick 4: 4-4-6-3 Pick 5: 4-2-6-4-9 Rolling Cash: 9-10-11-16-22 Estimated jackpot: \$465,000
Hoosier Tuesday Midday Daily Three: 6-5-7 Daily Four: 5-6-1-3 Quick Draw: 1-4-14-19-21-22-26-30-32-33-38-48-50-60-65-67-70-74-75-79 Evening	

Markets

Cooper Farms Fort Recovery Corn.....4.83 June corn4.85 July corn.....4.20	June beans10.73 Wheat 4.89
POET Biorefining Portland Corn.....4.82 June corn4.82 July corn.....4.86	ADM Montpelier Corn.....4.69 June corn4.69 Beans10.69 June beans10.72 Wheat4.80
The Andersons Richland Township Corn4.73 June corn4.73 Beans10.68	Heartland St. Anthony Corn.....4.80 June corn4.80 Beans10.48 June beans10.48 Wheat4.80

Today in history

In 1736, Patrick Henry was born in Studley, Virginia. A lawyer and leader in conflict leading to the American Revolutionary War, he served as a delegate to the First Continental Congress and the Second Continental Congress. In his famous speech at the second Virginia Convention, he coined the line, "Give me liberty or give me death!"

In 1917, president John F. Kennedy was born in Brookline, Massachusetts. The youngest United States president at 43 years old when he took office, Kennedy's leadership is marked by his response in the Cuban Missile Crisis as well as establishing the Peace Corps and United States space program. Kennedy's assassination while riding through Dallas, Texas, in November 1963 shocked the nation, leading to vice president Lyndon B. Johnson taking over for the next four years.

In 1953, Edmund Hillary and Tenzing Norgay climbed to the top of Mount Everest, becoming the first people to reach the summit. Mount Everest stands as the highest mountain in the world at just over 29,000 feet.

— The CR

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.	Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland. 5:30 p.m. — Portland Park Board, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Salamonia Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
Tuesday 4 p.m. — Jay County	

Audit ...

Continued from page 1

The resolution approved by council Tuesday requires the policy — it captures details on personal and real property used by a unit of government, such as land, infrastructure, buildings, land improvements, equipment and machinery, historical collections and construction work, and their estimated useful lifetimes — to be updated annually. It requires department heads to provide a current inventory list of all Redkey capital assets annually to the clerk-treasurer annually by Dec. 31, with the clerk-treasurer to update a master list with the data annually.

Beaty said the policy needs to be put in place by September.

Relatedly, council discussed concerns about compensatory time paid in past years. Beaty pointed out, per the audit report, that compensatory time records were improperly maintained and payroll payments to an employee were likely not calculated correctly.

In recent years, Beaty noted the town has also had issues with compensatory time paid to a former police officer.

She pointed out the audit only measured compensatory time inaccuracies for one year and that the town would likely need to hire someone to investigate other years.

"The policy is very clear on how

you qualify for comp time," said Beaty. "It's up to the town council to decide whether we want to pay somebody to come in and go back for the rest of the years so that we can claim, we can have a lawyer go after that fund, or if we just want to move forward from that."

Discussion ensued on whether the cost would outweigh the benefit. Council member Floyd Life said the town is responsible for the inaccuracies, with Beaty saying the state determined issues in reporting from both parties.

Plans were discussed to have the town's attorney look into the matter.

In other business, council members Jim Phillips, Jenny Staver, Floyd Life and Beaty:

- Heard Redkey Fire Department will not be hanging Christmas lights downtown this year. Firefighter Mark Leavell noted the decision made by the fire department board stemmed from an incident in December with a council member hiring a locksmith to gain access to former fire station, which is owned by the town and used by the fire department for storage.
- Approved the following: paying \$180 for three signs with park rules to be placed around Morgan Park; paying \$1,080 for concrete to repair streets that were cut into; purchasing a tablet and microphones for

\$2,500 along with installing wifi at the park cabin in order to record meetings.

- OK'd LEAP Managed IT to conduct an assessment on Redkey at no cost to the town.
- Agreed to pay \$437.50 to refurbish seven pedestrian street signs near Redkey Elementary School, with council later asking utility workers to hold off on the purchase in light of uncertainty about the elementary's future.
- Heard Staver received a quote for various renovations to the park came in at \$1.6 million. She noted she's waiting to hear back on another cost estimate from a different company. Beaty said the town needs to look into getting a handicap-accessible swing soon.
- Donated \$100 for the Steve Reynolds Memorial Scholarship fund.
- Discussed news about Valentine Feed and Supply closing. The Redkey store, which has sold in a merger acquisition with Esch Ag Supply of Fountain City, will close June 20.
- OK'd annual compliance forms for five ongoing tax abatements with Fisher Packing.
- Acknowledged former council member Dave Dudelston resigned effective May 7.
- Made \$792.53 in water bill adjustments.
- Paid \$130,616.30 in claims.

Capsule Reports

Rolled vehicle

Damage is estimated between \$10,000 and \$25,000 after a Ridgeville teen rolled the car he was driving off Mount Pleasant Road about 3:50 p.m. Sunday.

Gabriel A. Bower, 16, was driving a 2003 Toyota Matrix south on the road near county road 450 South when he hit something in the road, according to a Jay County Sheriff's Office report. The vehicle went off the west side of the road, and Bower overcorrected, causing the car to roll three to four times before coming to a rest on the east side of the road.

Bower sustained a burn on his lower arm.

The Toyota Matrix — it's registered to Justin J. Stammen of Ridgeville — was towed.

Lost control

A Portland teen lost control of the vehicle he was driving, causing him

to crash into the back of a dump truck at the intersection of Meridian and Lafayette streets about 11:48 a.m. May 22.

Aidan M. Miller, 17, was driving a 1999 Chevrolet S-10 pickup north on Meridian Street nearing its intersection with Lafayette Street when his brakes malfunctioned, according to a Portland police report. The vehicle Miller was driving crashed into a stopped 2007 Volvo truck driven by 56-year-old Thomas Emerick.

