

Court denies relief request

Stephen alleged violations of her rights

By BAILEY CLINE  
The Commercial Review

A Portland woman serving more than five decades in prison for murder was denied post-conviction relief this week.

Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian Hutchison denied the request from Esther J. Stephen, 34, who alleged various violations of Constitutional rights during her questioning and trial for the Jan. 12, 2020, murder of 31-year-old Shea Briar.

Stephen was sentenced in May 2021 to 55 years in prison for the murder. She was found guilty by a Jay Circuit Court jury following a five-day trial.

Shelby Hiestand of Portland and Hannah Knapke of Fort Recovery were also charged with involvement in the crime. Hiestand is also serving a 55-year sentence for murder, having been found guilty in August 2021, and Knapke pleaded to voluntary manslaughter, receiving a 17.5-year prison sentence.

Stephen, who shared a child with Briar, filed a petition for post-conviction relief in February 2022 in which she alleged she was denied her Constitutional rights because of inefficient trial counsel assistance and other issues.

Stephen's attorney, Jill Gonzalez, died in April 2021 prior to her sentencing. Jay County chief public defender Brandon Murphy represented Stephen at her sentencing and on direct appeal. Murphy filed Stephen's initial appeal in August 2021, arguing the evidence was insufficient, challenging a jury instruction and questioning whether the sentence was appropriate, according to court documents.

Jay Circuit Court held an evidentiary hearing earlier this month. According to court documents filed in connection with the case, Stephen argued Gonzalez should have filed a motion to suppress or objected to statements she made in her interviews with law enforcement.

See Denies page 2



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Indians advance

Friday was a big night for Fort Recovery High School athletics as the baseball team repeated as the district champion while senior Anna Roessner won three championships during the Division III regional track meet at Troy.

Pictured at left, Gavin Evers, Caden Homan and the rest of the Fort Recovery High School baseball team begin to mob Colson Post (helmet) after he delivered the walk-off double that claimed the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 3 District title in the ninth inning at Houston. The win advances the Tribe to Tuesday's regional semifinal.

Below, Roessner receives her third medal of the evening from FRHS assistant coach Kierra Wendel. She was dominant again, going essentially unchallenged in her victories in the 100-meter dash, 200 dash and 400 dash. She will run in the state finals beginning Friday.

For more on the game and the meet, see page 10.



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Access counselor's office has gone quiet

By LESLIE BONILLA MUNIZ  
Indiana Capital Chronicle  
indianacapitalchronicle.com

Tippecanoe County resident Pamela Frazee just wants to know if her messages went through.

Phone calls to Indiana's Office of the Public Access Counselor (PAC) route directly to a voice-mail box and aren't returned. Emails — including allegations of public access law violations that the office weighs in on — go unacknowledged. No opinions from this year are online.

Frustrated Hoosiers report the

Calls, emails are being ignored following change in leadership

office has gone mum after a leadership shake-up.

"It's not been a good transition at all if you don't even have people who can answer the phones," said Frazee, who sought confirmation that her time-sensitive complaints were received.

Former PAC Luke Britt, who ran the office for about 12 years under previous Govs. Mike Pence and Eric Holcomb, announced

plans to resign mid-February, WFYI reported. In late March, new Gov. Mike Braun named Indianapolis attorney Jennifer Ruby as the successor. The office has one other employee, Kyra Helming, listed in the state's transparency portal.

Britt, the state's longest-serving PAC, pointed to an "overwhelming" workload in a niche area of law.

"I don't envy what she's having to deal with right now at all," he said. "It's not my place to give her the benefit of the doubt. But I certainly do."

Braun's administration, meanwhile, pinned blame on him.

"When Gov. Braun's public access counselor appointment began in March, she inherited dozens of cases from 2024 that were not finalized," Governor's Office spokesman Griffin Reid said. "With that backlog successfully addressed, she is focusing her efforts on the 2025 cases and the statutory responsibilities of the office. Gov. Braun is fully committed to transparency at all levels."

See Quiet page 2

Deaths

Theresa Linn, 75, Celina, Ohio  
Karen Friar, 80, rural Hartford City  
Details on page 2.

Weather

Jay County had a high temperature of 75 degrees Friday.  
Today's forecast calls for a high of 70 today under mostly sunny skies. Expect similar conditions Sunday. Temperatures are slated to climb into the 80s Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.  
See page 2 for an extended outlook.

In review

Jay County High School will hold its graduation ceremony for the Class of 2025 — its 50th graduating class — at 2 p.m. Sunday.

Coming up

Tuesday — Jay County Civic Theatre is preparing to put "Freaky Friday" on stage.  
Wednesday — Coverage of Monday's Jay School Board meeting.  
Thursday — Results from Fort Recovery's baseball regional semifinal game.





# Obituaries

**Theresa Linn**  
*June 30, 1949-May 29, 2025*  
Theresa Rose Linn, age 75, of Celina, Ohio, passed away at 3:15 a.m. on Thursday, May 29, 2025, at her home.

She was born on June 30, 1949, to the late Harold and Loretta Welsh.

Theresa married Terry Linn on Oct. 7, 1972. Their 52 years of marriage has shown a special devotion and deep love witnessed by their three children, Ron Linn (Amy), David Linn (Deanna), and Krista Muh-

lenkamp (Troy) as well as nine grandchildren, John, Rose, Emma, Sidney, Shelby, Chase, Peter, Jake (deceased) and Daisy.

Along with being a wonderful wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend, she was a true teacher both in and out of the classroom. Theresa taught all who knew her the true meaning of friendship, kindness in all cir-



Linn

cumstances and doing big and small things with great love. She had a quiet strength and a special smile that was admired by all. She shared her faith, she shared her home and she shared her love, especially to her nine grandchildren of whom she was most proud and loved deeply.

A Mass of Christian Burial will be held at 11 a.m. on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at Holy Trinity Catholic Church, Bryant, Indiana with Fr. Peter Logsdon celebrating. Burial will follow in the church cemetery.

Per Theresa's request there

will be no public visitation prior to the service.

Memorial contributions may be given to Everheart Hospice or the Jake Muhlenkamp Endowment Fund, 107 S. Meridian St., Portland, IN 47371.

Brockman Boeckman Funeral Home is serving Theresa's family.

Condolences may be shared with the family by visiting [brockmanboeckmanfh.com](http://brockmanboeckmanfh.com).

**Karen K. Kunkel-Smekens Friar**, rural Hartford City, the stepmother

of a Pennville man, Nov. 25, 1944-May 28, 2025. Services will be at 1 p.m. Sunday at Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

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*The Commercial Review publishes death notices for those with a connection to our coverage area free of charge. They include the name, city of residence, birth/death date and time/date/location of services. There is a charge for obituaries, which are accepted only from funeral homes or mortuary services.*

CR almanac

Sunday 6/1	Monday 6/2	Tuesday 6/3	Wednesday 6/4	Thursday 6/5
<b>73/47</b> Another day of mostly sunny skies is in the forecast for Sunday.	<b>83/60</b> Sunny skies on Monday. The temperature may swell to the 80s.	<b>86/70</b> Tuesday's forecast shows sunny skies with highs in the mid 80s.	<b>81/67</b> Mostly sunny on Wednesday when there's a 50% chance of thunderstorms.	<b>74/62</b> There's a 50% chance of thunderstorms Thursday under mostly cloudy skies.

Lotteries

<b>Hoosier</b> Midday Daily Three: 9-9-5 Daily Four: 4-7-8-9 Quick Draw: 4-5-8-13-18-20-22-23-28-30-35-38-39-50-55-56-57-63-69-78	Pick 3: 8-4-5 Pick 4: 6-3-7-1 Pick 5: 4-8-0-0-8 <b>Powerball</b> Estimated jackpot: \$207 million <b>Mega Millions</b> Estimated jackpot: \$189 million
<b>Ohio</b> Midday	

The Commercial Review/Bailey Cline

Carnival colors

Tasha Weaver of Firefly Children and Family Alliance paints 4-year-old Evelyn Osterholt's forehead Friday during the summer carnival at Westminster Preschool Jay County Early Learning Center in Portland.

Markets

<b>Cooper Farms Fort Recovery</b> Corn.....4.74 July corn .....4.76 Oct. corn .....4.14	June beans .....10.42 Wheat .....4.94
<b>POET Biorefining Portland</b> Corn.....4.76 June corn .....4.76 July corn.....4.79	<b>ADM Montpelier</b> Corn.....4.60 June corn .....4.60 Beans .....10.58 June beans .....10.60 Wheat .....4.84
<b>The Andersons Richland Township</b> Corn.....4.64 June corn .....4.64 Beans .....10.62	<b>Heartland St. Anthony</b> Corn.....4.71 June corn .....4.71 Beans .....10.37 June beans .....10.37 Wheat .....4.84

Today in history

**In 1819**, American poet, journalist and essayist Walt Whitman was born in West Hills, New York. He is best known for his collection “Leaves of Grass.”

**In 1889**, a flood in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, resulted in more than 2,200 deaths.

**In 1910**, Louis Botha formed the first government of the Union of South Africa.

**In 1921**, an estimated 300 Black men, women and children were killed in the Tulsa Race Massacre. Mobs looted, destroyed and burned Black-owned businesses and more than 1,250 homes in the Oklahoma city’s Greenwood District.

**In 1930**, American actor and director Clint Eastwood was born in San Francisco, California. Eastwood’s acting credits include “A Fistful of Dollars,” “Dirty Harry” and “In the Line of Fire.” He directed Oscars best picture winner “Million Dollar Baby.”

**In 2007**, Jay County Development Corporation executive director Bob Quadrozzi died at the age of 69 when his vehicle went off Indiana 67 and struck a semi in Delaware County. He had led JCDC since 1992.

**In 2009**, the last known living survivor of the sinking of the Titanic in 1912 died in Southampton, England. Millvina Dean was 9 weeks old when the ship sunk after hitting an iceberg on its maiden voyage across the Atlantic Ocean.

**In 2020**, a massive fire that produced billowing smoke visible for miles destroyed a barn at the Hartzell Farms facility at 3636 E. 100 North. Seven fire departments battled the fire that took more than two hours to get under control.

—The CR

Citizen’s calendar

<b>Monday</b> 5 p.m. — Jay School Board special meeting, General Shanks, 414 Floral Ave., Portland. 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, council chambers, fire station, 1616 N. Meridian St. 7 p.m. — Salamonina Town Council, Schoolhouse Community Center.
<b>Tuesday</b> 4 p.m. — Jay County Development Corporation, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.	5:30 p.m. — Portland Plan Commission, Community Resource Center, 118 S. Meridian St., Portland.
<b>Wednesday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	
<b>Thursday</b> 4 p.m. — Portland Board of Works, mayor’s office, city hall, 321 N. Meridian St.	

Denies ...

Continued from page 1

(Stephen said she made comments about seeking a lawyer while speaking with police. She argued police should have ceased the interview at that time.)

She also argued Gonzalez should have impeached trial witness Kristi Sibray because of inconsistencies in her statements.

Jay Circuit Court Judge Brian

Hutchison wrote in the decision filed Thursday that Stephen didn’t make a “clear and unequivocal invocation of her Miranda right” — the right to remain silent amid police interrogation, as well as the right to an attorney — during her interviews with police, nor did her comments make it clear she was requesting the presence of an attorney.

He also wrote the court did not find there were inconsistencies in Sibray’s comments at trial, and, if there had been, impeaching her “would not have benefited their theory of defense at trial.”

“The court concludes that the evidence does not support a finding that the petitioner was denied effective assistance of counsel,” Hutchison wrote.

Quiet ...

Continued from page 1

The Capital Chronicle requested comment from Ruby May 9 and in the past week, but didn’t receive a response from her. No one answered the office door when reporters showed up.

The PAC provides guidance on state public records and open meeting laws. The officeholder responds to informal inquiries on the laws, issues non-binding advisory opinions and educates officials and Hoosiers on their rights and responsibilities, according to the website.

The Indiana General Assembly created the office in 1999.

For Frazee, who filed two formal complaints mid-May and hasn’t heard back, the “PAC clock is ticking.”

Formal complaints must be filed with the office within 30 days of either an agency’s denial of records access or notice of an improperly held meeting. A complaint is considered filed on the date it is received, according to the office’s public access law handbook. Once a complaint is accepted, the PAC notifies the alleged offending agency and gives it 20 business days to respond.

“Do I need to resend it? Did you assign it? Did you toss it?” Frazee worried.

She said a confirmation that a filing has been received — “always” sent during Britt’s tenure — would provide reassurance “that I have submitted the PAC complaint in a timely fashion, where I don’t have to worry about it being tossed.”

Keeping up with demand proved a challenge, per Britt.

The workload grew annually, “sometimes by an exponential amount.” And “volume-wise, it was even overwhelming for me at times, just trying to keep it all straight, be responsive,” he recalled.

He said “constituent

relations” — responding to Hoosier queries — was his top priority and became most of his workday.

An influx of 50-100 calls and emails were coming in daily by the time he left, Britt estimated. He described a “benchmark” for getting messages answered within 24 business hours.

“If I had time, or I would take work home in the evenings, to actually write opinions,” he continued. Legislation that went into effect last July “de-emphasized opinions even more, so I would try to resolve those conflicts informally as much as I could.”

House Enrolled Act 1338 limited the PAC to using only the law’s “plain text” — despite statutory ambiguities — and official court orders in writing opinions. Also, the governor can now remove a PAC at any time, instead of “for cause.”

Britt still wrote opinions, though — and imposed a benchmark for them, too.

The goal was to have all of of the the previous year’s opinions done before the first quarter of the next year ended.

SERVICES

Sunday

**Friar**, Karen: 1 p.m., Walker & Glancy Funeral Home, 109 W. Windsor St., Montpelier.

Tuesday

**Linn**, Theresa: 11 a.m., Trinity Cahtolic Church, 7321 Indiana 67, Bryant.

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Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday 10 am - 4 pm





Photo provided

## Lions donation

Portland Lions Club recently donated funds to purchase a ballistic vest for Portland Police Department's K9 officer, Spyke. Pictured above is Portland police officer and K9 handler Brandon McDavid with Spyke and Portland Lions Club secretary Paul Szymczak.

# Retiree ready for peace

DEAR ABBY: The floor I work on has a cluster of offices surrounding a central kitchen area. Fifteen of us share the appliances, including a hot water reservoir with a tap. The building is old and has lead pipes, so a service brings in large plastic bottles for a water cooler. Usually, whoever arrives first in the morning fills the tank on the water heater from the cooler, and we all use it to make hot drinks during the day.

I just found out that a new employee has been filling the tank from the contaminated tap! When I asked her about it, she said that the microplastics in the water jugs were more dangerous than the lead in the pipes. She's very committed to this idea and is not going to budge. I don't think this is right. I will heat my own water from now on, but how should I warn the others in the office? The source of our tea water seems like a silly thing to start an office tiff over, but I also think people

## Dear Abby



need to know their water is unsafe. — NOT DRINKING IN NEW YORK

DEAR NOT DRINKING: I agree the employees in your office should know. At least they will be on notice about which "poison" they are consuming. Report this to HR or your employer, so the announcement can come from on high and you can stay out of the line of fire.

\*\*\*\*\*

DEAR ABBY: I am someone who calls friends, but they never call back. When I call, they are happy to hear from me, the conversations are lively and fun, and the friends say they love it when I call. I don't call often, and I don't feel I'm making a nuisance of

myself. However, like I said, they DON'T CALL BACK.

I can understand not hearing from newer friends, but I resent not hearing from ones I've had my whole life. I could have died, and they couldn't bother to find out if I'm OK or get an update on my life. I know I should drop them and move on, but I can't. I need help with that. Something — it could be an upcoming holiday — reminds me of them, and I want to make contact. Why do people do this to people they say they love and care about? —PERPLEXED IN FLORIDA

DEAR PERPLEXED: People behave this way because they are stressed, busy or distracted. Most of the time, it isn't personal. Not everyone is a "caller" like you are. If you want to maintain these relationships, you have to be prepared to do the calling. I'm not saying this to be judgmental or to make excuses for them; it's just a fact of life.

# Community Calendar

Notices will appear in Community Calendar as space is available. To submit an item, email [news@thecr.com](mailto:news@thecr.com).

## Today

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

## 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.

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

## Tuesday

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

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

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 ANONYMOUS — 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., Portland. For more information, call (260) 726-8229.

A BETTER LIFE - BRIANNA'S HOPE — A faith-based recovery group for all kinds of addictions, will meet from 6:30 to 8 p.m. each Wednesday at Redkey United Methodist Church, 122 W. Main St. Come early for a meal. For more information, call Pastor Randy Davis at (765) 369-2085.

## Thursday

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

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

PORTLAND LIONS CLUB — Will meet the first Thursday of the month at Portland Lions Civic Center, 307 W. 100 North. The meal will be served at 6:30 p.m. and the meeting will begin at 7 p.m.

FORGET-ME-NOT — A support group for parents, friends and relatives who have lost a baby through miscarriage, birth or illness will meet from 7 to 9 p.m. at St. Vincent Randolph Hospital, Winchester, in community room 1.

# Sudoku

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

Level: Advanced

## Friday's Solution

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

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

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# Spiritual matters are not political

**San Antonio Express-News**  
Tribune News Service

A recent U.S. Supreme Court ruling has preserved, at least temporarily, a hallmark of our system of government — the separation of church and state.

The vote, deadlocked at 4-4, preserved a ruling by the Oklahoma Supreme Court that blocked that state from using government money to run the first religious charter school in the country.

The ruling was a surprise to many, given the court's conservative bent.

While individual votes were not revealed, court observers suspect that Chief Justice John Roberts sided with the three liberal justices in favor of the state ruling; he has ruled against the five conservatives on the court in the past.

Despite being hailed by some as a victory, the tie vote means the issue may return to the court as advocates for religion-based charter schools continue to push their

## Guest Editorial

agenda of financing these institutions with taxpayer money.

A contentious issue for years, it has been overshadowed by other cases clogging the court dockets, such as those over diversity, equity and inclusion; immigration; and mass government firings. But make no mistake: It is no less crucial to our democracy.

The Founding Fathers worked laboriously to prevent any collision between the religious and secular worlds, and undermining that tenet of American values would undermine the nation itself.

"A publicly funded religious charter school would have obliterated the wall of separation

between state and church," Annie Laurie Gaylor, co-president of the Freedom from Religion Foundation, said in a statement. "We're relieved that, at least for now, the First Amendment still means what it says."

The Oklahoma case involved the attempt by St. Isidore of Seville, a Catholic virtual school, to seek government funding as a charter school, which that state's high court rejected.

Allowing St. Isidore to receive public funding as a charter school "would open the floodgates and force taxpayers to fund all manner of religious indoctrination, including radical Islam or even the church of Satan," said Oklahoma Attorney General Gentner Drummond, a Republican who went against his party's prevailing stance.

Charter schools are allowed to receive public funding, Drummond argued, but only if their curriculum remains secular. St.

Isidore's intention to focus on religious training rendered public financing of it unconstitutional, he said.

"Oklahoma's charter schools bear all of the hallmarks of a public school identified by this court and more," Drummond told the U.S. Supreme Court.

In addition, a ruling for St. Isidore would have siphoned money from public schools, funding they could ill afford to lose. Religious training has a place in America, no doubt, but not when it hurts children in proper public schools.