Damage was estimated between \$5,000 and \$10,000. The truck Miller was driving was towed.

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Photo provided

New flags

Portland Evening Optimist Club recently put up new flags around Jay County Courthouse in celebration of Memorial Day. Pictured, Cheryl Ruiz and Linda Aker unfurl a flag.

Guests expand reunion

DEAR ABBY: We have an annual week-end family reunion that includes family and significant others along with their children. Most of the children are adults now. One of them (my niece) was recently married and is asking if her new husband's sister (and possibly her boyfriend) can come to the reunion.

We don't have anyone other than immediate family attend, although we do have a special attendee this year: My brother-in-law's mother is here from South America. She will be coming only for the day rather than the whole weekend. How do I politely refuse my niece's request without hurting her feelings? — MORE OR MERRIER?

DEAR M. OR M.: An exception has already been made for your brother-in-law's mother. I'm not sure you can refuse to include your niece's new husband's sister (and possibly her boyfriend) this time around without causing hurt feelings. Throw a few more hot dogs on the grill and cross your fingers that everyone will have a good time "just this once."

DEAR ABBY: I have been married for 34 years. My husband often accuses me of having cheated on him and being disrespectful to him throughout our marriage. I have said some things in ways I agree were disrespectful, especially after I have been accused of lying, etc. However, I have never cheated or lied to him, as he so often accuses me of. What do you advise? — HONEST IN GEORGIA

DEAR HONEST: I wish you had written to me about this when it started. If you had, I would have pointed out that people who accuse their partners of lying to them

Dear Abby



and cheating on them often have done exactly that themselves. He's accusing YOU of disrespect? What do you think he has been doing? Tell your accuser/abuser that if he has proof of his accusations, he should come with you to a marriage and family therapist and discuss it, or you are going to leave him. Then, depending upon his response, follow through.

DEAR ABBY: My grandson is transgender and gets very hurt when I misgender his name. I am nearly 80 and use "she" sometimes when talking to him. I wrote him a letter at college (we exchange letters all the time) and told him my brain is old, and if I keep saying "she" when we talk, maybe we should just keep writing and see each other less often if it keeps hurting him. Did I do the right thing? — MISTAKEN IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MISTAKEN: You may have meant well, but I don't think it was a wise choice. Unintentional misgendering is a fact of life in many families with a transgender loved one. Seeing your grandson less often is not going to cure the problem you're experiencing. Seeing him MORE often may give you the opportunity to become more comfortable with his true identity.

Community Calendar

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

Today

SMART RECOVERY — A group for those struggling with addiction that focuses on motivation, coping with cravings, managing thoughts, feelings and behavior, and living a balanced life meets at 11 a.m. each Thursday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

CELEBRATE RECOVERY — A 12-step Christian recovery program meets at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. each Thursday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

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 ANONY-

MOUS — Will meet at 10 a.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (260) 251-3336 or (260) 729-7000.

Sunday

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 5 to 6:30 p.m. each Sunday at 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.

CAREGIVER SUPPORT GROUP — Will meet at 1 p.m. the first Monday of each month at Portland Place, 430 W. Lafayette St. For more information, call (800) 589-1121.

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

TAKE OFF POUNDS SENSIBLY (TOPS) — Will meet for weigh-in at 4:30 p.m., with the meeting at 5 p.m., at Trinity United

Methodist Church, 323 S. Meridian St., Portland. New members welcome. For more information, call (260) 726-5924.

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

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

NARCOTICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Monday at A Second Chance At Life Ministries, 228 S. Meridian St. in Portland. For more information, call Brenda Eads at (260) 726-9625 or Dave Keen at (260) 251-8792.

Tuesday

COMPASSIONATE CONNECTIONS RECOVERY SUPPORT GROUP — A group for anyone with a substance use disorder that helps individuals find connections as they develop long-term recovery meets at noon each Tuesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

BRYANT COMMUNITY CENTER EUCHRE — Will be played at 1 p.m. each Tuesday. The public is welcome.

A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for substance abuse. Meal

starts at 6 p.m. and the meeting is from 6:30 to 8 p.m. every Tuesday at the Nazarene Fellowship Building across from the Nazarene church, 249 E. Center St., Dunkirk. For more information, call Amanda Price at (765) 283-2107.

ALCOHOLICS ANONY-MOUS — Will meet at 7 p.m. at Zion Evangelical Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St., Portland. For more information, call (567) 279-8352 or (260) 729-7000.

Wednesday

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.

SINGLES AND SEPARATES SUPPORT GROUP — For anyone who's lost a loved one or has a spouse living in long-term care or suffering from an illness, the group will meet at 2 p.m. the first Wednesday of each month in the Arthur & Gloria Muselman Wellness Pavilion in Berne. For more information, call Sarah Conrad at (260) 589-4496.

COMMUNITY REINFORCEMENT AND FAMILY TRAINING — A non-confrontational, evidence-based intervention for helping families affected by addiction meets at 4 p.m. each

Wednesday in the IU Health Jay Outpatient Behavioral Health Center, Entrance C, 510 W. Votaw St., Portland.

AL-ANON FAMILY GROUP — New Beginnings, a support group for friends and families of alcoholics, will meet at 6:30 p.m. each Wednesday in the Zion Lutheran Church, 218 E. High St.,

call (260) 726-8229. **A BETTER LIFE - BRI-ANNA'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.

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

Level: Intermediate

Wednesday's Solution

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

The objective is to fill a nine-by nine grid so that each column, each row, and each of the nine three-by-three boxes (also called blocks or regions) contains the digits from 1 to 9 only one time each.

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The Commercial Review

The budget bill is not as promised

The Detroit News
Tribune News Service

The budget passed by the U.S. House of Representatives last week was a test for how forceful the GOP could be in delivering real reform to trim the deficit and substantially decrease spending — both threats to the nation's future solvency. Americans voted for President Donald Trump and a GOP-led Congress to right the nation's books. This "One Big, Beautiful Bill" is the defining chance to do that. What passed was disappointing on both fronts.