It's notable that Justice Amy Coney Barrett, a conservative, recused herself from the case. While she did not state a reason for her recusal, she is a close friend of a law professor who advised St. Isidore.

She deserves kudos for her decision. Other members of the court have plowed through rulings despite more troubling con-

licts, including Justices Clarence Thomas and Samuel Alito, who have refused to recuse themselves despite receiving gifts from rich Republican donors involved in or with an interest in the outcomes of certain cases.

Religious freedom is a bedrock of our system, and while conservatives claimed the charter school would have reinforced that bedrock, the opposite is true. Allowing the government to finance religious institutions would give politicians a gateway to a realm they have no business entering. Spiritual matters are personal, not political.

Advocates of religious freedom, however, must be wary. This issue is not dead. Forces are already at work to smooth the path for government interference in religion, forces aligned with Christianity at the expense of other religions that adherents may find just as worthy, including Judaism, Hinduism and Islam.

## Work requirements threaten the system

**By TONI PRECKWINKLE**  
**and DR. ERIK MIKAITIS**

Chicago Tribune  
Tribune News Service

Republicans recently released their proposed plan to cut \$715 billion in federal health care spending over 10 years. While they position changes to Medicaid as removing waste and not cutting eligibility, don't be fooled by that spin. The only thing this plan will do is strip health coverage from an estimated 8.6 million Americans to fund tax breaks for the wealthy.

Central to the proposal is the implementation of national work requirements for Medicaid members. To demonstrate eligibility, not only would individuals have to provide proof that they are low-income, but adults without dependents would also have to prove that they worked or volunteered at least 80 hours per month. The bureaucratic red tape alone will cost millions of eligible people their coverage.

Most adults with Medicaid who can work, do work. The perception that some able-bodied adults are passing on work opportunities because they have health coverage through Medicaid simply isn't supported by the nation's current 4.2% unemployment rate. The notion has also been debunked by both the Congressional Budget Office and analyses of work requirement attempts in other states.

Advocates of work requirements overlook a plain economic truth: A healthy population is essential to a productive national workforce.

Without health coverage, individuals will be sicker; more likely to miss work or not be able to hold a job, thus trapping them in a cycle of poor health and poverty. With health coverage, individuals are better able to hold down a job, support their family and ultimately reduce their reliance on Medicaid and other forms of public assistance.

Work requirements are unlikely to drive more people into employment but will certainly result in preventable loss of coverage, illness and death.

Work requirements, plus the proposal to check members' eligibility twice a year instead of once, exponentially increases program bureaucracy at both the

## Guest Opinion

state and federal level. Ironically, this could negate savings and the administration's intent to shrink government spending and the workforce.

We can look at Arkansas as an example. When the state implemented work requirements in 2018, more than 18,000 people lost their health insurance in the first four months. Of those who lost coverage, 97% were actually compliant with the rules but still got kicked out of the program because of excessive red tape. There was also no increase in employment or hours worked.

Work requirements won't just hurt individuals with Medicaid coverage. They will have trickle-down implications for everyone's medical care. The costs to care for more uninsured and sicker patients end up coming full circle in all of our health insurance premiums.

The increase in patients without insurance will also compound financial pressures on hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes and mental health providers. We will likely see service reductions and even closures, affecting wait times and access for everyone.

Medicaid work requirements are not only ineffective but also counterproductive, and they threaten to destabilize the very foundation of our country's health care system. The proposed changes to Medicaid would reduce coverage for low-income individuals, place overwhelming burdens on health care providers — worsening both health outcomes and economic vitality — and increase government bureaucracy.

Considering we are the world's richest country, it's unconscionable that the federal government would take away health insurance from millions of Americans in order to subsidize tax breaks for the highest earners.

*Preckwinkle is president of the Cook County Board of Commissioners. Mikaitis is CEO of Cook County Health.*



## Wishing peace, Down the Road

**By JOHN KRULL**

TheStatehouseFile.com

Longtime Indianapolis Colts owner Jim Irsay could poke fun at himself.

Years ago, I attended a special preview of the long, unspooled typescript of Jack Kerouac's "On the Road" at what was then the Indianapolis Museum of Art. Irsay had bought the treasure for \$2.43 million and was about to send it around the country for a series of exhibitions.

This was well before the 2014 incident when he was pulled over with enough pills in his possession to start his own pharmacy.

But there were already stories about his ongoing war with substance abuse. Some of them were public. Some were merely rumors.

When he made brief remarks at the "On the Road" preview, Irsay alluded, jocularly, to those stories. The Chicago Tribune had published a revealing profile of him not long before with a photo of him sitting near the long typescript while holding one of Elvis Presley's guitars ... and a lit cigarette.

Irsay assured everyone, with a rueful little laugh, that the lit cigarette never had been anywhere near Kerouac's masterwork.

The crowd chuckled along with him.

At the event, I chatted with Irsay for a few minutes about Kerouac and "On the Road." I'd done part of my honors thesis in college on the book and then developed and taught a class on the Beats when I was in graduate school.

I was surprised to discover that the typescript wasn't just a trophy for Irsay. A few minutes of conversation established that he knew the book and that it meant something to him.

At the time, that surprised me.

*John Krull*



How could a tale about mid-20th-century bohemians searching for meaning speak that way to a son of privilege?

The Beats struggled to scrounge up gas money to travel from one town to the next. Irsay managed \$100 million transactions as if he were dealing with Monopoly money.

The more I thought about it, though, the more it made sense.

"On the Road" tells the story of lost souls searching for their angels and struggling with their demons while the road — a metaphor for life itself — stretches out behind them and spools out before them. It's about trying to find a place of balance and peace in a world and an existence that tips, tilts, and turns all the time.

That would have spoken to Irsay, whose battles with addiction rarely if ever allowed him to find that center.

Or know that peace. I encountered Irsay a few other times.

For a while, we did our workouts at the same place, a club on the far north side of Indianapolis a former Colts player had opened. He had a reserved locker there — locker number one, with his name engraved on it — and would come in to lift, stretch and maybe do a little cardio.

We'd run into each other in the locker room or around the water fountain and chat for a bit.

Irsay was always personable. We didn't talk about anything of great consequence.

Mostly, as I recall, we complained about the challenges of trying to stay in some kind of shape as we grew older and how things hurt a lot more if we pushed the envelope too hard.

I'm pretty sure that, during those quick conversations, he didn't know me from Adam.

But he chose to be decent and interact as if we were just two guys trying to push back the ravages of time. He had to be aware that I knew who he was — his name was emblazoned on his locker, for goodness' sake — but he never seemed to want to pull rank or stand on ceremony.

That's why I never could work up feelings other than empathy when he slipped.

I've known other people — some close to me — who have battled addiction. I know it's a great leveler, a curse that afflicts the famous and the forgotten alike.

Most of all, I know that those who war with addiction find peace hard to come by.

Jim Irsay died the other day. He was 65.

In the hours after I learned of his passing, I thought of that conversation at the art museum and his obvious feeling for "On the Road."

And I find myself hoping that, in the end, he found his angel and put his demons to bed.

May he rest in peace.

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

# The Commercial Review

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



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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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5-31 CRYPTOQUIP

RA EYD TMWJ BA M KSMOD'V  
VDME HDEV NDEQNODI EB  
REV QKNRHYE KBVRERBO, YMV  
RE TDDO IRVROWSRODI?  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: POPULAR LOGIC  
PUZZLE VARIANT WHICH PEOPLE WORK ON  
DURING CIVIL COURT CASES: SUE-DOKU.  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: I equals D

CRYPTO FUN

Solve the code to discover words related to reading.  
Each number corresponds to a letter.  
(Hint: 20 = A)

A. 26 25 25 7 15 20 8 7  
Clue: Holds place

B. 23 20 9 3 2  
Clue: Sheets of paper

C. 10 21 20 8 20 10 13 3 8  
Clue: Person in book

D. 11 17 10 13 17 25 6  
Clue: Invented or untrue

Answers: A. bookmark B. pages C. character D. fiction

CAUGHT READING WORD SEARCH

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

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

Trivial Review

(Answers are printed below, upside down.)

Zip it up

1) In what state is the zip code 90212 located?  
2) Who played television detectives Andy Sipowicz and Sal Benedetto?

2) Dennis Franz  
1) California

6-2 CRYPTOQUIP

R Z F S P B T R F Q A L T F Q Q F G R  
R Z G P Q F R B K C T F Z G F S E B Y K R  
V P T T Y R F B R Q E F D B R P R L A G  
V A G C R : B K F T L - B D F Q .  
Saturday's Cryptoquip: IF THE BACK OF A PLANE'S SEAT GETS RETURNED TO ITS UPRIGHT POSITION, HAS IT BEEN DISINCLINED?  
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals S

WORD SCRAMBLE

Rearrange the letters to spell something pertaining to books.

T S X T E

GUESS WHO?

I am an actress born on May 31, 1965 in New York. I began modeling as an infant and continued through childhood. Modeling turned into an acting career, and my feature film debut was in a horror film. My second and third films caused controversy for risqué content considering my young age.

Answer: Brooke Shields

kids' corner

Health FACT!

This activity is low-impact on the joints, but has a high impact on working the cardiovascular system.

Answer: Cycling

How they say that in...

English: To pedal  
Spanish: Pedalear  
Italian: Pedalare  
French: Pédaler  
German: Strampeln

What's the Difference?

Find the four differences between the two pictures.

A

B

Answers: 1. Logo on girl's shirt 2. Dog on lawn 3. Mom has pigtail 4. Missing window on house

THIS DAY IN HISTORY

MAY 29

1790: Rhode Island becomes the last of the original colonies to ratify the Constitution.  
1919: Albert Einstein's theory of general relativity is tested by Arthur Eddington and others.  
1988: Ronald Reagan visits the Soviet Union.

NEW WORD CADENCE

the rate at which a cyclist pedals, measured in RPMs

CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Olympic prize  
6 Spe-lunker  
11 Piano parts  
12 Brunch fare  
14 Label owned by Sony  
15 Catch sight of  
16 Peach center  
17 Inventory  
19 "Still-matic" rapper  
20 From the start  
22 "Hamilton" actress  
23 Piece of hardware  
24 Sin city  
26 Hospital staffer  
28 Plastic — Band  
30 Narc's agcy.  
31 Frank of the New York Giants

35 "Cuts Like a Knife" singer  
39 Early TV's  
40 Doo follower  
42 Seedy beer joint  
43 MSN rival  
44 Maximum  
46 Kung — chicken  
47 Easily attach-able  
49 Get involved quickly  
51 Sand sub-stance  
52 Well-behaved kids

53 Venice waterway  
54 Exposes

DOWN

1 Spanish wool  
2 Redacted  
3 "— Kapital"  
4 Mtn. stats  
5 Exams for future attys.  
6 Grape variety  
7 Out of control  
8 Dog doc  
9 "Sense and Sen-sibility" heroine  
10 Bring to mind

11 Mamas' mates  
13 Irritable  
18 Tic-tac-toe win  
21 Barking sounds  
23 Abe Lincoln feature  
25 6 on a phone  
27 Society newbie  
29 Number type  
31 Wimble-don surface  
32 Serving as a symbol  
33 Yuletide refrain  
34 Weir  
36 "Hooray!"  
37 Profits  
38 Glowing signs  
41 Muslim woman's garment  
44 "Livin' La Vida —"  
45 Sushi fish  
48 Brooch  
50 Ball club VIP

Solution time: 26 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-31

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

Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

A deducible deduction

East dealer.  
Both sides vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ A K Q 4  
♥ 10 8 7 6 4 3  
♦ 8 5 2  
♣ —

WEST  
♠ J 10 8 5  
♥ 9 2  
♦ A Q J 4  
♣ 10 9 3

EAST  
♠ 9 6 3  
♥ —  
♦ 10 7 6  
♣ A K Q 8 7 5 2

SOUTH  
♠ 7 2  
♥ A K Q J 5  
♦ K 9 3  
♣ J 6 4

The bidding:  
East 3 ♣ South 3 ♥ West 4 ♣ North 6 ♥

Opening lead — ten of clubs.

The bidding by the opponents often helps declarer find the winning line of play.

Consider this deal where South was in six hearts and West led the ten of clubs. Had declarer followed the line of least resistance, he would have gone down one. Thus, if he had ruffed, drawn trump, discarded a diamond on a top spade and then led a diamond toward the K-9, he would have lost two diamond tricks as well as the slam.

But South had concluded at the outset that West was far more likely to have the ace of diamonds than East. West's ten of clubs lead was presumably his highest club, marking East with the A-K-Q. West therefore could not also have the ace of diamonds for his preemptive three-club opening bid.

Accordingly, South ruffed the club lead in dummy, played a heart to the jack, ruffed another club, played a heart to the queen and ruffed his last club. When he next cashed the A-K of hearts, this became the position:

North  
♠ A K Q 4  
♦ 8 5

West  
♠ J 10 8 5  
♦ A Q

South  
♠ 7 2  
♥ 5  
♦ K 9 3

South now led the five of hearts, and West, who could not spare a spade, was forced to discard the queen of diamonds. Declarer thereupon discarded a spade from dummy and led the diamond three. West had to win with the ace, and South's king became his 12th trick.

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Contract Bridge By Steve Becker

Famous Hand

South dealer.  
East-West vulnerable.

NORTH  
♠ A 10 8 7 5 2  
♥ A 5 4  
♦ K J 10  
♣ 7

WEST  
♠ J 9 6  
♥ 2  
♦ 8 7 6  
♣ Q J 10 9 6 5

EAST  
♠ K Q 3  
♥ 10 9 8 6  
♦ A Q 2  
♣ K 8 3

SOUTH  
♠ 4  
♥ K Q J 7 3  
♦ 9 5 4 3  
♣ A 4 2

The bidding:  
South Pass West Pass North 1 ♠ East Pass  
2 ♥ Pass 3 ♥ Pass

Opening lead — queen of clubs.

This deal occurred in a match between the United States and Portugal in the 2000 Open Team Olympiad. When a Portuguese pair held the North-South cards, they reached four hearts as shown. West, David Berkowitz, led the club queen to South's ace, and declarer immediately led a diamond to dummy's jack.

Against normal defense, South might have found the winning route to 10 tricks. If East takes the diamond with the queen and returns the trump ten, declarer can win with dummy's ace and lead another diamond. East wins and returns another trump, but South takes the king, ruffs a club with dummy's last trump and cashes dummy's high diamond. He then plays the spade ace, ruffs a spade, draws trump and scores his 10th trick with the diamond nine.

But that's not exactly how it went, because when declarer played a diamond to the jack at trick two, East, Larry Cohen, won with the ace! He then returned a trump to dummy's ace.

Convinced that West had the diamond queen, declarer next played the ace of spades, ruffed a spade, ruffed a club, on which Cohen unblocked the king, and ruffed another spade. He then cashed the K-Q of trump, disclosing the 4-1 trump split and leaving Cohen with the only trump remaining.

South had eight tricks and thought he had a good chance to score two more with the K-10 of diamonds. But when he next led a diamond to the ten, the roof caved in. Cohen took his queen and returned a club to West's ten. When Berkowitz cashed another club, Cohen got rid of his remaining diamond, and his ten of trump took the last trick for down two!

Note that after Cohen took the first diamond with the ace, declarer could have scored five heart tricks, two club ruffs in dummy, the two black aces and the diamond king to make his contract.

Tomorrow: A wing and a prayer.  
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CROSSWORD By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Ecol. watchdog  
4 Smart-phone download  
7 Departs  
11 Part of speech  
13 Rage  
14 Erie or Placid  
15 "Carmen" solo  
16 Speck  
17 Vicinity  
18 Elbow  
20 Sloe gin —  
22 Klutz  
24 Preparing to drive, in golf  
28 On the house  
32 Mystery-writing award  
33 Now, in memos  
34 Micro-wave  
36 Actress Moore  
37 Robber  
39 Instructed privately  
41 Periodic pay  
43 Skillet

44 "Monsoon Wedding" director  
46 Tiny fish  
50 Maui meal  
53 Burst  
55 Half a sextet  
56 Roasting rod  
57 Right angle  
58 Beach blanket?  
59 River blockers  
60 Devious  
61 Verily

3 Bone-dry  
4 Succor  
5 Campus VIP  
6 — four (bite-sized cake)  
7 Break-fast meeting treats  
8 Rowing need  
9 — out a living  
10 Salty expanse  
12 Purchase at a ballpark snack bar  
19 Corn spike  
21 Wye follower

23 Shriner's chapeau  
25 Media exec  
26 Christen  
27 Cross-word diagram  
28 Minne-sota —  
29 Job-safety org.  
30 Bar  
31 "Mangia!"  
35 Young seal  
38 Monk's title  
40 Kids' game  
42 "Holy smokes!"  
45 Ham-burger holder  
47 Use a rosary  
48 Yearn  
49 Luke's mentor  
50 Hallu-cinatory drug  
51 — creek (in trouble)  
52 Goal  
54 Layer

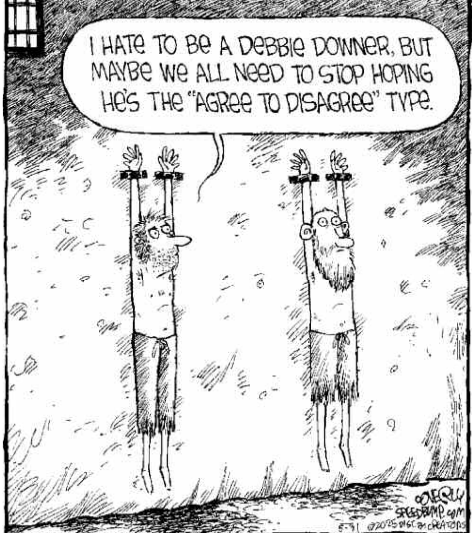
Solution time: 21 mins.