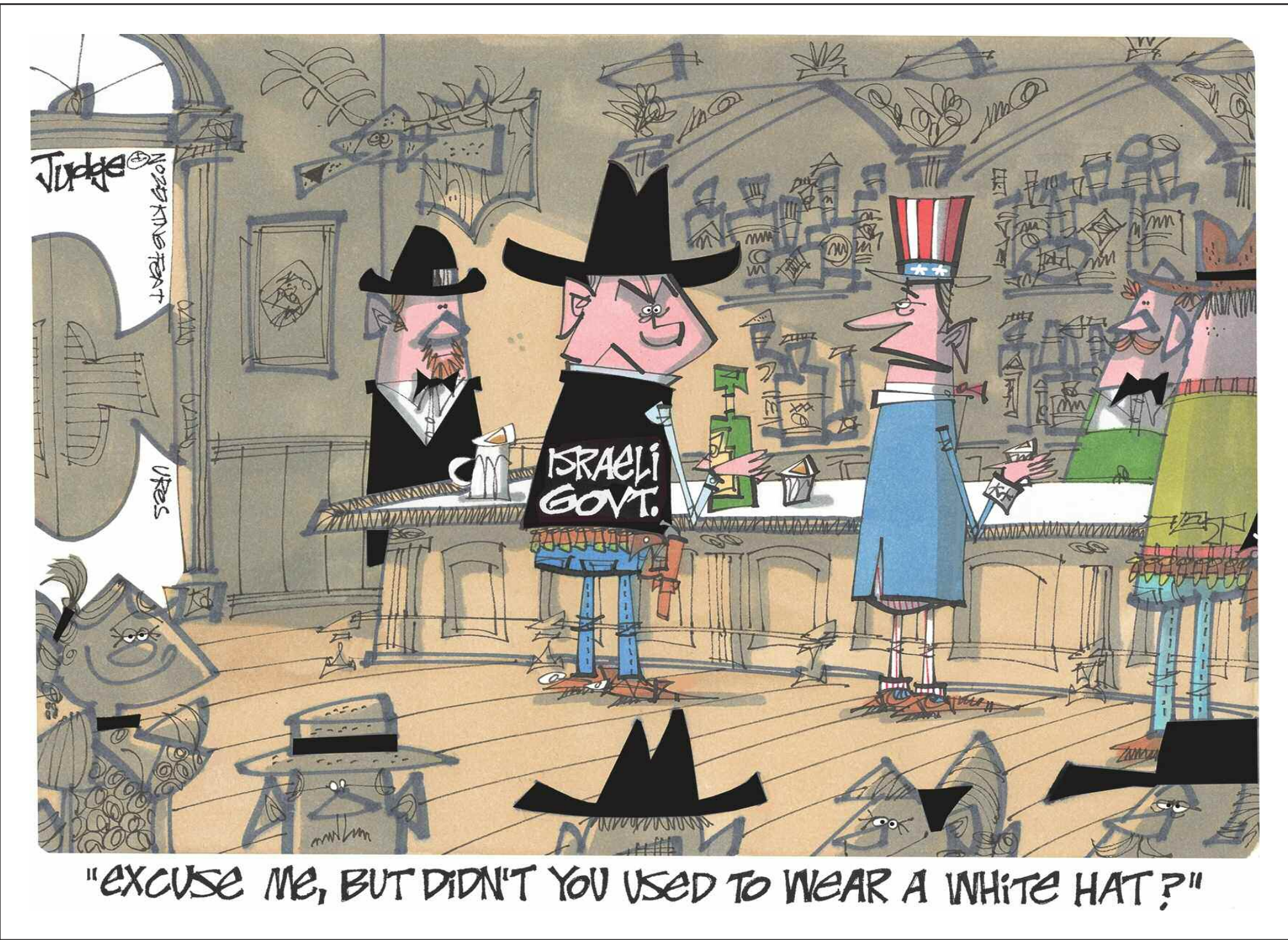
Guest Editorial

The political reality of Republicans' razor-thin majority in the House is that compromises were going to have to be made in the passage of any bill. But the chamber passed legislation that is expected to add roughly \$3.1 trillion to the ballooning debt over the next

decade, according to the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget. Spending cuts related primarily to Medicaid, food stamps and clean energy and some revenue increases in other areas amount to roughly \$1.6 trillion in savings over 10 years. But with \$4.6 trillion being added through tax cuts and spending increases in defense, the judiciary and immigration enforcement, more spending cuts were needed. Last week, Moody's Investors downgraded the United States' credit rating from AAA to Aa1

— which puts America below Germany, Switzerland and Canada. Fitch and S&P Global had previously done so, but Moody's had held out. Moody's decision was due to "the increase over more than a decade in government debt and interest payment ratios to levels that are significantly higher than similarly rated sovereigns," it said in a statement. That means borrowing costs will go up, increasingly weighing on the entire national economy. The current \$37 trillion national debt amounts to rough-

ly \$323,000 per taxpayer and nearly 123% of U.S. GDP. The bill extends the 2017 Trump tax cuts, preventing a \$4.5 trillion tax increase if they had expired over the next year. Workers received the promised "no tax on tips or overtime," and interest on loans for American-made cars. The bill also includes welfare and Medicaid reforms that preserve the notion that able-bodied American adults should work by moving up the work requirement to 2026. But it's hard to celebrate tax relief with the debt and deficit crisis looming.



It's folly to suppose tariffs are working

By MICHAEL J. HICKS

Whenever President Trump's tariff fiasco comes to an end, we will turn attention to the lasting impacts. It is not a pretty picture. One of the many contradictory explanations of the Trump tariffs is that this will bring manufacturing jobs back to the U.S. That is asinine. The dominant effect of the Trump tariffs will be to raise production costs on almost every American manufacturing firm. This includes many that don't even know it yet. One way to predict consequences for factories is to consider how families will adapt. The Yale Budget lab estimates the average family will see costs rise between \$1,900 and \$7,600 this year, depending on income and consumption. As a result, families will delay some purchases and choose lower-cost substitutes for others. They will shift toward services, which are not subject to a tariff. This will reverse the pandemic-era move toward goods consumption, which benefited domestic manufacturers. I expect a 2% to 3% decrease in long-term demand for goods. That will be very bad for manufacturing firms.