Saturday's answer 6-2

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 60 61



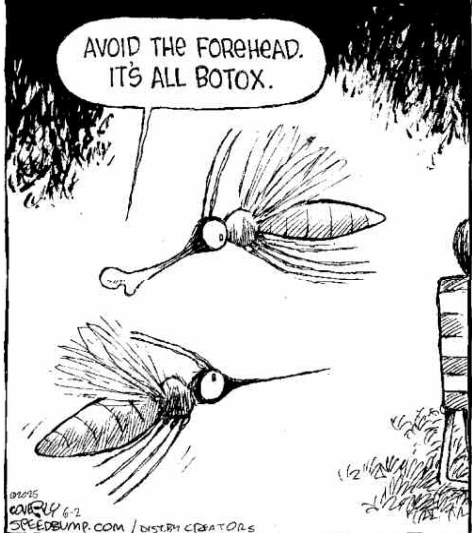
SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



SPEED BUMP Dave Coverly



THE FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



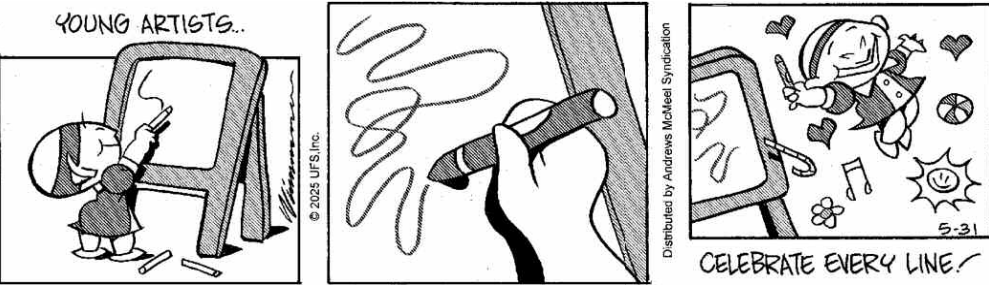
Peanuts



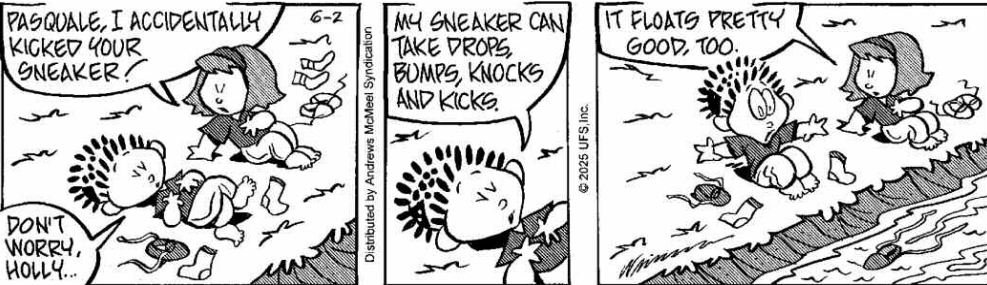
Peanuts



Rose is Rose



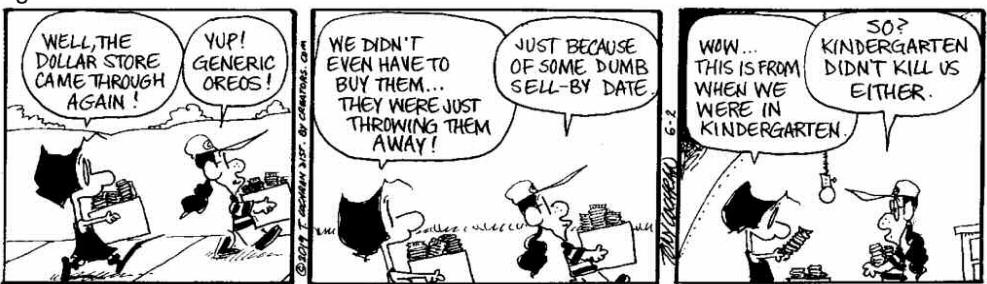
Rose is Rose



Agnes



Agnes



Hi and Lois



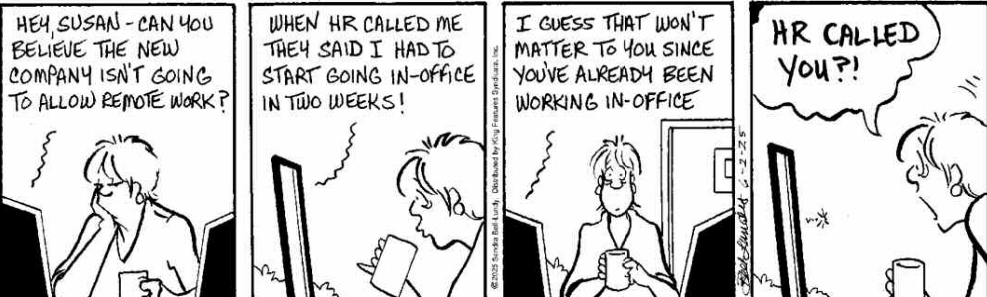
Hi and Lois



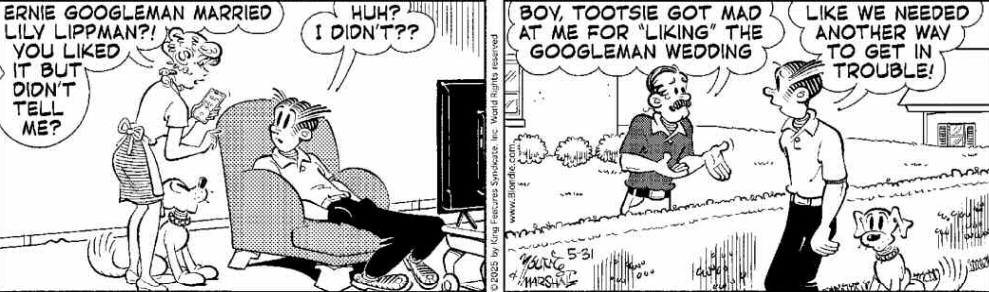
Between Friends



Between Friends



Blondie



Blondie



Snuffy Smith



Snuffy Smith



Beetle Bailey



Beetle Bailey



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Laughter

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

The Commercial Review We Deliver



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90 SALE CALENDAR

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duce Equipment; Bug-  
gies; Harness; Carts;  
New Tack; Saddles;  
Shop Tools; Lawn/Gar-  
den Tools; Sausage  
Grinder/Stuffers;  
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90 SALE CALENDAR

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the Industrial Building at  
the Jay County Fair-  
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Saturday Morning  
MAY 31st, 2025  
9:30 A. M.  
HOUSEHOLD GOODS -  
OLD & COLLECTORS  
ITEMS - TOOLS  
Amana washer & dryer;  
Amana French door  
refrigerator; GE stove;  
Kenmore chest type  
freezer; mobile cart;  
Hoover Power Dash car-  
pet cleaner; 1960is  
VINTAGE LOS ANGE-  
LES DODGERS BOB-  
BLE HEAD; paper-  
weights; glass animals;  
GLASS BASKETS: Car-  
nival, Yellow, Blue, Pink  
and Clear;  
Carnival Glass; jewelry;  
Mickey Mouse bank; #6  
crook with handles; mar-  
bles; Wagner skillet;  
Barbies; primitives;  
wood planes; ; cast alu-  
minum yard furniture;  
cement bird bath; lawn  
chairs; fishing items; ;  
power washer; cement  
figures; fence; lawn  
ornaments; tomato  
cages; and other items  
not listed.  
JERELDENE FULLER,  
DECEASED  
Loy Auction  
AC#31600027  
Auctioneers  
Gary Loy AU01031608  
Travis Theurer  
AU11200131  
Aaron Loy AU11200112  
Kaden Khayyata  
AU12400069

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.  
2 bedroom home with  
Central Air, 30ix40i  
attached garage,  
24ix32i Quonset build-  
ing. Nicely situated on 2  
acres.  
Open House: Sunday  
June 1st  
1-3 PM or for private  
showing phone auction-  
eers.  
RIDING MOWERS -  
ANTIQUES - HOUSE-  
HOLD  
Troybilt Riding Mower  
w/ 42i Deck. Troybilt and  
Murray Mowers for  
parts. Iron Bed. Steamer  
Trunk. Hen on Nest and  
other collectible Glass-  
ware. Roll-top Desk.  
Bird Cages. Elvis Pic-  
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.  
SHAWVER AUCTION-  
EERING AND REAL  
ESTATE  
AC31800004  
AUCTIONEERS  
Zane Shawver  
Lic. #AU10500168  
260-729-2229  
Pete D. Shawver  
Lic. #AU19700040  
260-726-5587

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Green Seal®  
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Dave Wendel  
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Cell 260-729-2797

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Travis Weaver  
260-726-3189  
across street  
from Jail

90 SALE CALENDAR

PUBLIC AUCTION  
SATURDAY JUNE 7TH,  
2025  
TIME 10:00 A.M.  
LOCATED: 127 Rayburn  
Dr, Portland IN.  
REAL ESTATE  
Real Estate sells at  
10:00 AM.  
3 bedroom, 1.5 bath  
brick ranch style home  
containing 1,328 sq ft  
finished living area. Cen-  
tral 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 Auction-  
eers.  
VEHICLE - FURNITURE  
- SHOP  
2003 Chevrolet Venture  
Minivan. Cast Iron Bull-  
dog.  
Grandfather Clock. 8  
Track Stereo/ Record  
Player. Glider Rocker w/  
Ottoman. 3 Cushion  
Sofa. Rocker Recliner.  
Metal Patio Set. Bird  
Bath. Lawn Cart. Crafts-  
man 10i Table Saw.  
Craftsman Router w/  
Stand. Craftsman Scroll  
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.  
SHAWVER AUCTION-  
EERING AND REAL  
ESTATE  
AC31800004  
AUCTIONEERS  
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Lic. #AU10500168  
260-729-2229  
Pete D. Shawver  
Lic. #AU19700040  
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competitive pay, flexible  
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days.

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FOR SALE Various sizes  
and prices. Call The  
Commercial Review at  
260-726-8141 for more  
information.