Michael J. Hicks



On the production side, American factories will scramble to regain consumer demand. That means cutting costs. Trump hopes that this means onshoring factories. But, why would an American business onshore a factory when the tariffs are likely to disappear, then reappear and disappear, by the end of next week? They won't. The biggest target of cost-cutting will be the American manufacturing workforce. American manufacturing workers are the best in the world, and it isn't even a close call. But a \$25-an-hour American worker actually costs the business more like \$37 or \$38 per hour in labor costs, including health care, FICA taxes and more. The simplest way to cut supply chain costs, without worrying about Trump's melodramatic decision-making, is to

automate. The workforce accounts for about 40% of the cost of production, and there's no presidential whimsy associated with cutting it. Automation happens in fits and starts as technology and borrowing costs change. Labor cost also plays a role, as do import costs, tariffs and taxes. All signs point toward a rush of automation. I once asked a seasoned manufacturing on executive how often his business recalculated the decision to fully automate his factory and warehouse. His answer stunned me — he said quarterly. We Midwesterners ought to expect this. America's densest use of robotics is in Toledo, Detroit, Grand Rapids and Louisville — the latter mostly on the Indiana side. Last year saw more than 10% growth in robotics. I expect 2025 and 2026 to be the two biggest years in workplace automation in U.S. history. It is worth noting that U.S. manufacturing production peaked in 2024. It will peak again in a few years; we'll just be doing it with fewer workers. Of course, there is more than just U.S. tariffs. We are in a trade war with the world,

while the rest of the world is just in a trade war with us. Most countries will offer retaliatory tariffs. That is an economic mistake, yet politically useful. As recent elections in Canada and Australia have demonstrated, standing up to Trump brings huge political benefits abroad. Most of our trading partners will suffer a bit of pain to hurt us a little. The U.S. is a huge exporter of services — tourism, education, financial services, professional services and movies. These will be targeted by tariffs, as well as boycotts. The 2018 Trump tariff experience illustrates much of the long-term damages of tariffs. From roughly 1650 until 2017, the U.S. was a net exporter of agricultural goods. Trump ended that in 2018, as China invested in Brazilian soybean farms. We are now a net importer of food. It is not an emergency or national crisis that we import more food than we export. We aren't going to starve. But, it demonstrates how shockingly little the Trump administration understands about high school economics. And how little he really cares about the

places he claims to care about. We are a resilient nation. Sanity, congressional action and thoughtful diplomacy can restore much of the damage done to our economy. Still, these effects will be felt for decades. On average, we will all be worse off for it. The effects won't be evenly distributed. The biggest losers in this turmoil will be rural communities and small cities, particularly those with a large share of manufacturing and agricultural production. Importers and exporters will be clobbered, and so will communities that produce energy, particularly oil and coal. Those that will be hurt less are urban places, with large concentrations of knowledge workers in service sectors. That geographic divide will make the lasting impacts of Trump tariffs the biggest electoral self-on in American history. Hicks is the director of the Center for Business and Economic Research and the George and Frances Ball distinguished professor of economics in the Miller College of Business at Ball State University. Email him at mhicks@bsu.edu.

The Commercial Review



US PS 125820

HUGH N. RONALD (1911-1983), Publisher Emeritus
JOHN C. "JACK" RONALD (1948-2022), Publisher Emeritus

The Commercial Review is published daily except Sundays, Mondays and four holidays (New Year's Day, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving and Christmas — holidays are observed on Tuesday when they fall on a Monday) by The Graphic Printing Co. Inc., 309 W. Main St., Portland, Indiana 47371. Periodical postage paid (USPS 125820) at Portland, Indiana. Postmaster: Send address changes to The Commercial Review, 309 W. Main St., P.O. Box 1049, Portland, Indiana 47371 or call (260) 726-8141.

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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VOLUME 152—NUMBER 19
THURSDAY, MAY 29, 2025

www.thecr.com


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—Thomas Jefferson

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All services are Sunday,
unless otherwise indicated.

**Asbury United
Methodist**
204 E. Arch St., Portland
Joe Boggs
(260) 726-8464
Services: 9:30 a.m., 11
a.m.
asburyministries.org

**Bellefountain
United Methodist**
440 S. 600 East
Pamela Freeman
Services: 9 a.m.

Bluff Point Friends
80 E. 650 South
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

Boundary St. Paul
Corner of Treaty Line
Road and county road 300
East
Ava Gannon
(260) 726-2373
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Bryant Wesleyan
209 S. Hendricks St.
Paul VanCise
(260) 997-6231
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.
bryantwesleyanchurch.com

**Calvary United
Methodist**
301 N. Main St., Dunkirk
Susan Durovey-Antrim
(765) 499-0368
Services: 10:30 a.m.
susan.duroveyantrim@in.umc.org

Christ Chapel
2535 Wabash Road, Fort
Recovery
(419) 733-1469
christchapelfr.com

**Church of
the Living God
(Miracle Missions)**
8472 S. 800 East, Union
City
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Church of God
of Prophecy**
797 N. Creagor Ave., Por-
tland
Nanette Weesner
(260) 766-9334
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nanybell@yahoo.com

**Church of the
Brethren**
Floral and Chicago
avenues, Portland
Kevin McClung
(260) 729-7295
Services: 10 a.m.

**Church of
the Living God**
South Broad Street,
Dunkirk
Services: 7 p.m., 7 p.m.
Friday

Collett Nazarene
450 South, 1 mile west of
U.S. 27
Billy Stanton
(260) 251-2403
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

Cornerstone Baptist
211 E. Main St., Portland
Wayne Ward
(260) 726-7714
Services: 10 a.m.

**Cornerstone Church of
Pennville**
190 W. Main St., Pennville
David Davidson
(260) 202-9718
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Dunkirk Nazarene
226 E. Center St.,
Dunkirk
Tom Fett
(765) 768-6199
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

Evangelical Methodist
930 W. Main St., Portland
Steve Arnold
(260) 251-0970
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6
p.m.

**Fairview United
Methodist/Jay County**
2875 E. 200 South
Pamela Freeman
Lay leader: Beth Stephen
(260) 726-9184
Services: 10:15 a.m.

Faith Community
9560 W. 200 South,
Dunkirk
Joe Schmit
(260) 251-5254
Services: 10 a.m.

Family Worship Center
200 E. Elder St., Portland
Ronald Willis
(260) 726-4844
Services: 11 a.m., 6:30
p.m. Wednesday
thefamilyworshipcenter.org

Fellowship Baptist
289 S. 200 West
Hugh Kelly
(260) 726-8873
Services: 9 a.m., 11 a.m.
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
[pastorkelly@fbc-port-](mailto:pastorkelly@fbc-portland.com)
land.com

First American Baptist
427 S. Main St., Dunkirk
Dan Coffman
(765) 768-7157
Services: 10:40 a.m.,
5 p.m.

First Church of Christ
1049 Union City Road,
Fort Recovery
David J. Nicholson
(419) 375-2860
Services: 10:30 a.m.
fccfrecovery.org

**First Community
Baptist**
341 S. Meridian St., Red-
key
Everett Bilbrey Jr.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m. and 6
p.m.; 7 p.m. Wednesday

First Free Will Baptist
12369 W. 600 South,
Dunkirk
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 10:50 a.m., 6
p.m., 6 p.m. Wednesday

First Presbyterian
402 N. Ship St., Portland
Rev. M. Rex Espiritu
(260) 726-8462
Services: 9:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 10:15 a.m.
firstpcportland.org

**Fort Recovery Church
of the Nazarene**
401 E. Boundary St., Fort
Recovery
(419) 375-4680
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Kids vision and teen
ministries: 6 p.m. Wendes-
day
frnaz@frontier.com

**Fort Recovery
United Methodist**
309 E. Boundary St., Fort
Recovery
Rev. Carol McKay
(304) 617-0101
Services: 9 a.m.

**Full Gospel
Lighthouse Tabernacle**
468 E. Washington St.,
Dunkirk
Robert Thomas
(765) 348-4620
Services: 6:30 p.m., 6:30
p.m. Thursday

**Geneva First
United Methodist**
100 W. Line St., Geneva
Barry McCune
(260) 368-7655
Services: 9:30 a.m.

Geneva Nazarene
225 Decatur St., Geneva
(260) 525-8609
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Prayer meeting: 6 p.m.
Wednesday

Gilead Church
County road 650 North,
one-quarter mile east of
Balbec
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Hickory Grove
Church of the
Brethren**
Indiana 1 and Indiana 26
Earl Doll
(260) 731-4477
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**High Street
United Methodist**
435 High St., Geneva
Rev. Joseph Hampton
(260) 368-7233
Services: 9 a.m.

Holy Trinity Catholic
7321 E. Indiana 67,
Bryant
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
Services: 8 a.m., 4:30 p.m.
Saturday

**Hopewell of
Life Ministries**
County road 200 South, 2
miles east of Indiana 1
Rev. Ruth Funk
(260) 251-8581
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

**Immaculate
Conception Catholic**
506 E. Walnut St., Port-
land
Fr. Peter Logsdon
Fr. Martin Sandhage
(260) 726-7055
Services: 5:30 p.m. Satur-
day, 10:30 a.m. Sunday

Kingsley Full Gospel
4030 S. 700 East, Dunkirk
Stuart Phillips
Services: 9:30 a.m. and 6
p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday

**Mary Help
of Christians**
403 Sharpsburg Road,
Fort Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
(419) 375-4153
Services: 4:30 p.m. Satur-
day, 9 a.m.

**Mount Tabor
Community Church**
216 W. Pleasant St.,
Dunkirk
Scott McClain
(765) 768-7273
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Mount Zion
United Methodist**
County roads 600 East
and 200 North
Rev. Darrell Borders
(260) 726-4786
Services: 9 a.m.

**New Beginnings
Holiness Church
of Blaine**
4017 W. 200 South
Randy Smith
(260) 251-2406
Services: 10 a.m., 6 p.m.
nbholiness.com

**New Covenant
Fellowship**
1238 W. 450 South
Chuck Myers
(260) 251-0063
Services: 10:30 a.m.

New Life Ministries
415 S. Helen St., Portland
Dr. Kay Fairchild
(260) 223-2961
Services: 4 p.m.
drkayfairchild.com

**New Mt. Pleasant
United Methodist**
5905 S. Como Road
Neil Butcher
(765) 499-7838
Services: 9 a.m.

**Noble Congregational
Christian**
1964 N. 800 East
Aaron Huey
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Oak Grove
United Methodist**
829 S. Indiana 1
Neil Butcher
(765) 760-9085
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Pleasant Hill
9945 N. 800 East, Union
City
Bruce Bryan
(765) 964-3664
Services: 9 a.m., 6 p.m.
mypleasanthillchurch.org

**Portland Church of
Christ**
1217 W. Votaw St., Port-
land
Bob Graham
(260) 726-7777
Bible class: 9:15 a.m.
Services: 10:20 a.m.
Bible School: 6 p.m. Wed-
nesday
portlandcoc.com

**Portland First
Church of Nazarene**
920 S. Shank St., Portland
Steve Cecil
(260) 726-8040
Services: 10:45 a.m.

Portland Friends
226 E. Main St., Portland
Herb Hummel
(260) 202-9732
Services: 10 a.m.
Sunday school: 9 a.m.

**Praise Chapel
Church of God**
4527 E. 1000 North (Jay-
Randolph county line)
Rev. Josh Canfield
(765) 584-7045
Services: 10:30 a.m.