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Portland 260-726-8141

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& More

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Call or text to order 260-703-0304  
Open 9:30-5:00 Monday - Friday  
9:30-3:00 Saturday

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250 PUBLIC NOTICE

Public Notice

STATE OF INDIANA  
COUNTY OF JAY, SS:  
IN THE JAY CIRCUIT  
COURT  
2025 TERM  
In the Matter of the  
Unsupervised  
Administration of  
the Estate of:  
Thomas J. Eley, Deceased  
No. 38CO1-2504-EU-000009  
NOTICE OF  
ADMINISTRATION  
Notice is hereby given that  
Jacquelyn M. Baughman was,  
on the 9th day of April, 2025,  
appointed Personal Repre-  
sentative of the estate of  
Thomas J. Eley, deceased,  
who died on March 24, 2025  
All persons who have claims  
against this estate, whether or  
not now due, must file the  
claim in the office of the Clerk  
of this Court within three (3)  
months from the date of the  
first publication of this notice,  
or within nine (9) months after  
the decedent's death,  
whichever is earlier, or the  
claims will be forever barred.  
Dated at Portland, Indiana,  
this 27th day of May, 2025.  
HINKLE, RACSTER,  
SCHEMENAUR & LAN-  
DERS  
121 W. High Street  
Portland, IN 47371  
Attorney  
Melissa Elliott  
Clerk of the Circuit Court,  
For Jay County, Indiana  
CR 5-31,6-7-2025-HSPAXLP

Public Notice

TO THE OWNERS OF THE  
WITHIN DESCRIBED REAL  
ESTATE AND ALL INTER-  
ESTED PARTIES  
NOTICE OF SHERIFF SALE  
By virtue of a certified copy of  
a decree to me directed from  
the Clerk of Jay Court in  
Cause No. 38D01-2502-MF-  
000003 wherein NEWREZ  
LLC D/B/A SHELLPOINT  
MORTGAGE SERVICING was  
Plaintiff and IDA J. LEON-  
HARD A/KIA IDA JEAN  
LEONHARD; was/were De-  
fendant(s), requiring me to  
make the sum as provide for  
in said Dewie with interest  
and costs, I will expose at  
public sale to the highest bid-  
der, on the 26th day of June,  
2025 at the hour of 10:00 AM as  
soon thereafter as possible, at  
the Jay County Courthouse,  
120 N. Court St., Portland, IN  
47371, the fee simple of the  
whole body of Real Estate in  
Jay County, Indiana, de-  
scribed as follows:  
THE WEST HALF OF  
LOTS ONE (1) AND THREE  
(3) IN BLOCK FIFTEEN  
(15) IN THE ORIGINAL  
PLAT OF PORTLAND, IN-  
DIANA.  
ALSO, COMMENCING AT  
A POINT ON THE SOUTH  
LINE OF SAID LOT  
THREE (3) SIXTY-SIX (66)  
FEET EAST OF THE  
SOUTHWEST CORNER  
THEREOF AND RUN-  
NING THENCE NORTH  
FORTY-FOUR (44) FEET;  
THENCE EAST EIGHT (8)  
INCHES; THENCE SOUTH  
FORTY-FOUR (44) FEET  
TO THE SOUTH LINE OF  
SAID LOT; THENCE WEST  
EIGHT (8) INCHES TO THE  
PLACE OF BEGINNING.  
Commonly Known as/Prop-  
erty Address: 409 W Walnut  
St, Portland, IN 47371  
Parcel No: 38-07-20-104-  
068.000-034  
Together with rents, issues,  
and profits hereof, said will  
be made without relief from  
valuation or appraisalment  
laws.  
Subject to all liens, encum-  
brances and easements of  
record not otherwise exting-  
uished in the proceedings  
known as Cause No 38D01-  
2502-MF-000003 in the Jay  
County Court.  
Larry R. Newton Jr  
Sheriff of Jay County  
Jason E. Duhn  
ATTORNEY NO 26807-06  
Diaz Anselmo & Associates,  
LLC  
P.O. BOX 19519  
Fort Lauderdale FL 33318  
Wayne Township  
CR 5-24,31,6-7-2025-HSPAXLP

READ THE CR  
THEN RECYCLE

260 PUBLIC AUCTION

PUBLIC AUCTION

LOCATED: 1207 N SR 167, Dunkirk Indiana

SATURDAY  
JUNE 14TH, 2025  
10:00 A.M.  
REAL ESTATE  
Real Estate sells at 10:00 AM.  
2 bedroom home with Central Air, 30'x40' attached  
garage, 24'x32' Quonset building. Nicely situated  
on 2 acres.  
Open House: Sunday June 1st 1-3 PM or for  
private showing phone auctioneers.  
RIDING MOWERS – ANTIQUES –  
HOUSEHOLD  
Troybilt Riding Mower w/ 42" Deck. Troybilt and  
Murry Mowers for parts. Iron Bed. Steamer Trunk.  
Cane Back Chairs. Hen on Nest and other collectible  
Glassware. Pitcher and Bowls. 33 Records.  
Comforter. Granite Cooker. Oval Dining Room  
Table w/ 4 Chairs. China Hutch. Roll-top Desk. 4  
Drawer Dressers. Sewing Machine and Cabinet.  
Curio Cabinet. End Tables. Bird Cages. Elvis  
Picture. Small Kitchen Appliances. Pots. Pans.  
Cooking Utensils. Fishing Poles and Supplies.  
Generator. Shop Mate. Large Chicken Feeder.  
Several Items Not Mentioned.  
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and  
AuctionZip for more photos.  
TERMS: Cash with 10% Down  
at the Auction, balance upon closing.  
TERMS ON PERSONAL PROPERTY: CASH –  
GOOD CHECK – CREDIT CARD  
OWNER: Mary L Shory Estate  
by Crystal R Suman and Michael Dahlestrom  
STATEMENTS MADE SALE DAY TAKE  
PRECEDENCE OVER WRITTEN AD  
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING  
AND REAL ESTATE  
AC31800004  
Pete D. Shawver Zane Shawver  
Lic# AU19700040 Lic# AU10500168  
260-726-5587 260-729-2229  
More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com  
CR 5-31,6-7 RB 5-27,6-3, NT 5-28,6-4 NG 5-  
30,6-6-2025

PUBLIC AUCTION

LOCATED: 127 Rayburn Dr, Portland Indiana

SATURDAY JUNE 7TH, 2025  
10:00 A.M.  
REAL ESTATE  
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.  
VEHICLE – FURNITURE – SHOP  
2003 Chevrolet Venture Minivan. Cast Iron  
Bulldog. Queen Size Bed complete. Half Bed  
complete. 6 drawer dresser w/ mirror. Small 6  
drawer dresser. Grandfather Clock. 8 Track Stereo/  
Record Player. Round Dining Room Table w/ 4  
Chairs. Lighted Curio Cabinet. 2 Wingback Living  
Room Chairs. Desk. Glider Rocker w/ Ottoman. 3  
Cushion Sofa. Rocker Recliner. Blanket Chest. Love  
Seat. Glass-top End Table. 3 Drawer Filing Cabinet.  
Mirrors. Lamps. Wall Decorations. Small Kitchen  
Appliances. Pots. Pans. Cooking Utensils. Brother  
Sewing Machine. Metal Patio Set. Bird Bath. Lawn  
Cart. Hose Reel. BBQ Grill. Mens and Womens  
Bicycles. Step Ladders. Craftsman 10" Table Saw.  
Craftsman Router w/ Stand. Craftsman Scroll Saw.  
Craftsman Grinder/Sander. Yard Machines Mini  
Tiller. Remington Electric Chainsaw. Aluminum  
Adjustable Ladder. Sump Pump. Picnic Table. Lawn  
Decorations. Shop, Hand, and Lawn and Garden  
Tools.  
NOTE: Check Auctionsoft and  
AuctionZip for more photos.  
TERMS: Cash with 10% Down  
at the Auction, balance upon closing.  
TERMS ON PERSONAL PROPERTY: CASH –  
GOOD CHECK – CREDIT CARD  
OWNER: Rose Fennig Estate,  
by Dale W Fennig  
STATEMENTS MADE SALE DAY TAKE  
PRECEDENCE OVER WRITTEN AD  
SHAWVER AUCTIONEERING  
AND REAL ESTATE  
AC31800004  
Pete D. Shawver Zane Shawver  
Lic# AU19700040 Lic# AU10500168  
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More Photos available at www.auctionzip.com  
CR 5-24,31 NT 5-21,28 RB 5-20,27 NG 5-23,30-  
2025

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# Regional finish



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

The Jay County High School boys track team competed at the IHSAA Regional 3 meet hosted by Carroll on Thursday. Pictured at left, JCHS senior Joseph Boggs rounds the first bend as the first leg of the 4x800-meter relay that finished 13th. At right, Adam Alig jumps over a hurdle during his third and final event of the day, the 300-meter hurdles. The regional was the last meet for either athlete as a Patriot as Alig graduates from Jay County this year, and Boggs will be moving out of the school district.

## Jay County boys track competed in five events at regional

By ANDREW BALKO

The Commercial Review

FORT WAYNE — Three Patriots got to run at the regional for the first time. Two more made their curtain calls.

While the Patriots could push up high enough to score, they still got to end their season at the regional.

The Jay County High School boys track team's season came to a close on Thursday as it competed in a relay and four individual events at the IHSAA Regional 3 meet hosted by Carroll.

With Jay County's highest finish coming in at 12th place, it didn't manage to score any points. New Haven ran away with the regional title, topping the field that included 32 scoring teams with 74 points.

While the Patriots didn't manage to tally any

points, they had plenty to celebrate about the season as they took steps in the right direction.

"Being able to make it to the regional is a big deal for these guys," said JCHS coach Joe Imel. "We had a great season as a boys team. We had the highest finish in the ACAC that I've coached. I feel like we had a lot of progress this year. I think Caleb, in his 3,200-meters ran a PR, so we've got a lot of things up and coming looking forward to the future."

Caleb Garringer did own the highest finish for the Patriots as he placed 12th in the 3,200-meter run.

In his first appearance at the regional, he sat between eighth and 11th for a majority of the race. Over the final 400 meters, Garringer faded over the

final 400 meters, letting a pair of runners from Adams Central claim eighth and ninth.

The JCHS sophomore staved off Yorktown's Isiah Loney for the longest time. Loney and Peyton Engel of Delta both made moves in the final 100 to overtake Garringer. Engel crossed the finish line in 10 minutes, 6.44 seconds, while Loney earned a 10:07.17 to barely beat Garringer's 10:17.44. Garringer did manage to beat Northop's Biruk Shaw by 0.4 seconds.