Redeemer Lutheran
Malin and Elm streets,
Bryant
Father Dan Layden
(260) 997-6787
Services: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey Faith
Ministries**
9811 W. Indiana 67, south-
west of Redkey
Rev. Craig and Robin
Cotherman
(765) 369-2920
Services: 10 a.m.
RedkeyFaith.org

**Redkey First
Christian**
Union and Malin streets
Jeff Hammers
(765) 468-6172
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**Redkey United
Methodist**
122 W. Main St.
Lori McIntosh
(765) 369-2085
Services: 10:30 a.m.

**Redkey Church
of the Nazarene**
801 W. High St.
Fred Stevens
(765) 369-2676
redkeynaz.org
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m., 6:30 p.m. Wednesday

River of Life
722 W. Main St., Portland
Susan Hathaway
(260) 729-1095
Services: 10:30 a.m.

The ROCK
1605 N. Meridian St., Por-
tland
Matt Ransom
(260) 726-7474
Services: 10 a.m.
matt@therockjc.org

**Salamonia
Church of Christ**
3900 S. 600 East
Bruce Phillips
(260) 335-2017
Services: 9 a.m.

**Second Chance
at Life Ministries**
228 S. Meridian St., Port-
land
Dave Keen (260) 251-8792
Mike Eads (260) 703-0733
Services: 10:30 a.m.

St. Joseph Catholic
1689 St. Joe Road, Fort
Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 7:30 a.m. Sun-
day

St. Mary's Catholic
346 S. Broad St., Dunkirk
Rev. Kevin Hurley
Services: 5 p.m. Saturday,
5:30 p.m. Thursday

St. Paul Catholic
517 Meiring Road, Fort
Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 11 a.m. Sunday

St. Peter Catholic
1477 Philothea Road, Fort
Recovery
Rev. Alexander Witt
Services: 9 a.m. Sunday

Sugar Grove Nazarene
3984 N. 550 West, Portland
Pastor Mike Heckman
(615) 517-1017
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Bible study: 6 p.m. Wed-
nesday

Sugar Grove Church
County roads 600 South
and 1150 West, Dunkirk
Scott McClain
Services: 9 a.m.

Temple Baptist
17920 Indiana 167,
Dunkirk
John Elam
(765) 768-7708
Sunday school: 10 a.m.
Services: 11 a.m. and 2
p.m., 7 p.m. Wednesday
7pillarsdirector@gmail.com
templebaptistin.com

**The Church
at Westchester**
4487 E. 400 North
(260) 726-6311
Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
Services: 10:35 a.m.
churchatwestchester.org

Trinity Lutheran
301 N. Wayne St., Fort
Recovery
Robin Owen
(419) 375-4498
Services: 9 a.m. (contem-
porary service, fourth Sun-
day)
pastorrobino@gmail.com

**Trinity ArchBridge
Church**
323 S. Meridian St., Por-
tland
Dan Vore
(260) 726-8391
Sunday school: 9 a.m.
Services: 10:15 a.m.
portlandtrinity.com

Union Chapel
6200 N. 375 West, Bryant
Interim Pastor Chris
Kruchkow
(260) 849-0687
Services: 10:20 a.m., 6
p.m.

**Union Chapel Church
of the Nazarene**
County road 900 North
(Jay-Wells county line)
Fred Stevens
Services: 10:30 a.m., 6
p.m.

Walnut Corner
County roads 200 North
and 500 West
Steve Rogers
(260) 251-1113
Services: 10:30 a.m.
Sunday school: 9:30 a.m.

**West Walnut
Church of Christ**
204 W. Walnut St., Port-
land
Gil Alicea
(260) 726-4691
Services: 10 a.m.
[westwalnutchurchof-](http://westwalnutchurchof-christ.org)
christ.org

**Zion Evangelical
Lutheran Church**
Robin Owen
218 E. High St., Portland
(260) 726-8832
[zionlutheranportland@gm-](mailto:zionlutheranportland@gmail.com)
ail.com
Services: 10:30 a.m.

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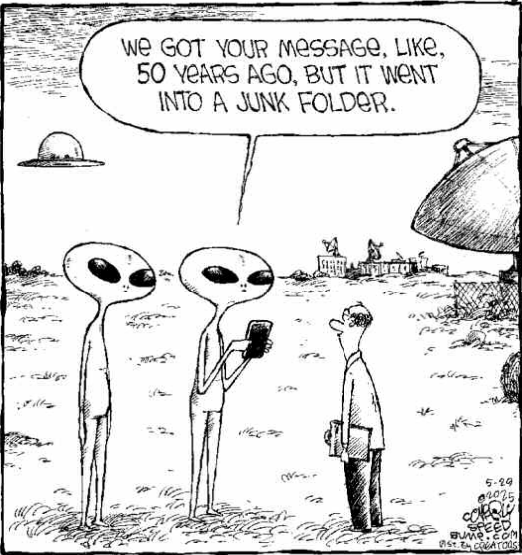

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Agnes



Hi and Lois



Between Friends



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Case of the telltale deuce

East dealer.
Neither side vulnerable.

NORTH			
♠	9 7 5		
♥	J 9		
♦	K Q 9 4 3		
♣	K 6 2		
WEST			
♠	Q J 8		
♥	A K 10 8 5		
♦	7 2		
♣	A 8 4		
EAST			
♠	2		
♥	Q 7 6 3 2		
♦	J 8 6		
♣	Q 10 9 3		
SOUTH			
♠	A K 10 6 4 3		
♥	4		
♦	A 10 5		
♣	J 7 5		

The bidding:
East 1♣ South 2♥ West 2♠ North 4♥
Pass 4♣

Opening lead — king of hearts.
Ordinarily, more mistakes are made by the defenders than by declarer. The main reason for this is that the defenders cannot see their side's combined 26 cards, but only the 13 cards they were dealt plus the 13 cards in dummy.

Declarer does not suffer from this handicap. As soon as dummy appears, he knows exactly how many cards his side has in each suit, as well as their exact value. He also knows which 26 cards are missing, although he cannot know precisely how they are divided.

Close partnership cooperation can often overcome the natural disadvantage of the defenders. To achieve the optimal result, they must try to guide each other to the best line of defense, utilizing whatever information they have gained from the bidding, plus any additional information they may have picked up as the play progresses.

Consider this case where East wisely played the deuce, rather than the six or seven, on West's opening lead of the heart king. The deuce instructs West to stop playing the suit, and if West is a partnership-oriented individual, he obeys East's request and shifts to a club, the only suit that holds any promise for the defense.

It is not important whether West plays the ace or a low club at trick two; in either case, declarer goes down one, losing a heart, a spade and two clubs.

But if West does not heed East's stop signal at trick one and continues with the ace of hearts, declarer can make the contract. After ruffing the ace of hearts, he cashes the A-K of trump and starts playing diamonds.

West can ruff the third diamond, but the defense can no longer score two club tricks unless West shifts to a low club and South misguesses by playing low from dummy.

Tomorrow: Bidding quiz.
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5-29

CRYPTOQUIP

RKZ WGW ERY KXDY-QYOIYDEYW

MYBBKZ MYYB ZRYX RY

OEJQEYW BKOGXT RGO IQYOEGTY?

VX-OEJEVO-MGYW.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: MY STORE WAS HOLDING A HUGE SALE ON DRAPES, WITH THE DISCLAIMER "CURTAIN RESTRICTIONS APPLY." Today's Cryptoquip Clue: M equals F

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS			
1 Yankee nickname	38 Pleads	58 Cameo shape	10 "Meet Me — Louis"
5 "Hum-bug!"	39 Ultimate	40 Altar	11 Beholds
8 Baseball stats	41 affirma-bug!"	DOWN	19 Hosp. drip
12 Physicist Niels	42 Butterfly protector	1 "Fer-nando"	21 "Ben- —"
13 Pirates' drink	43 Join metal	2 Cheer (for)	24 Knight's address
14 Sea eagle	44 "Cowardly Lion" actor	3 "It can't be!"	25 GI show org.
15 — fide (genuine)	45 Shock partner	4 Eugene O'Neill works	26 Sunday meals
16 Roswell sighting	52 Ultimatum	5 Martial arts film star	28 401(k) alter-native
17 Fire-cracker part	53 Throat clearer	6 "— Wierdeseen"	29 Big galoots
18 Kind of clock	54 Standard	7 Med. plan options	30 Label
20 Moves to one side	55 Bat	8 Prove false	31 Hosp. areas
22 St. crosser	56 Touse sections	9 Brown-haired	36 Tempests
23 Salt Lake athlete			37 HBO rival
24 Extended lunches?			38 Ravel piece
27 Opera text			41 Hairstyle
32 Medit. nation			42 Untalk-ative one
33 Goof up			43 Hono-lulu's isle
34 Sailor			44 Scruff
35 "Emile" author			46 554, to Cato
			47 "Como —usted?"
			48 Film spool
			51 Opposite of peace

Solution time: 24 mins.

CELS	CRU	ASTO
ALOT	IOS	REAP
BLUE	JAYS	RARE
SATED	REAGAN	
RSTU	NYU	
COWS	OLAV	LEET
ALA	DOTTY	LOA
FDR	INRE	PSST
BBC	AMOR	
ALLIES	ROSES	
HEED	PENGUINS	
EIRE	EMI	SLOT
MAST	WON	TOSS

Yesterday's answer 5-29

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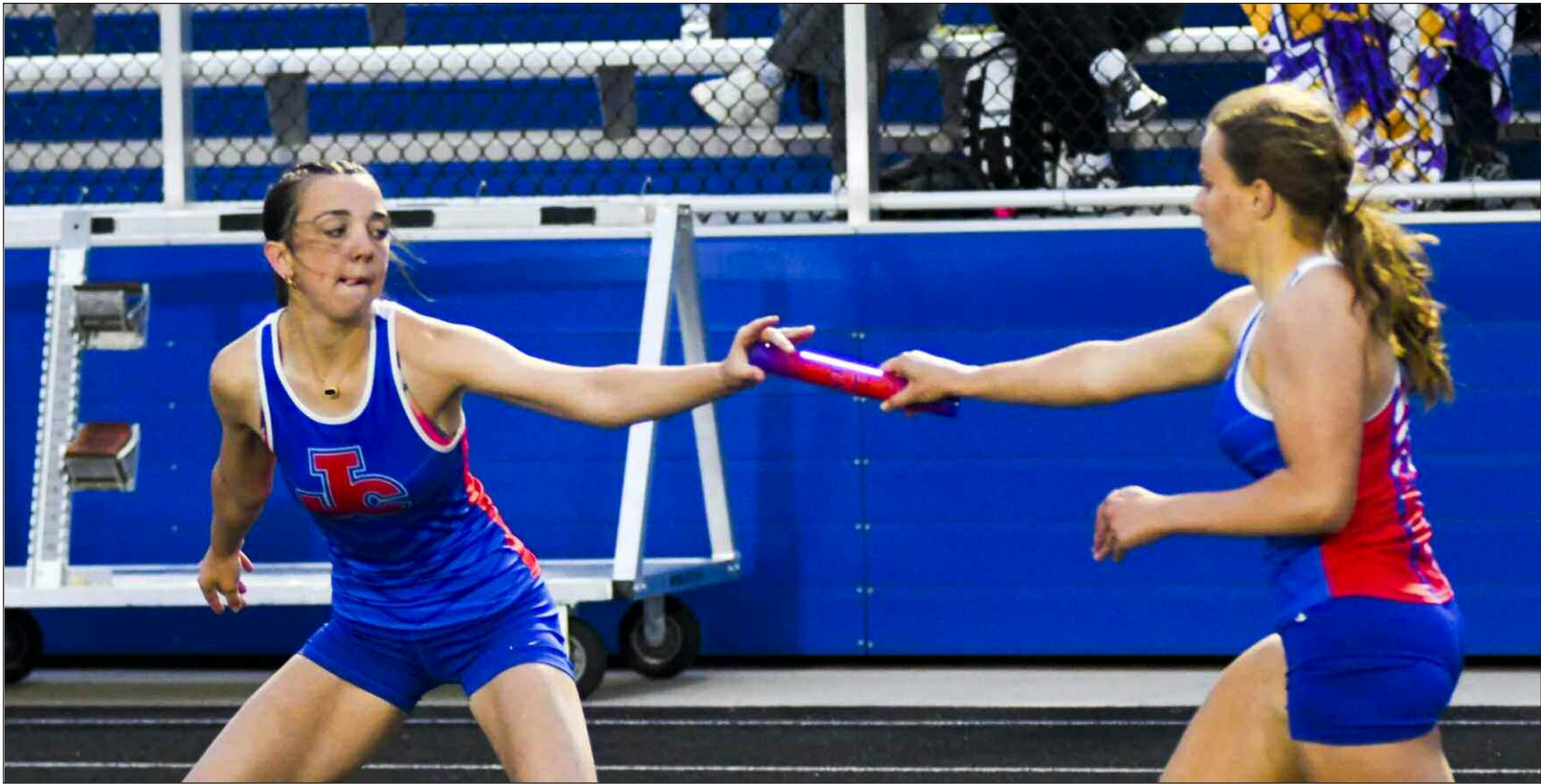
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Regional ribbons