"I'm not unhappy," Garringer said. "I could have been a lot better I think, but you win some you lose some."

Garringer was one of three Patriots to make his first appearance at the regional and after getting a taste, he will know what to expect for future years.

"It was a little overwhelming the first time," Garringer said. "I'm not used to such a massive audience and people everywhere. ... I wanted to do my best. It's my first time at regionals, so I wanted to feel it out. I've got two more years."

Dash Thacker and Max Klopferstein also made their first appearances alongside Garringer as part of the 4x800-meter relay. Junior Joseph Boggs, who made his second regional appearance, led off the race before the three first-timers carried the final three legs.

They combined to run an 8:41.56 that placed 13th.

Senior Adam Alig made his curtain call at the regional, competing in a trio of events.

Alig faced some struggles throughout the day resulting in a pair of 14th-

place finishes and one 16th placement.

He cleared the high jump bar's opening height of 5 feet, 10 inches, but couldn't work any higher to finish 14th.

Alig got off to a strong start in the 110 hurdles, keeping up with the higher seeds before clipping the third hurdle and falling behind. He wound up with a time of 16.10 seconds in the prelims, falling short of the finals by 0.28 seconds.

Then in the 300 hurdles, Alig eased up towards the end of the race, resulting in the 16th-place finish in 43.50 seconds.

While this is Alig's third straight regional appearance, it was his first time competing in the hurdles events.

"That was my last time and I'm just fine with that," Alig said. "It's great

(to make the regional). After indoor state, I figured that was as high as I would get this year. I didn't really expect to get here, but I was really happy that I did, for three events especially."

Along with Alig, Boggs made his final appearance as a Patriot, as he will be moving schools in 2025-26.

"They've brought a lot of reliability and stability," Imel said. "Adam has scored 180 points and is someone we can rely on day in and day out to be a great leader. You can tell he enjoys doing what he does and we'll definitely miss him. Joseph has been able to be a stable leader for that (distance) group and works hard. He'll be fine no matter where he goes when he continues his track and field adventure."

# Patriots fall to Delta in sectional semifinal

YORKTOWN — The Patriots needed 12 innings to take out the Trojans in the opener. Less than 24 hours later, the Eagles only needed half of that to end the Patriots' season.

The Jay County High School baseball team fell to the Delta Eagles 10-0 in six innings during Thursday's IHSAA Class 3A Sectional 24 semifinal hosted by Yorktown.

The victory pits Delta against Hamilton Heights on Monday at noon for the sectional championship.

The Eagles had no trouble hitting off Zedrian Vazquez, as they collected nine hits to score eight runs over the first 3 1/3 innings. DHS scored two runs in the first, fourth and sixth innings, put up three in the third and one in the

## Local Roundup

second. Chase Ritchie had the strongest day at the plate with three hits and two runs driven in.

While Delta's offense thrived, the Patriots (11-15) struggled against Kaeb Stebbins. They only managed four hits, two from Foster and one each from Drew Schemenaur and Garrett Bennett, and didn't draw any walks.

The Patriots will graduate four players, including Vazquez, A.J. Myers, and Rylee Sollars.

### Doubleheader split

Cook's Nursery and Patriot Auto Sales split a doubleheader in Portland Junior League Rookie baseball on Thursday.

Cook's Nursery took the first game 10-9 before falling to Patriot Auto Sales 15-6 in game No. 2.

A pair of players from Patriot Auto Sales hit inside-the-park home runs during the game. Cage Reynolds had one of them, while also contributing two triples, a double and a single. Kylo Cook had the other home run, as well as two singles.

Kayden Alberson led Cook's Nursery with four doubles and two singles over the doubleheader. Duke Steed followed with one double and four singles.

### Williams takes two

Williams Auto Parts swept

Matt's Garage in a Thursday doubleheader of Portland Junior League Rookie baseball play. Williams Auto Parts won the first game 11-4 before exploding for a 23-4 win in game two.

Zander Williams had the biggest day for Williams as he produced 10 RBIs over the two games on a home run, two triples, a double and two singles. Following him were Thobe Keller with seven RBIs, Brett Huntsman with six runs driven in and Kipton Wendel with five.

Huntsman also had the most hits with seven. In total, Williams Auto Parts collected 52 hits between the two games.

Parker Eley, Rowan Ingram and Luke McLaughlin all led Matt's Garage with one RBI. Eley and McLaughlin also led with two hits and were joined by

Otto Huelskamp and Dawson Gillette with a pair of base knocks each. In total, the team had 19 hits.

### PG14 wins

PG14 took down Southern Thunder Fireworks 11-0 in Portland Junior League Willie Mays baseball on Thursday.

Ashton Conn led the way for PG14 with three RBIs and three runs scored on three singles.

Other strong performances came from Liam Ridenour and Corbin Brown with two RBIs apiece. Also driving in runs were Kolby Armstrong, Micah Davis, Parker Huntsman and Waylon McGrill. Trey Hirschy was the winning pitcher.

Southern Thunder Fireworks only managed one hit in the game, a double by Eric Bruss.

# Sports on tap

## Local schedule

**Today**  
Portland Rocket doubleheader vs. Indy Orioles — 1 p.m.

**Sunday**  
Portland Rocket doubleheader at Fort Wayne Jackers — 1 p.m.

**Tuesday**  
Jay County — Boys golf vs. Daleville and Wes-Del — 4:30 p.m.

## TV schedule

**Today**  
6:30 a.m. — Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix (ESPN2)  
9 a.m. — IndyCar: Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix (FS1)  
1 p.m. — PLL lacrosse: Utah Archers at Maryland Whipsnakes (ABC)

2 p.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)  
2 p.m. — LPGA Tour: U.S. Women's Open (NBC)  
2:20 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (FSDN Indiana)  
3 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament (ABC)  
3 p.m. — UFL: Houston Roughnecks at Michigan Panthers (ESPN)  
3 p.m. — UEFA Champions League: PSG at Inter (CBS)  
4:05 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Philadelphia Phillies (FS1)  
5:30 p.m. — PGA Tour: Memorial Tournament (CBS)  
5:30 p.m. — International Friendly Women: United States at China PR (TBS)  
6:30 p.m. — UFC fighting (ESPN)  
7 p.m. — NCAA softball tournament (ABC)  
7:15 p.m. — MLB: Minnesota Twins at Seattle Mariners (FOX)

8 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: New York Knicks at Indiana Pacers (TNT)  
8 p.m. — NHL Playoffs: Dallas Stars at Edmonton Oilers (ABC)  
10:10 p.m. — MLB: Washington Nationals at Arizona Diamondbacks (FS1)  
10:30 p.m. — FIFA Club World Cup: Los Angeles FC at America (TBS)

**Sunday**  
6 a.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)  
9 a.m. — Formula 1: Spanish Grand Prix (ESPN)  
9:30 a.m. — IndyCar: Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix (FS1)  
12 p.m. — UFL: Arlington Renegades at San Antonio Brahmas (ABC)  
12:30 p.m. — IndyCar: Chevrolet Detroit Grand Prix (FOX)  
1 p.m. — CONCACAF Women's 20: Puerto Rico U20 at United States U20

(FS1)  
2 p.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)  
2:20 p.m. — MLB: Cincinnati Reds at Chicago Cubs (FSDN Indiana)  
2:30 p.m. — PGA Tour: Memorial Tournament (CBS)  
3 p.m. — UFL: Birmingham Stallions at Memphis Showboats (FOX)  
6 p.m. — WNBA: Las Vegas Aces at Seattle Storm (ABC)  
7:10 p.m. — MLB: New York Yankees at Los Angeles Dodgers (ESPN)  
9 p.m. — CONCACAF Champions Cup: Cruz Azul at Vancouver Whitecaps (FS1)

**Monday**  
6 a.m. — French Open tennis (TNT)  
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Cincinnati Reds (FSDN Indiana)  
8 p.m. — NBA Playoffs: Indiana Pacers at New York Knicks (TNT)

**Tuesday**  
7:05 p.m. — MLB: Cleveland Guardians at New York Yankees (TBS)  
7:10 p.m. — MLB: Milwaukee Brewers at Cincinnati Reds (FSDN Indiana)  
8 p.m. — International Friendly Women soccer: United States at China PR (TNT)  
9:30 p.m. — NHL Playoffs: Dallas Wings at Seattle Storm (ESPN)  
10:10 p.m. — MLB: New York Mets at Los Angeles Dodgers (TBS)

## 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 [adamscounty5kchallenge.com](https://adamscounty5kchallenge.com).  
**Registration open**  
Registration for the 35th annual Flat 50 Plus bicycle ride in Adams County is now open. To register, visit [RunSignUp.com](https://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](mailto:sports@thecr.com)



# (Post)er ...

Continued from page 10  
Post hadn't done a ton with the bat earlier in the game – the No. 9 hitter struck out in his first appearance, laid down a sacrifice bunt in the fifth inning and flew out to left field in the seventh – but got ahead 2-1 with the winning run standing on second base.

He then got the exact pitch he wanted, a high fast ball, and blasted the ball to the fence.  
“I just wanted a base hit,” Post said. “It’s not like I was looking to win the game, I just wanted to get (Siegrist) advanced to third base to give Reece (Wendel) a chance to knock him in. ... I love higher pitches. My and Alex (Gaerke) were working on the tee and he was telling me where the spot was that my hands would meet and just to go straight on and that’s what worked.”

As the ball started to sail towards the gap in right-center field, Siegrist hesitated; something that cost him the opportunity to score the go-ahead run in the fifth inning on a lineout by Wendel to center field. This time around, he was quicker to evaluate the likelihood of the ball being caught, and turned to make a break for third base and then home plate.  
“For a second I went back to second in case he caught it,” Siegrist said. “When I’d seen it was getting down I just hauled (it). ... I was excited thinking we’d win the game.”  
Just as Siegrist slid across the base, the rest



The Commercial Review/Andrew Balko

Fort Recovery High School right fielder Mason Diller makes a sliding catch during the Indians' 2-1 victory over sixth-seeded Legacy Christian in nine innings at Houston during the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 3 District title game on Friday. Diller also made a key defensive play that saved a run in the first inning of the game as well.

of the Indians poured out of the dugout to meet Post in the grass by second base to celebrate winning their second district championship in as many years.  
“It was unbelievable,” Post said of the feeling after walking off the game.  
Neither of the team’s first runs were earned. FRHS struck in the bottom of the first inning after Wendel walked and then made his way around to third base on

an error by second baseman David Cancino on an attempt to steal second. Grisez followed up with a groundout that plated Wendel.  
The Knights got their first run in the fifth inning. Gaerke, the starting pitcher, hit the first two batters of the frame, but came right back with a strikeout. A fielder’s choice eliminated the lead runner at third base for the second out.  
The Indians finally slipped up as Grisez

threw away a groundball, allowing John Augustine to score from second base. (Homan committed a second error on the plate that let Adriel Angel reach second base.)  
Outside of the single slip up, the Indians’ defense made multiple key plays to bolster the efforts of Gaerke and Grisez on the mound that include Mason Diller charging a ball in right field and firing home to save a run, Diller sliding to catch a shallow fly

ball, the fielder’s choice in the fifth inning by Post at shortstop, a clean 5-4-3 double play, a 5-4 fielder’s choice that turned into a double play on interference and multiple saves by Homan at first base.  
With the defense clicking and the two pitchers giving up a combined two hits and six walks, the Tribe silenced the Liberty Christian offense that averaged 6.6 runs on the year.  
“The defense was great,” Eyink said. “All

Box score					
No. 6 Legacy Christian Knights vs. No. 2 Fort Recovery Indians					
OHSAA Division VI Southwest 3 District championship					
Legacy Christian (14-8)					
	ab	r	h	bi	
Cancino 2b	4	0	0	0	
Harphant p	3	0	0	0	
Angel ss	3	0	0	0	
King c	3	0	1	0	
Beals cr	0	0	0	0	
Thompson 3b	4	0	1	0	
Whitt 1b	3	0	0	0	
Tooker rf	4	0	0	0	
Norris lf	2	0	0	0	
Augustine cf	2	1	0	0	
Totals	28	1	2	0	
Fort Recovery (17-8)					
	ab	r	h	bi	
Wendel cf	2	1	0	0	
Diller rf	4	0	1	0	
Grisez 3b	4	0	0	1	
Gaerke p	3	0	2	0	
Hart c	4	0	2	0	
Homan 1b	2	0	0	0	
Muhlenkamp pr	0	0	0	0	
Evers lf	4	0	0	0	
Siegrist 2b	2	1	0	0	
Post ss	3	0	1	1	
Totals	28	2	6	2	
Leg. Chr. 000 010 000 — 1					
Ft. Rec. 100 000 001 — 2					
LOB — Legacy Christian 8, Fort Recovery 8. 2B — Fort Recovery 1 (Post). SB — Fort Recovery 1 (Siegrist).					
IP H R ER BB SO					
Legacy Christian					
Harphant 7	3	1	0	5	3
Angel 1.1	2	1	1	1	0
Fort Recovery					
Gaerke 5.2	1	1	0	6	4
Grisez 3.1	1	0	0	0	4



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Karlle Niekamp, a Fort Recovery senior, spins through the circle during the regional discus competition. She cleared the 120-foot mark four times during the meet, finishing in sixth place and narrowly missing a call back to compete in the state finals.

# Podium ...

Continued from page 10  
“I just cannot believe. I know she was seeded to do that, but then to come in ... and be so confident about it, that’s crazy.”  
Niekamp had a career day in the discus to give herself a chance at a state berth, clearing the 120-foot mark four times.  
As the first competitor in the second flight of the preliminaries Friday, she launched her first throw 120 feet, 11 inches. It was the start of something special, as each of the next four athletes also surpassed their district marks by at least 3 feet.  
That initial throw had Niekamp in seventh place. She continued and surpassed 120 feet on her third, fourth and fifth throws, with the last of those a career-best 122 feet, 3 inches.  
“It was just good to have a good day today,” said Niekamp. “I had a really good series, consistent 120s. And that’s what I knew I would have to throw

going into today.”  
“This week, in practice, I really focused on my form, my technique, and not my marks, not my distance,” she added. “So by focusing on more form and staying smooth in the ring, that allowed me to get out those big throws.”  
Her fifth toss moved her into sixth place and left hope of getting a call back for the state meet. It was about an hour later that results came in from other regional meets indicating that she had come up just short.  
“She was in the zone today,” said Diller. “A couple of her warm ups were bombs. It’s pretty neat to see. She just came in and was very calm. She was very confident today. ... She just delivered.”  
Carson Fullenkamp also competed for the Indians Friday, finished 14th in the boys shot put. He was unable to reach the levels he had in qualifying through the district, posting a distance of 41 feet, 8 3/4 inches.

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# Podium ownership

## Indians' Roessner wins three regional titles

By RAY COONEY  
The Commercial Review  
TROY, Ohio — Anna Roessner was a triple state medalist during her junior season. Through her tournament run, though, she never had the honor of standing at the top of the podium. On Friday night, she owned that small square of real estate a step above every other sprinter in the southwest quarter of the state. Roessner, a Fort Recovery High School senior, was a lot more than just a step faster than her competition, turning in another dominant effort as she won championships in the 100-meter dash, 200 dash and 400 dash during the Division III regional track meet at Troy. "I'm pretty happy," said Roessner, a 2024 state medalist last season in the 100 dash and 200 dash individually and as part of the FRHS 4x100 relay team. "I got to win everything. That's my first time standing on a podium for first place. ... It was definitely fun."



The Commercial Review/Ray Cooney

Fort Recovery High School senior Anna Roessner zips to the finish line well ahead of the rest of the field in the 200-meter dash during Friday night's Division III regional track meet at Troy. She won the 200 dash going away and also scored massive victories in the 100 dash and 400 dash to earn regional championships and state berths in all three events. She will compete in the OHSAA Division III Track and Field State Finals, which begin with preliminaries on Friday at Jesse Owens Memorial Stadium on the campus of Ohio State University in Columbus.

place finish in the long jump. His four points put FRHS in a three-way tie for 34th out of 44 scoring teams. After blazing her way to three district records six days earlier at Piqua, Anna Roessner again refused to let any of her opponents be much of a factor Friday night. She left them with the same view as most others have seen all year — her back as she pulled away down the home stretch. The senior set the tone in the 100 dash, separating herself

from the field in the first 20 meters. By the time she reached the finish line in 12.03 seconds, just a tenth of a second off of the meet record, she had stretched to a 0.28 margin of victory over West Liberty-Salem's Chloe Griffith. She got a bit more of a push in the 400 dash, as it took her until the final steps of the second curve to make up the stagger on Cole Thompson. But the Newton Local freshman had nothing left to try to match Roessner as they zoomed in

front of the home stands. The win came in 56.77 while no one else was able to reach the 59-second mark. "It was definitely nice having her," said Roessner, referencing the challenge from Thompson. "I could just hear her behind me and I'm like, 'All right, gotta go.' I was definitely dying a little bit in the 400, but it happened." No one was able to touch Roessner in the 200 dash either, as she again broke for home alone and rolled to a nearly one-

second victory over Fort Loramie's Taylor Schmitmeyer in 24.82. When it comes time for the award ceremonies at the regional, the coach of the winning athlete hands out all of the medals. Roessner got to receive one from each of her coaches — Diller and assistants Charlie Vasey and Kierra Wendel. "That's pretty neat," said Diller. "For me, that is big, to be able to put that on my own niece. ..." See **Podium** page 9

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# (Post)er moment

By ANDREW BALKO  
The Commercial Review  
HOUSTON, Ohio — The Indians had an opportunity to take the lead in the bottom of the fifth inning, but hesitation by Austin Siegrist squandered it.

Four innings later, with one out and Siegrist on second base, another ball was hit into the air. He again took a look at the outfield to judge if it had a chance to find the ground. When he determined it did, he turned and took off with the determination to right the wrong of the earlier inning. Once he crossed the plate, he got up to join the rest of the Indians as they sprinted out to meet Colson Post at second base. The second-seeded Fort Recovery High School baseball team walked off the No. 6 seed Legacy Christian Knights in the ninth inning with a double off of Post's bat to claim its second consecutive district title in the OHSAA Division VI Southwest 3 District Championship game at Houston on Friday. The win advanced Fort Recovery (17-8) to the Regional opener on Tuesday at 2 p.m. against the winner of No. 1 seed Summit Country Day and fifth-seeded Covington at Newton Local. "That's awesome," said FRHS coach Kevin Eyink. "I mean, that's what you play for. That's fun to be in a competitive game and

**FRHS junior delivers walk-off double to claim second consecutive district title**

then come down to the wire and have somebody come through and win it." Neither team ever held a lead greater than one run, and they spent five of the nine innings tied including the sixth, seventh and eighth frames. The Tribe held Legacy Christian (14-8) with the tie in the top half of the ninth as Caden Grisez — he earned the win in relief with no runs on one hit and four strikeouts through 3.1 innings pitched — with a pair of strikeouts and a flyout to first baseman Caden Homan. The Indians broke that tie in the bottom half of the inning. Gavin Evers led off the inning with a sharp ground ball that Justin Harphant had to range over for and fire to first for the out. Siegrist watched four straight balls to walk his way to first base and stole second early in Post's at bat. See **(Post)er** page 9