Jay County High School freshman Brooklynn Byrum hands the baton off to Payton Carpenter during the 4x400-meter relay at Carroll on Tuesday as part of the regional meet. While the relay ended up in 16th, both athletes competed in individual events as well, with Byrum earning 12th place in the 800 run and Carpenter finishing 14th in the 400 dash.



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Seniors DeHoff and Dues earn first regional ribbons in relay; Beiswanger nets her own with seventh-place finish in 200 dash



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

JCHS junior Paityn Wendel keeps up with the pack near the start of the 4x800-meter relay on Tuesday at the IHSAA Regional 3 meet hosted by Carroll. The Patriots finished tied for 26th out of 31 scoring teams after top-eight finishes from the 4x100 relay team and Ariel Beiswanger.

By ANDREW BALKO
The Commercial Review

FORT WAYNE — With the end of the season staring the Patriots in the face, they made the trip north with the goal of earning some ribbons.

One of the Patriots who made her first regional meet walked away with one of those ribbons, and another that had made three trips finally brought a ribbon back to Portland.

Ariel Beiswanger and the 4x100-meter relay team highlighted the day for the Jay County High School girls track team at the IHSAA Regional 3 meet hosted by Carroll on Tuesday.

The two scores gave Jay County three points, leaving them tied for 26th place with Marion and Bellmont out of 31 scoring teams. Host Carroll won the event with a score of 110.5 points, while Yorktown — the Tigers finished ninth with 24.5 — had the highest placement of the teams from Sectional 12, which the Patriots came from.

“I’m feeling well with two ribbons,” said JCHS coach Joe Imel. “I’m just really happy with the girls in general. We didn’t have bad performances any-

where. Everybody performed as well or better than they did at the sectional. It’s just when you get here, it’s a new level.”

Jay County’s top performance on the day came from the 4x100-meter relay team.

Coming into the regional, the Patriot squad of Jenna Dues, Morgan DeHoff, Beiswanger and London Lloyd was seeded eighth at 52.60 seconds. The group climbed up one spot from that seed line by completing the race in 51.77 seconds. (To finish seventh, the Patriots overtook Oak Hill and Wayne, while Snyder jumped Jay County for fifth.)

The seventh-place finish earned seniors DeHoff and Dues their first regional ribbons as well. Dues is a four-time regional qualifier, making the trip to Ben Davis as a freshman in the 4x100 relay and the high jump, to Pike as a sophomore in the 200 dash and again as a junior in the 4x100 relay and 200 dash. DeHoff joined Dues on both of the previous relay teams and earned an individual berth in 2024 in the 100 hurdles.

“I’m really happy for the two senior girls in that 4x1 team,”

Imel said. “Jenna’s been to regional the prior three years, so four years in a row and hadn’t gotten a ribbon. This year, moving to this regional, we had a better chance and took advantage of it.”

Dues also competed as an individual in the high jump. She finished 14th in the event with a height of 4 feet, 10 inches, which was the same as her sectional mark.

Similar to DeHoff and Dues, Jordyn Hutzler saw her career come to an end at the regional meet. She placed 11th in the shot put with a mark of 33 feet, 10.5 inches, and 14th in the discus with a throw that traveled 95 feet, 3 inches.

Along with the seniors, the Patriots had a depth of underclassment present.

Beiswanger, a sophomore, had the only individual ribbon for the Patriots after finishing eighth in the 200-meter dash. Her sectional performance had her seeded sixth in with a time of 27.36 seconds. Beiswanger shaved off over half a second during the prelims, finishing sixth in 26.70.

See **Regional** page 7



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Patriots roll past Eagles

MUNCIE — The Patriots only needed five batters to come to the plate to take a 4-0 lead on the Eagles. While they slowed down a little, five more runs in the fourth inning ended the game early.

The Class 3A No. 10 Jay County High School softball team cruised through the

Local Roundup

IHSAA Sectional 24 opener with an 11-0 win over the host Delta Eagles on Tuesday.

See **Roundup** page 7

Condon will return to Gators

By EDGAR THOMPSON

Orlando Sentinel
Tribune News Service

DESTIN, Fla. — Florida star Alex Condon will withdraw from the NBA draft and return to UF, giving Todd Golden’s Gators a key piece as they push to defend the 2025 national title.

The 6-foot-11, 230-pound Condon had until Wednesday to decide whether to remain eligible for the June 25 draft.

“Really thrilled to get him back,” Golden said Tuesday at SEC spring meetings. “He’s had a great process. He got great feedback from some teams. We were worried there for a little bit that he would stay in.”

The 20-year-old Aussie said he would not return to Gainesville if he were certain he’d be selected in the 20-to-35 range in the 60-player draft. Instead, Condon opted for a third college season.

The uncertainty and timing for a decision nearly a month before the draft played into Condon’s thinking.

“There’s still a month until the NBA draft, so any prospect to get a promise this far in advance would be really unique,” Golden said.

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